

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018

7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM

*God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.
And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
Genesis 1:5*

Quorum. The January Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Millicent Bain, Kathy Dickinson, Lucy Neale Duke, Alison King, David Pitard, Doug Riley, Steven Sutor, Murray Taylor, and Anna von Lunz. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Tom Spies, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Matt Buck, Michelle Harner, and Chris Kurz. The following officer was absent: Mary DeKuyper.

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

Reflection. Lucy Neale Duke read selections from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and The Magician's Nephew by C. S. Lewis.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on November 28, 2017. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David Ware discussed recent Community Engagement activities at the church. Parishioners from Redeemer gathered yesterday at the Food Hub on Oliver Street with over 700 volunteers for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, sponsored by Civic Works, the 6th Branch, and Rebuild Johnston Square. After a song by the Cardinal Shehan School Choir and remarks by Mayor Catherine Pugh, Civic Works Executive Director Dana Stein, and BUILD member Tyrell Williams, participants worked at preparing garden beds, planting trees, and cleaning up the neighborhood park. David said the work amid many vacant houses and lots was daunting, yet it felt heartwarming to partner with neighbors and allies working from the ground up to bring hope to the area.

David noted the wonderful, spirit-filled service this past Sunday as parishioners from St. James' Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square joined us for worship. The Rev. Allen Robinson, Rector, gave the sermon, and the St. James' Choir, Connections Choir and the Redeemer Choir sang. Over 400 people attended the 10:00 service.

David said we are continuing to build relationships with community groups and partners. In December, the church sent checks from the offering given at the Lessons and Carols Service to several organizations, including Safe Streets, THREAD, the Club at Collington Square, Sutton Scholars, the Center for Urban Families, and the Asylee Women Enterprise.

David said the Lenten Speaker Series, *Voices*, will focus on contemporary artists, visionaries and thought leaders. Heather Mizeur, former Maryland gubernatorial candidate and founder of Soul Force Politics, will begin the series on 2/21 with a discussion of inner change and spirituality as a driving force to make external social change. Z. Vance Wilson, headmaster at St. Albans School and author of *Each Day: A Veteran Educator's Guide to Raising Children*, will speak on 2/28 about focusing parenting and educational goals to develop wisdom and joy in our children. On 3/7, a panel discussion with local chefs, farmers, and authors will discuss food sustainability. Timothy Phillips, founder of Beyond Conflict, an international organization with experience working toward reconciliation in conflicts in South Africa, Northern Ireland, Central America and the Balkans, will speak on 3/14 about our capacity to learn from one another and to change to solve our differences. Artists Amy Sherald and Stephen Towns and the Baltimore Museum of Art Director Chris Bedford will discuss the role of art in describing and defining social injustice on 3/21. The evenings will begin with a simple catered supper for \$10.00.

David reported attendance at all three Christmas Eve services this year had increased from last year; overall attendance at the three services was 2,049.

Senior Warden's Report [Tony Brandon]. Treasurer Tony Brandon, substituting for Senior Warden Mary DeKuyper, reported the Vestry unanimously approved the 2018 Proposed Budget by e-mail vote in December. Michelle Harner abstained from the budget vote.

2017 and 2018 Buildings and Grounds Update [Tom Spies]. Tom Spies discussed completed and planned Buildings and Grounds projects. In 2017, the Heritage Trust Fund provided \$126,766 for the following projects: general construction and Phase I furniture for the Youth Council Room; Part I of the Landscape Master Plan; new Service Hour signage on Charles Street; Parish Day School (PDS) lower level classroom cabinets; HVAC repairs in PDS, the church, and the chapel; and roof repairs. The Fund also contributed to the financing of the new West Columbarium. The Heritage Trust Fund will provide \$128,746 for 2018, and the following projects are being planned: additional general construction and Phase II furniture for the Youth Council Room; Women's Council Room renovations; Part II of the Landscape Master Plan; North Parking Lot storm water runoff management in conjunction with a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Blue Water Baltimore, as well as work on lighting and traffic circulation; Choir seating modifications in the North Transept; PDS upper level classroom cabinets; elevator construction at the rear of the Parish Hall stage to connect five levels; and church audio upgrades with new speakers and re-alignment of the existing system. Tom thanked Steve Sutor for his

expertise in planning and helping to implement many of these projects. He also thanked Mark Schroeder for overseeing and managing the day-to-day operations and work involved in these plans.

2018 Pledge Update [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen Chatard reported 390 pledges for 2018 have been received totaling \$1,276,072. The 2018 Budget pledge income is \$1,285,000, so we are currently \$9,000 below our planned budget. Thirty-seven pledges from last year have not yet been returned; we are hopeful these outstanding pledges will close the gap as they are submitted.

Parish Day School Board Meeting [Lucy Neale Duke]. Lucy Neale Duke reported the Parish Day School under Director Mary Knott's leadership is thriving academically. Admissions for enrollment next year are solid, and the school's finances are in good shape. The school held a well-attended Fall Festival with neighbors from Govans Elementary School and youth volunteers from the church. PDS families contributed \$2,500 to support Boots for Baltimore. The fall fundraiser and auction was a success.

Vestry Nominations and Convention Delegates [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen noted retiring Vestry members Kathy Dickinson, Michelle Harner, Chris Kurz, and David Pitard and several other parishioners will gather in mid-February to begin the Vestry Nominating process. Diocesan Convention delegates from last year will be serving again this year.

Announcements. Alison King said organist Michael Britt will return for Silent Movie Night on 1/28 from 5:00–6:30 p.m. She also said the Redeemer Choir will be presenting a Passion Lessons and Carols for Palm Sunday on 3/25 at 5:00 p.m.

Steve Sutor said the next Compline Service will be 1/21 at 8:00 p.m.

David Ware said 1/28 will be Children and Youth Sunday with portions of the service to be led by parish youth. Scout Sunday will be 2/4. The Hallelujah Mass will be celebrated on 2/11 with the Connections and Redeemer Choirs and the Helping Up Mission Choir. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on 2/13. RYG will present the musical "Annie" on 2/23, 24, and 25.

David also noted Redeemer will host two lectures from the Enoch Pratt Library Writer's LIVE series. Former Democratic National Committee chair and Democratic Party strategist Donna Brazile will discuss the 2016 presidential election on 1/17 at 7:00 p.m., and journalist Chris Matthews will speak about Robert Kennedy on 1/31 at 7:30 p.m.

Murray Taylor said 16 parishioners from Redeemer attended leadership training with BUILD on Saturday, 1/13.

Anna von Lutz said the Boy Scouts will be painting the faculty lounge at Govans Elementary School.

David Ware announced Ellen Chatard will take a sabbatical leave from May through July, 2018.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 1/27, 5:00 p.m.	Faith @Five Recovery Eucharist
Sunday, 1/28, 5:00 p.m.	Silent Movie Night: Buster Keaton's "Our Hospitality" with organ accompaniment by Michael Britt
Sunday, 2/11, 10:00 a.m.	Hallelujah Mass with Helping Up Mission Choir
Tuesday, 2/13	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday, 2/14	Ash Wednesday: services 7:30 a.m., 12 noon, 7:30 p.m.
Fri.-Sun., 2/23, 24, 25	RYG presents "Annie"
Wed. 2/21,28 & 3/7,14,21	Lenten Suppers and Programs

Adjournment. David Ware offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar