

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
12 December 2023
In Person

Present: Vestry Members John Barrett, John Bray, Gail Eilers, Anna Hiers, Maggie Reinberger (8:15), Mark Richardson, Shelby Welch; Treasurer Les House, Clerk Anna Thornton, Mother Nikki Mathis
Absent: Vestry Members Kate Avinger, Stacie Court, LeeAnne Krause, Lane Norton

Devotional: Mark Richardson (from Kate Avinger)
Mother Nikki opened with prayer, Mark shared *The Church Cracked Open* with thoughts and discussion. Prayer time followed.

Approval of Minutes: Mother Nikki Mathis
Mother Nikki called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Minutes of the November meeting were sent to Vestry members via email prior. A motion was made and seconded to accept minutes as written; motion approved and carried.

Financial Report: Les House
Les distributed two financial reports prior to meeting via email and hard copies. Operating Account Checking balance reported at \$35,054 with Revenues reported at \$25,101 reflecting \$7,293 under budget. November expenses were \$41,453 versus a budget of \$33,636.

Discussion was had over second financial handout and the development of the 2024 budget. It was noted that a “projected additional pledge” is defined as total pledges divided by the number of units. As well, the budget cannot include “non-pledge” giving. Les further explained the inventory project. The Finance Committee recommended that any surplus from Building & Grounds at the end of the year be put into a Special Designated Fund.

Parish Life Committee: Shelby Welch
Shelby recapped the work of Maggie and the Parish Life Committee on choosing a new oven. The consensus was that findings be taken back to the committee to reconsider.

Capital Improvements Campaign: Mark Richardson
A report of the Capital Campaign Committee was emailed to Vestry prior to the meeting and hard copies were made available. Mark summarized the order of events proposed to roll out the Capital Improvements Campaign, the first of which *might* be held January 28. Possible projects were included in the report. Mark explained that restricted gifts are not tax deductible while unrestricted gifts are tax deductible. The Committee will present a proposal of start-up costs to establish a line item.

Building & Grounds Committee: Gail Eilers
The Building & Grounds Committee is working on finding two co-chairs to lead the committee and several parishioners have been considered. Discussion was had over the upkeep of the walkway between the Education Building and the Fellowship Hall.

Outreach Committee: John Barrett

John reported on the recent Outreach Committee meeting which included special guests Matthew Grigsby and Roseline Okala from Bethany Christian Services of Georgia. The Committee is currently looking for a chairperson after the passing of Susanne Burton, long-time chairperson.

Parish Security Committee: John Barrett

John Barrett reported that the Parish Security Committee was slated to meet January 8 and would be addressing SOP's (standard operating procedures) for security events. As well, John developed an active-shooter scenario and would present that to the committee for further development.

Rector's Report: Mother Nikki Mathis (online)

Mother Nikki reported that \$300 was utilized from the Rector's Discretionary Fund for both in-reach and outreach. A Celebration of New Ministry was held at Emmanuel to welcome new rector Katie Bradshaw. Mother Nikki took part in duties on the Suwanee Board of Regents, Preaching for Excellence, and the Episcopal Preaching Foundation. Mother Nikki attended two home visits and five office visits. Two applications have been received for Christian Education Director and interviews will take place in December and January. Joe Napoli has resigned as choir director and plans are being made for accepting applications for his replacement.

The January Vestry meeting will take place on January 16 (third Tuesday, not second). The Annual Meeting will be held January 21 following the 10:30 am service. A Vestry Retreat is being planned for February.

The meeting closed with a benediction and was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anna Thornton