

**THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017**

**7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM**

*You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.  
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

*Psalm 23: 5-6*

**Quorum.** The March Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Lucy Neale Duke, Michelle Harner, Alison King, 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, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Matt Buck, Kathy Dickinson, and Chris Kurz. The following officer was absent: Tom Spies.

**Opening Prayer.** David Ware opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Reflection.** Robin Pierson offered a reflection.

**Approval of Minutes.** Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on February 21, 2017. Following a correction to the minutes, a motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Staff Report** [Caroline Stewart, David Ware]. David announced Caroline Stewart will be taking a three-month sabbatical from May 22 through August 14, 2017. Caroline said she sees this as a time to be, not to do, to discern and to be curious in an authentic, intentional way, to live into the time away from her work at Redeemer. She said she appreciates this opportunity and the support of David, Bishop Sutton, and the Vestry. David thanked her for her long and extended service to Redeemer and said the parish will rejoice in this time for Caroline.

**Rector's Report** [David Ware]. David reported Jack Pannell, Founder and Executive Director of the Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys, will be meeting with Bert Landman next week to make plans for students from the school to join our youth choir.

David attended a demonstration for public schools yesterday at City Hall with parents, students, and leaders from Govans Elementary School, Roland Park Public Elementary/Middle School, Mount Washington Elementary School, BUILD, and Baltimoreans for Educational Equity, among many others. He noted the talent and

strong commitment to education present at the gathering to protest \$130 million funding cuts to the Baltimore City school system budget.

David reported the Lenten programming continues to be enriching and well-attended; 90 participants attended the first Wednesday evening program with Laura Wexler from Stoop Stories, and 135 attended the second program with Baltimore Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen. The series will continue with American Visionary Art Museum Founder and Executive Director Rebecca Hoffberger tomorrow night, Hospice and palliative care nurse Phyllis Taylor on March 29, and White House correspondent April Ryan on April 5. The Stand Up for Racial Justice lecture with Chris Crass on March 10 included about 300 attendees, and David will be meeting with the group to see if a partnership with the church would be helpful. The Ivy Bookstore partnership is vibrant and has been a successful way to serve the community; over \$8,000 was raised for the International Rescue Committee at author Mohsin Hamid's talk on March 11. The New Day Campaign, an arts based program challenging the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness and substance use, presented a coffee house in the parish hall on March 16 featuring performances by the Peabody String Sinafonia. The Songs of Self concert with Katie Pollock and other musicians presented new music and personal stories of the singers and composers on March 19. The Bridge Ensemble concert will be held on March 26. David said many people who have come to the church for these events are coming back to worship with us on Saturday or Sunday. He acknowledged the hard work of many volunteers has made these programs possible.

**Senior Warden's Report** [Mary DeKuyper]. Mary DeKuyper invited the outgoing Vestry members to share any reflections they may have on their time on the Vestry at the April Vestry meeting.

Mary announced Molly Hathaway, Karen McGee, Joan Partridge, David Pantle, Robin Pierson, Derek Savage, Betsy Scott, Ellen Chatard, and she are serving on the Vestry Nominating Committee. She said 12 parishioners attended the Vestry 101 presentation on March 19 with many good questions and suggestions.

**Bylaws Revision Recommendations** [Mary DeKuyper]. Mary discussed the review process and suggested revisions to the 1971 Church Bylaws by committee members Mary DeKuyper, Patty McLean, David Pantle, Pete Partridge, Fern Riley, and David Ware, with additional review by Jeff Ayres and Ronnie Reno. The committee worked to evaluate the current Bylaws with the Diocesan Model Bylaws, Canon Law and current practice and to make revisions to reflect these standards using gender-neutral and inclusive language. Mary thanked Patty McLean for developing the first draft of the document encompassing all these issues. She then presented the major document changes to sections on Members, Voting Members, Procedures at Meetings, Vestry Nominating Committee and Election, titles and duties of the Rector, titles and duties of the Officers, Election of Diocesan Delegates, and Fiscal Matters. A motion to recommend the changes to the Bylaws for adoption by the Voting

Members at the April 30 Annual Meeting was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Columbarium Update** [Betsy Scott]. Betsy Scott announced the Columbarium Committee will be presenting information about the new Columbarium on Sunday, March 26, at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:30 a.m. in the South Transept. Betsy and Brandon Berkeley will discuss the need for the new West Columbarium, niche pricing, construction financing, and the construction schedule. David will give a pastoral perspective, and Tom Spies, Anthony Gill, and Lydia Kimball will discuss the architectural design. Both meetings will end with a walk to the site where ground stakes will outline the future structure. Betsy said 11 niches have been sold so far, and many other parishioners have expressed an interest in purchasing. David thanked Betsy for her work on the Committee.

**Announcements.** David circulated a draft environmental stewardship statement from the Caring for Creation Committee. He also discussed their interest in the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake's One Water Partnership grants to parishes along the Jones Falls Watershed. These \$1,000 grants will be awarded to 15 parishes to foster spiritually based environmental education, stewardship projects, and community engagement activities. The Partnership will be sponsoring Nature Walks at Lake Roland, Cylburn Arboretum, and Wyman Park to identify environmental concerns in the watershed, and they will be holding Community Vision Sessions at several parishes including Redeemer starting in May. The Partnership would provide support for projects such as rain gardens, assessment of parking lot run-off, tree planting, and adoption of solar energy use.

Alison King reported the Friends of Music Committee is working with Bert Landman on new ideas for expanding their activities and service. David said the staff is also thinking about how to organize and invite partnerships for more opportunities to engage the community.

Robin Pierson reminded the Vestry about the Redeemer timeline generated at a past retreat and hoped we could expand and use this recorded history. David Pitard said on-line sources could be used for sharing and adding to the timeline.

### **Upcoming Events**

March 22 - 6 p.m. Lenten Series: Rebecca Hoffberger, American Visionary Art Museum Founder & Director

March 26 - New Columbarium presentations, 9:00 & 11:30 a.m.  
5 p.m. Friends of Music presents Bridge Ensemble

March 29 - 6 p.m. Lenten Series: Phyllis Taylor, Hospice and palliative care nurse

March 31 - Vestry nominations deadline

April 5 - 6 p.m. Lenten Series: April Ryan, White House correspondent

April 9 - 5 p.m. Evensong for Palm Sunday with St. John's Passion

**Adjournment.** David read the poem “The House of Belonging” by David Whyte, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar