

Minutes of the Regular Vestry Meeting
Tuesday December 18, 2018
Trinity Episcopal Church – Mobile, AL

The vestry meeting was held at Trinity Episcopal Church on December 18, 2018. Those present were: Father Bailey, Cindy Nicholason, Anne Gill, Bradley English, David Arnett, Shae Street, Mary Stewart Stephens, Pat Rodgers, Tom Holmes, and Clerk Brenda Howard. Those excused were Jameson White, Anna Lisa Tessier, Deacon Terry Goff, Mark McLean and Ben Harris.

Father Bailey started the meeting with prayer.

Brenda Howard, clerk, was not at the November meeting, minutes were recorded, but the recorder has been lost. There will be no minutes read from that meeting.

The meeting was turned over to Ruth Carlson to discuss the survey that was taken by the congregation over the Thanksgiving holidays. There were 304 surveys sent out by email and mail. A thorough report was given by Ruth.

RECTOR'S REPORT:

Bailey thanked Terry Goff, Elizabeth Hill and Tom Langley for all the help in the kitchen for Joyful Night.

He reminded everyone about our annual meeting to be held January 13. Only one service at 9:00 a.m. and the Men's Cooking Team will provide the meal.

Father Bailey announced that Trinity will be holding a Blue Service Thursday December 20th at 5:30 p.m. This is a service during Christmas that is held for those that have lost loved ones.

The schedule for Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m. with Jeremy playing, then High church at 10:30; Christmas day the service will be at 9:00 a.m. Bailey will be out of town starting December 26th for one week.

Cindy Nicholason made a motion to appoint Brenda Howard as Clerk, seconded by Mary Stewart Stephens, all were in favor.

A motion was made by Tom Holmes to appoint Ben Harris as Chancellor, seconded by Shae Street, all were in favor.

A motion was made by Tom Holmes to appoint Pat Rodgers as Junior Warden, seconded by Mary Stewart Stephens, all were in favor.

Tom Holmes made a motion to appoint Anne Gill as Senior Warden, seconded by David Arnett, all were in favor.

A motion made by Bradley English to accept \$18,000.00 rather than the \$30,000.00 from the church insurance, seconded by Tom Holmes, all were in favor.

A letter of agreement was presented by Deacon Terry Goff to the vestry. Cindy Nicholason made a motion to accept it, seconded by Bradley English, all were in favor.

The Diocese convention will be held in Fairhope, AL Valentine week-end. Three delegates and 3 alternates are elected. Those nominated are Tom Holmes, David Clothier, Bob Howard, Martha Jones and David Quittmyer. Ballots were handed out. Trinity's delegates are Tom Holmes, David Clothier and Martha Jones; alternates are Bob Howard and David Quittmyer.

SENIOR WARDEN:

No report

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT:

It was reported we have \$97,212.00 in the Endowment Fund.

Mary Stewart Stephens reported on Stewardship. We had 89 pledges, 6 committed and 5 not sure. The amount of pledges is \$304,884.76, with the lowest being \$120.00 and the highest \$21,000.00.

Bradley English reported on the sale of the Boston butts. They pre-sold 73 with 6 or 8 left.

The names received for the vestry are Bob Howard, Byron Cruthirds, Carolyn Watts-Smith and Mike Cadden.

Carolyn Watts-Smith will be taking over the Food Pantry as Debbie Amsbaugh is moving out of town. There will be an Appreciation dinner held for Debbie Thursday December 20th at 11:15 a.m.

Discussion was held on the rent paid by the Hurley's to Trinity for the rental of space on the second floor. Bailey spoke to them about raising the amount, they offered \$300.00 a month. There was discussion on the heating and cooling of upstairs for them. Bailey will ask them for \$400.00 a month.

David Arnett reported on the glass doors of the church. It was decided to use hard pine wood, it is harder and stronger. The cost will be \$1,600.00 and will be installed the second week of January.

Discussion on pest control, which we did not have to pay but will have to in the future, was held. David checked into several companies and Cooks seem to be the better one for the price. For the church the amount will be \$915.00, children's center \$423.00, full treatment on the kitchen along with the rest of the building will be \$1,450.00 per year. They also provide an unlimited termite bond. Once the children's center is gone the termite bond will be cheaper. This does not have to be approved by the vestry, it needs to be turned over to the Finance committee.

David also reported we were still having mildew problems on the outside aisles of the church and suggested we need 5 more fans. All Pro Electrical can run these for \$1,800.00.

Cindy Nicholason reported on the HVAC. The amount paid for equipment, tax and freight was \$71,930.00. The amount to be paid for installation, All Pro electric, window sealant and supports is \$142,323.00. We have in holding for HVAC the amount of \$16,252.00, with that amount and \$97,212.00 from the Endowment fund and \$18,000.00 from the church insurance, that would give us \$131,464.00. This was just a report on the money, I have no record of any voting. We have no written contract with Kenny Weiss, discussion was had on having a contract drawn up. David Arnett will contact Kenny about getting a contract.

Bailey made a motion to first have the contract drawn up, then set out the phases such as the electrical work, roof, ect. Bailey also made a motion to take the rental money from Grace Community church of \$750.00 and put it towards the HVAC fund. Seconded by Tom Holmes, all were in favor.

Cindy suggested that funds for Building/Maintenance be increased for the new year.

Bailey made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Tom Holmes

Brenda Howard
Clerk

Rector's Report

We had two wonderful services that we added during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons – Blue Christmas and the Feast of Lights. While neither was as well attended as I would have liked, both services were successful in their respective missions. I have received messages from 5 different people who attended the Blue Christmas saying how much something like this was needed not just for them but for others they know as well. Feast of Lights was an amazing service led by our children and youth. We hope to pair this service next year with a dinner that might attract more people from the congregation, similar to the format of our Joyful Night celebration.

Speaking of youth, I've asked our one senior, Ben Harris, to consider preaching in May. He had a deer in the headlights look when I asked him, but Ben has been one of our most active members (not just among the youth, but among ANY member!) since I came to Trinity in 2012. It is a tradition I've had in other churches to allow one of our seniors to preach near the end of the school year – in this case, I'd ask Ben to preach on Mother's Day. I'll follow up with him, but if you see him, encourage him to consider doing this.

Diocesan Convention will be held Feb. 14-16 at St. James in Fairhope. Our delegates are Martha Jones, David Clothier, and Tom Holmes. Alternates are Bob Howard and David Quittmeyer. Please pray for the work of this year's convention.

I have spoken with Andrew and Leigh Hurley, our counselors who rent upstairs office space from us, after the Vestry requested that I meet with them regarding their rent status. After my conversation with them, the rent we have determined for the time being is \$350/month. This is less than what was requested by the Vestry; however I was pretty much told that they would not stay for any amount over this. As they will consider to see Trinity clients at reduced pay, I maintain that this is a fair arrangement. They are continuing to look for a larger space to office in Midtown to accommodate their growing practice, but they are very willing to make these payments as long as they are here.

With the Vestry's permission, a contract has been drawn up and executed between the Vestry and Kenny Weiss, our HVAC contractor, to complete the work

of installation of our new HVAC system. Anne, David Arnett, and I all have copies of this contract if anyone would care to see it. Essentially it requires us to make total payment of approximately \$61K to complete the installation in four equal installments, the first of which has been paid out of the existing HVAC funds. The Vestry will need to officially vote at our meeting to authorize any further payments out of the Endowment Fund. David has also said that this amount does NOT include all the electrical or the roofing costs. He will have that exact amount at our meeting.

Deacon's Report

Project Homeless Connect: Project Homeless Connect will take place Friday, January 25, 2019 at the Fair Grounds in West Mobile from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any Vestry member who would like to volunteer may arrive any time on Friday between 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be jobs all during this time from serving our guests to packing up the truck to return and unload at Trinity. At this time all the clothes, socks, shoes, blankets, gloves, hats, scarves, underclothing, etc. is sorted, sized and labeled and ready to be loaded on the trucks.

Bradley English's employer has loaned us a shrink-wrap machine to wrap the clothes to make transportation to the event easier and he has also loaned us a truck to use rather than my renting a truck. At this point we will be loading the large truck with the first load Wednesday night. We will also load pickup trucks and Tom's van Thursday morning with boxes, containers and tables. Bradley will meet John Goff at the fairgrounds to unload the large truck then return to Trinity for a second and final load of the racked clothes then return to the grounds for deliver and set up.

Bradley will return on Friday afternoon with the truck for pickup along with Thomas Archer and his trailer for one pickup of all racks and all items to return to the church.

I appreciate all assistance I have received from both Trinity and Redeemer members in collecting and preparing clothes for Project Homeless Connect this year!

Safeguarding God's Children: It was agreed that all 2018 Vestry members would complete their appropriate levels of Safeguarding God's Children by September 9, 2018 (the first Sunday of Sunday School of 2018). This has been discussed several times and the Bishop also reviewed the importance of church leaders completing these modules as well as any person having any contact with children or who goes out in private to serve our parishioners (Eucharist Ministers). This education not only protects our church members but alerts each of us to behavior that could possibly be viewed as inappropriate.

As of this date four Vestry members that were serving in 2018 and are still serving have not registered on the Safeguarding site. Another member has registered but only completed 1 or 3 modules.

We have four new Vestry members that will need to complete these modules. There is no reason this cannot be done in one setting of approximately one hour. For our new members this information will be made available to you at the Vestry Meeting.

Invite/Welcome/Connect: I have not called a meeting of a new Hospitality Committee. I appreciate Fr. Bailey on two occasions asking parishioners to wear their name tags. To be honest not all our members have name tags. In order for this to happen there needs to be a budget to purchase materials to buy name tags. Connie Ewing supplied the materials for the current name badges. I do believe Bro. Jacob Luke would be open to making new name tags as new members and guests fill out information packets. I will plan on a meeting after PHC. In order for the committee to do some of the things we discussed in the past though, we will need some sort of budget for supplies.

Acolyte Robes: White Acolyte robes are washed, sized and placed in the Eucharist Minister/Acolyte Vesting room upstairs. These robes and the smaller sized and larger unused black cassock and white surplus' were washed, sized and placed in the first closet in that room. There may be enough white robes now for people to try on and see if we have enough robes for adults to have something to wear if we switch to all white on the altar.

I would ask that everyone take better care of all the vestments and hang them up and back in order and wearing. Many vestments were on the floor and needed

washing. Even after they were washed and sorted I went up the next week and found two sets lying on a chair where someone apparently tried on robes for sizes and just left everything out on the chair. There needs to be training for children and adults.

Property Report – David Arnett

The new HVAC system is in the process of being installed. The two twenty-ton compressors have been installed on the roof. Kenny has started running the copper piping for the system. All Pro Power has started installing the new electrical service. We hope to have the new heaters for the second floor and parish hall up and running by the end of next week.

The glass doors for the church are taking longer than expected due to having trouble finding heart pine lumber and bringing the moisture content to the right level. I was at Barnett Millworks on Monday. The doors are scheduled to be built by Friday. The glass can be ordered at that time. The glass will take about three weeks to come in.

Alabama Power has upped the rates on the six outdoor lights we are renting. The rent is now \$302.72 per month for the six lights which comes to a total of \$3,632.64 per year. Over the past few years the rate has gone up each year. All Pro Power is putting together a quote to install our own lights. At this time, we can take a look at the numbers to see if we can save money.