

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017

7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.*

Isaiah 9:2

Quorum. The January Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Matt Buck, Kathy Dickinson, Lucy Neale Duke, Michelle Harner, Alison King, Chris Kurz, David Pantle, Robin Pierson, David Pitard, Derek Savage, Betsy Scott, and Murray Taylor. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Mary DeKuyper, Tom Spies, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley.

Opening Prayer. David Ware opened the meeting with a video of the song, “Shed A Little Light,” sung by the Maccabeats and Naturally 7 at the Lincoln Memorial in 2016 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Reflection. Alison King led the group in prayer.

Caring for Creation Report. Caring for Creation Committee members Jean Mellott, Laurel Peltier, Karl Pfrommer, and Martha Ruffin reported on the committee’s work. Laurel began by referring to the church document, “A Pastoral Teaching from the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church,” from Quito, Ecuador, 9/2011, calling on Episcopalians to practice environmental stewardship and make ecologically sustainable choices and changes in lifestyle and consumption. She presented NOAA data of Maryland temperatures showing yearly increases since the 1970’s, matching national and global temperature trends. The Caring for Creation Committee led several activities in 2016 to encourage environmental awareness at Redeemer. The Renewable Energy Team has helped the church switch to using renewable energy sources. They sponsored a screening of the movie, “Bag It”, highlighting the environmental cost of plastic bag use. The Rain Garden continues to help with run-off rainwater on the campus and is a valued teaching tool for the children at the Parish Day School. An analysis of invasive species plantings at the church led to removal of unwanted growth. A Clean Energy Drive helped 20 parishioners switch their home energy to clean energy. In 2017, the Committee plans to coordinate with members at St. James’ Lafayette Square to share ideas and programs between the parishes. Sue Chapelle will be spearheading environmental advocacy efforts and sharing opportunities with the congregation. They are planning a Native Plant Sale and continuing work on the Rain Garden, and they plan to make Coffee Hour more

green by promoting greater use of the ceramic coffee cups instead of plastic cups. Laurel said they want to engage other ministries to incorporate environmental concerns into their work to make green ideas a greater part of the culture of the church. Karl said saving the environment and saving money are linked as renewable energy is growing very fast, with solar energy predicted to be less costly than coal energy within the next ten years. He discussed recent federal and state legislation to support greater community solar energy use among low-income families. Laurel and he are working to explore solar energy options for the church. David and the Vestry thanked the committee members for discussing these issues and for their work.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on December 20, 2016. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David said the Christmas services were well attended with a total of 1,600 people at the three Christmas Eve services. He noted Bert Landman added organ music to the 11:00 a.m. service and musicians to the 9:00 p.m. service. More younger families came to the 11:00 a.m. service this year, including some Parish Day School families drawn by their family's participation in the PDS pageant.

David said Redeemer has been involved with BUILD at various times during the organization's 37 year history, and we are in the process of exploring an invitation to become members of the group.

Senior Warden's Report [Mary DeKuyper]. Mary DeKuyper reported on the work of four Baltimore organizations that have been Redeemer Outreach Grant recipients. Paul's Place in 2016 served over 58,000 hot lunches, brought over 6,000 customers to its clothing marketplace, provided daily after-school programs and mentoring to over 100 youth, and cared for over 1,000 people at its health screening clinics. Martha's Place provides a safe living environment for women to build stable lives. GEDCO provides housing and helps with food, prescriptions, and household needs at the CARES pantry. The Helping Up Mission helps 500 men with senior housing, education, and overcoming addiction, including one man, age 67, who will be graduating with his Masters degree this summer. We are thankful to be partners with such committed, caring, and effective organizations in Baltimore.

Columbarium [Tony Brandon, Tom Spies]. Tom Spies said we will be running out of available niches in the North Columbarium this year, and plans are in place to begin Phase 1 of the construction process for the new columbarium. The design drawings have been completed, the building permits have been submitted, and project bids are underway. Tony Brandon said the maximum cost for the Phase 1 construction is \$750,000. Initial funding for the project includes funds from the Columbarium Dedicated Account, gifts, and niche pre-sales at \$5,000 per four-urn niche. Additional funding would need to come from the Endowment in order to

proceed; at the current sale rate of 10-12 niches per year, the Endowment payback would likely occur within seven years.

The following motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved:

The Vestry of the Church of the Redeemer, having received a full and complete description of the Columbarium expansion project as well as architectural drawings of the proposed Columbarium Project, does hereby approve the following:

1. The construction of a new Columbarium on the property of the Church of the Redeemer in accordance with architecture plans as presented by Tom Spies and the Building and Grounds Committee with a maximum cost of \$750,000 and containing up to 200 niches.
2. Approves a financing plan to pay for the Columbarium which includes:
 - a. use of all funds in the Columbarium Dedicated Account
 - b. use of all restricted funds raised specifically for the Columbarium Project
 - c. allows the church to pre-sell niches in the new Columbarium
 - d. authorizes borrowing up to \$350,000 from the Endowment Fund on terms to be established by the Budget and Finance Committee at its February 8th meeting.
3. Authorizes the Executive Committee to choose the most favorable bid from contractors to construct the Columbarium with said bids to be received on or about February 10th.

Vestry Greeters [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen Chatard circulated a sign-up sheet for Sunday morning Vestry Greeters.

Clergy Housing Allowance [Tony Brandon]. Tony presented the Clergy Housing Allowances requested by the clergy for 2017. A motion to allocate the requested Clergy Housing Allowances was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Announcements. Alison King invited everyone to come to the Friends of Music's Silent Movie Night, featuring Buster Keaton in "Steamboat Bill, Jr." with organ accompaniment by Michael Britt on January 29th at 5:00 p.m.

David said we will be offering a service of Holy Eucharist and prayers for our nation and leaders on Inauguration Day, January 20th at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel.

David said we have facilitated providing transportation to individuals attending the Women's March on Washington on January 21st and read a statement indicating that all participants agree to stand for compassion, respect and dignity for all.

Upcoming Events

January 22 – 11:30 a.m. Daniel Christian: 3rd lecture on Dante's "The Divine Comedy"
January 29 – 5:00 p.m. Silent Movie Night with Michael Britt, organist

February 11 – 6:00 p.m. Quiz Night
February 26 – 10:00 a.m. Jazz Mass
March 3, 4 & 5 – RYG production of “Seussical Jr.”
Fri. & Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 12:30 p.m.

Adjournment. Matt Buck offered a closing reflection on obedience to God, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar