

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
14 November 2023
In Person

Present: Vestry Members John Barrett, Stacie Court, Gail Eilers, LeeAnne Krause, Lane Norton, Maggie Reinberger, Mark Richardson, Shelby Welch; Treasurer Les House, Clerk Anna Thornton, Mother Nikki Mathis

Absent: Vestry Members Kate Avinger, John Bray, Anna Hiers

Devotional: John Barrett

Mother Nikki opened with prayer, John shared scripture, readings, and thoughts.

Approval of Minutes: Mother Nikki Mathis

Mother Nikki called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Minutes of the October meeting were sent to Vestry members via email prior. A motion was made and seconded to accept minutes as written; motion was approved and carried.

Financial Report: Les House

Les distributed financial reports prior to meeting via email and hard copies. Operating Account Checking balance reported at \$51,406 with Revenues reported at \$31,442 reflecting \$952 under budget. October expenses were \$34,667 versus a budget of \$36,238.

Les noted on printed budget that the Rector's Discretionary Fund is greater than that budgeted. The preliminary budget progress depicted on graph has 93 pledges made as of November 10, 2023. The average pledge is figured as \$3,093, so that all projections made are based on that average.

Three Financial Committee resolutions were presented as motions:

1. That a \$180 gross (before taxes) Christmas bonus be paid to all employees on the second pay period in November 2023. Father Doug Adkins will be given a Christmas bonus by special consideration.
2. That the value of the church buildings on the balance sheet will be updated yearly and will be based on the replacement value on the declaration pages of the church's property insurance.
 - a. Sanctuary value is currently \$1,602,000
 - b. Education Building value is currently \$1,170,600
 - c. Office/Parish Hall value is currently \$978,800
3. That the value of the church land on the balance sheet will be updated yearly and will be based on the Athens Clarke County records found on the QPublic.net website.
 - a. Athens Clarke County currently has the land value at \$84,920.

Motions were made and seconded on each item; all were approved and carried. It was noted that a complete inventory of furnishings was not part of said value, but work has begun on an inventory of furnishings.

Stewardship Committee: Anna Hiers

An update on the Stewardship Committee was emailed to Vestry members prior to the meeting. Anna continues to work with Alice Mohor and her committee as announcements are tendered, updates tallied, and pledges monitored.

Capital Improvements Campaign: Stacie Court & Mark Richardson

A report of the Capital Campaign Committee was emailed to Vestry prior to the meeting and hard copies were made available. Two initial interest meetings were held on October 23 and October 29 with a committee meeting being held November 9. Key details included:

- The campaign's goal is to raise 3-5 million dollars, or as much as can be raised to address the various physical needs of the church.
- The needs mentioned above are those first determined by committees participating in the development of the church's strategic plan created during the Nourish, Grow, Go! initiative and later prioritized by the vestry. They include:
 - Replacing the organ
 - Creating a labyrinth
 - Reflooring the parish hall (first floor)
 - Renovating the playground
 - Addressing ADA concerns in the parish hall and Christian Education Bldg.
 - Addressing needed repairs/upgrades to the campus physical systems, including the HVAC units in the sanctuary and the Christian Education Bldg. and carpenter bees in the narthex porch roof
- Members of the committee were assigned to research the various needs mentioned above. In addition, members were assigned to work on finance-related issues (such as how to invest the monies raised), marketing for the campaign (posters, website presence, etc.), and special events for the campaign (fund raisers, auctions, etc.).

The committee discussed how and when to roll out the campaign and began thinking about its main theme and a possible motto/logo.

Building & Grounds Committee: Gail Eilers

Gail reported that the water heater has been replaced, and that the Carpenter bees have been removed. Work continues clearing and repairing the area directly behind the Christian Education Building. The porch roof of the nursery will be painted, but there remains a delay in replacing the window in the nursery. A plan is in place for the repointing of brickwork at back of the Sanctuary, as well as for removal of the old oven from the kitchen. Gail announced that Mark Reinberger would be stepping down from the Building & Grounds Committee (such as it was); Mother Nikki suggested that a proper active and standing Building & Grounds Committee be formed. Maggie Reinberger shared that the exterior door behind the kitchen is often left unlocked and requires a hex key which is kept in the kitchen. The lock box code was shared with Vestry members.

Note on Nursery: Shelby Welch/Mother Nikki

It was noted that the nursery had been closed six Sundays since July and that not having a nursery available could possibly turn families away from attending church services. One teenager and one adult couple have answered the call to work with the nursery.

Parish Security Committee: John Barrett

John Barrett reported that the Parish Security Committee was slated to meet soon 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 approximately 150-165 people attended church services during October with another approximately 65-70 families viewing online. Funds given during October included \$100 outreach and \$100 in-reach, and two home visits were made. Mother Nikki participated in the Case for Inclusion Program panel at the University of Georgia during September. As well she has been nominated as the new dean for the Oconee Convocation with the Diocese of North Georgia. The Oconee Convocation encompasses eight parishes with a Clericus each month to support clergy and a convocation before Annual Council. Mother Nikki sits on the Diocesan Executive Committee, Learning to Lead, and Greater Athens Interfaith Clergy meeting, and is participating in Preaching in a Hurting World. She is working on her second book review. Loose plate offerings from services on Thanksgiving Sunday (November 25) will go to the Appleton Ministries.

Vestry Nominating Committee: LeeAnne Krause

LeeAnne reported that the Vestry Nominating Committee will present four individuals to be voted in at the Annual Meeting on January 21, 2024. LeeAnne announced that all committees should write their annual reports and forward to Kendall by January 1, 2024, in preparation for Annual Meeting. There was a brief recap of Annual Council held November 10-11, which LeeAnne, Karen Brill and Anna Thornton attended as delegates. Bishop Wright invited all parishes to participate in Camp Mikell's capital campaign for 2024 as well as challenged each parish to consider ways to actively include youth in worship, governance, and church function. Adult Spiritual Formation will welcome Matt Rogers as he leads an Advent study based on the book, A PSALM FOR THE WILD-BUILT. LeeAnne will lead a Lenten program in 2024.

Brown Bag Series: Lane Norton

The Pastoral Care Committee will partner with the Brown Bag Series to present a lunch and discussion of *Conversations on Grieving* Sunday, December 3 with guest speakers.

The meeting closed with a benediction and was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anna Thornton