

**THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019**

**7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM**

*For with you is the well of life,  
and in your light we see light.*

*Psalm 36:9*

**Quorum.** The January Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Millicent Bain, Lis Green, Alison King, Doug Riley, Jan Schroeder, Anna von Lunz, David Wallack, and Ted Winstead. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Keri Frisch, Steven Sutor, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Matt Buck, Lucy Neale Duke, Beverly Griffith, and Murray Taylor.

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

**Reflection.** Lis Green offered an Epiphany reflection on gifts.

**Approval of Minutes.** Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on December 18, 2018. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Rector's Report** [David Ware]. David said he is grateful for the many gifts we are experiencing as a community at Redeemer. He is thankful for the extraordinary music program Bert Landman leads and brings to Sunday morning worship every week and the ways in which children and adults are being shaped by his gifts. Bert envisioned and created the Choir School of Baltimore to bring a program of rigorous musical training to children, and the choir and their work are adding new dimensions and depth to our community.

David said he is thankful for the partnership we have with the Ivy Bookstore and the Enoch Pratt Library. The Speaker Series we have hosted together has brought hundreds of people to Redeemer during the week, including new friends, old friends, and former parishioners. He is pleased we are working with Pratt Library President and CEO Heidi Daniel and establishing an important connection with the city of Baltimore.

David spoke of the gift of Caroline Stewart to Redeemer, and he said we are planning a service to celebrate the completion of her ministry on Sunday, January 27 as she ends her work with us. He acknowledged the grief involved in saying goodbye to her and affirmed the same community spirit we share in good times can hold our

sadness now. David also noted the gift of Cristina Paglinauan and gave thanks for the leadership she is providing for the church in community engagement with BUILD, Turnaround Tuesday, and public school funding initiatives.

David reported he has closed the initial step of the search process for Caroline's successor and has received resumes from 23 individuals representing a wide cross section of the church. He is forming an advisory committee of parishioners to help in interviewing and evaluating the candidates, and he hopes they will be able to make an offer by early summer. He has also reopened the Associate for Youth Ministry search for one month to solicit additional candidates.

The church has received 411 pledges for 2019 to date totaling \$1.322 million with several additional pledges to come. David noted this is the first time since 2009 we have had over 400 pledges despite the loss of 255 parishioners who have died since 2009. He said we are growing, touching people's lives with a community that feels right, true and strong, and a message of hopefulness and promise.

**Treasurer's Report** [Tony Brandon, Ellen Chatard]. Tony Brandon and Ellen Chatard asked the Vestry to address the 2019 Clergy Housing Allowances. A motion to approve the Clergy Housing Allowances as recorded in the 2019 Budget was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Buildings and Grounds** [Steve Sutor]. Steve Sutor said resurfacing the St. Paul's Courtyard entrance to the church has become a priority as the uneven stone wear may make walking difficult. We are soliciting bids from 5 contractors to replace the worn bluestones. The Buildings and Grounds Committee recommends the bluestones be replaced with the same stone in keeping with the natural materials of the buildings and the architect's original intent, noting the original stones have lasted 60 years. The committee estimates the project will cost about \$50,000 and will begin soon if the work can be completed by Easter.

Steve reported the Baltimore City Department of Public Works has approved the plans for upgrading the North Parking Lot. The estimated cost of the project is \$645,000. We have been working with Ashley Traut from Blue Water Baltimore, and he suggested the environmental parts of the project totaling \$362,000 for building bioretention areas to address surface water run-off may be eligible for grants from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Maryland Port Authority. He also noted the France-Merrick Foundation may have grants for \$100,000 available for the resurfacing and alignment of the parking spaces with new lighting. If these grants were available, the remaining cost of the project would be about \$180,000.

Steve said the Parish Hall elevator project is still in discussion. As the prices of steel and concrete have increased, new work quotes are needed to update the initial 4/2018 estimate of \$360,000.

**Parish Day School Update** [David Ware]. David said Parish Day School liaison Lucy Neale Duke reported enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year is strong, and there is a waiting list for kindergarten students. Faculty contracts will be returned by March 1. Maintenance needs this year for hallway painting and carpet replacement are modest, and the school is discussing possible investment accounts with the Budget and Finance Committee for its deferred surplus account to bring a return on the unused funds.

**Other Business.** Ellen said we will be selecting two additional delegates to attend the Diocesan Convention on May 10-11, 2019 at the Turf Valley Conference Center, Ellicott City to join current delegates Alison King and David Pantle. Ellen circulated a Vestry Greeters sign up sheet for Sunday morning greeting.

**Announcements.** Steve reported representatives from Baltimore City will hold a community meeting on January 22 at the church to discuss plans for Melrose Avenue bicycle and pedestrian improvement.

Keri Frisch praised the January 6 Epiphany Evensong Service and the chili potluck dinner reception. She said the Journey to Adulthood class is planning a chili cook-off fundraiser for the church to raise money for their mission trip to Costa Rica.

Jan Schroeder said the Redeemer Youth Group is in rehearsal for the musical, "Mary Poppins," to be presented on February 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m., and February 24 at 12:30 p.m.

Alison King said there will be a Compline Service on Sunday, January 20 at 8:00 p.m. and an Evensong for the Feast of the Presentation on Sunday, February 3 at 5:00 p.m. in the chapel.

David announced we will hold Sunday church services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. during the winter months as planned. If extreme weather conditions require services to be cancelled, an e-mail will be sent to all E-Redeemer recipients about the change in plans. We will also post a banner to the top of the website by 7:00 a.m. with any schedule changes.

Ellen thanked Millicent Bain for organizing and coordinating Coffee Hour this fall.

David reported 2,000 people attended the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services this December.

**Upcoming Events**

January 20, 8:00 p.m.

January 23, 7:00 p.m.

February 3, 5:00 p.m.

February 22 & 23, 7:30 p.m.

& February 24, 12:30 p.m.

Compline Service

Writers Live Series: Jose Antonio Vargas

Evensong for the Feast of the Presentation

RYG musical: "Mary Poppins"

**Adjournment.** David offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar