

## THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

### MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019 7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM

*“Forgive, and you will be forgiven;  
give, and it will be given to you.”  
Luke 6:37-38*

**Quorum.** The February Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Millicent Bain, Matt Buck, Lucy Neale Duke, Lis Green, Beverly Griffith, Alison King, Doug Riley, Jan Schroeder, Murray Taylor, 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.

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

**Reflection.** Doug Riley offered a reflection from Listening Is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project by Dave Isay.

**Approval of Minutes.** Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on January 15, 2019. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Stewardship** [David Ware]. David presented data on Redeemer pledges and attendance. Our pledge goal for 2018 was \$1.285 million, and 399 pledges were received. Our pledge goal for 2019 is \$1.375 million; to date, 416 pledges have been received for a pledge total of \$1.395 million. Thus, parish giving has increased from last year and has exceeded our budget goals. Attendance estimates are also showing growth. Annual Saturday and Sunday worship service attendance for 2013, 2014, and 2015 was approximately 20,000 per year. Annual attendance was 21,200 per year in 2016, 22,700 per year in 2017, and over 25,000 per year in 2018. We are showing consistent growth over the past six years with a significant increase in the last year.

David discussed stewardship by introducing the Greek work for household, *oikos*, the root of the words economy, ecumenical, and ecology. In this context, economics describes the act of managing and arranging what is necessary for the well being of the household. This concept can help us to expand our thinking about stewardship to move from focusing on numbers and figures to focusing on the people of the household and what they need to function, and to consider how personal decisions and parish decisions affect the whole. David noted we can think about our household in five ways: our personal homes, our 725 parish families, all those who

attend programs at the church, our community partners, and the city of Baltimore, especially those who struggle for meaning, healing, nourishment, and community. Our ability to respond to these household components depends in part on our finances.

David suggested seeking prosperity exclusively for personal good is problematic. We are often pushed by the perception we must be always running for things or for time in order to catch up, or pulled by feeling too full with too many material things. David asked us to consider how much of our thinking about money is coming from the fear of not measuring up or the fear of being exposed as having too much. These perceptions can cause apprehension at church when we talk about money.

Our spiritual goal, David said, is to move away from striving for materialism and to move toward seeking to become an incarnation of God. David explained Jesus shows the way to be most fully human; God is in everything, all creation, and we seek to find and honor the dignity in every person. Our work now is to make the household of God better than we found it. Truly economic functioning of the household system requires wealth to run. David urged us to move beyond the fears and limited thinking of feeling we are not giving enough, feeling guilty, feeling paralyzed by how little some have, or feeling the Gospel says to give up everything. Our responsibility is to embrace the ability to respond and tend to our household.

**Rector's Report** [David Ware]. David presented program offerings at Redeemer for the season of Lent. The Voices Speaker Series on Wednesday evenings will begin with dinner for \$10 per person at 6:00 p.m., and the presentation will start at 7:00 p.m. The speakers will be:

March 13	Lynne Olson	Author, <u>Madame Fourcade's Secret War</u> , in partnership with the Pratt Library
March 20	Kaye Whitehead	Loyola professor & author, speaking on "The Moral Arc of Justice: 400 Years of Shifting Narratives and Black Genius, Brilliance, and Survival"
March 27	Erin Hagar	Children and teen author, discussing women's stories from her books, the children's book industry, and supporting artists and readers
April 3	Evan Thomas	Author, <u>First: Sandra Day O'Connor, An American Life</u> , in partnership with the Pratt Library
April 10	Joyce J. Scott Oletha DeVane	Artists in conversation with BMA Director Christopher Bedford, in partnership with Rev. Al Hathaway & Union Baptist Church

Sunday adult formation activities will be:

Ash Wednesday to March 24	David will invite the congregation to read <u>The Baltimore Book of the Dead</u> , a memoir by Marian Winik, to write a personal essay in her style about someone who has died, and to come to a discussion about the book on Sunday, March 24 after the 10:00 a.m. service.
March 31 & April 7	“Caring for the Caregiver,” led by the Rev. Jill Snodgrass, Ph.D., Loyola Associate Professor of Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Care
April 4-May 9	Six week support group facilitated by the Rev. Jill Snodgrass, Ph.D.; group limited to 12 participants. Second group to follow, date to be determined.

Music and worship offerings will include:

March 3	Jazz Mass with the Helping Up Mission Choir, 10:00 a.m. service
March 9	Taizé Service, Faith@Five
March 10	Rite 13 ceremony, 10:00 a.m. service
March 15	Peabody Renaissance Ensemble and Baroque Band, 7:30 p.m.
March 17	Sung Compline in the Chapel, 8:00 p.m.
March 30	“Between War and Here”: NPR journalists Anne Garrels and Neal Conan and music by the Ensemble Galilei explore honor, courage, loss, and hope through the words of injured veterans; to benefit the Special Operations Warrior Foundation
April 7	Evensong, 5:00 p.m.
April 14	Choral meditation on The Passion, 5:00 p.m.

David reviewed the plans for the Parish Hall elevator project. He said at present much of our programming is not accessible, and building the elevator would set the stage for ministry to happen. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has determined an appropriate location on the south side of the stage near the kitchen, and the engineer drawings have been completed to build a Limited Use, Limited Application elevator, large enough to hold a person in a wheelchair and an attendant. The elevator would provide entry to five levels: the Nursery, the Parish Hall, the Stage/Baker Room Hallway, the Women’s Council Room, and the top floor Sunday School rooms. The Youth Council Room would still be unavailable, but many more locations would be opened up for use and access to all. Elevator construction would require a capital outlay of funds, and the major construction work would be timed for the summer months when the Parish Day School is not in session. A motion to approve the amount of up to \$400,000 from the Endowment Fund for the Limited Use, Limited Application elevator and to authorize the Executive Committee to choose the best bid once bids are in for its construction was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

David said the Ministry searches are moving ahead. The Associate for Youth Ministry search is now closed, and two additional candidates are being considered. A second search for Caroline Stewart's successor is underway, and five candidate interviews have been scheduled.

**Treasurer's Report** [Tony Brandon]. Tony thanked Ellen Chatard and Darlene Gilchrist for a great year overseeing the budget and managing the accounting. In the last few years, we have had budget surpluses of \$151,000 in 2016 and \$70,000 in 2017, and subject to year-end auditing, we will likely have a surplus of over \$80,000 for 2018. After the auditing process is complete, Tony said he will report the final surplus amount to the Vestry and ask for a motion to transfer the funds to the Endowment Fund.

**Buildings and Grounds** [Steve Sutor]. Steve Sutor said the Buildings and Grounds Committee has selected a contractor to replace the bluestones in the St. Paul's Courtyard entrance to the church. The project will cost \$38,300 and will be paid for from the Heritage Trust Fund. The new bluestones will match the old ones, and old useable stones will be saved and stored to substitute in other areas. Courtyard drains will be cleaned, and the font will be raised to avoid water pooling at the base.

Steve reported we have sent a letter to the France-Merrick Foundation to inquire about grant funding for the North Parking Lot resurfacing and upgrading project. Other grants to address the surface water run-off environmental improvements will open up this summer. We will need to show our funding to cover \$180,000 of the project as Steve said granting foundations want to see that we have skin in the game and are invested in the project.

**Diocesan Convention Delegates** [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen asked the Vestry to confirm the Diocesan Convention Delegates to attend the Diocesan Convention on May 10-11 at the Turf Valley Conference Center, Ellicott City. A motion to approve the Diocesan Convention Delegates David Pantle, Alison King, Keri Frisch, and Ted Winstead was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Vestry Nominations** [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen said she is organizing the Vestry Nominating Committee to consist of retiring Vestry members Matt Buck, Lucy Neale Duke, Alison King, and Murray Taylor, and three or four at-large members. Vestry nominations will be due by April 1 to be considered for the Vestry candidate slate to precede the Annual Meeting on May 5.

### **Announcements.**

Alison King said the Jazz Mass will be held on March 3, and the Helping Up Mission Choir will sing along with the Connections Choir and the Adult Choir.

Millicent Bain asked Vestry members to sign up to bring food for Coffee Hour on March 3.

Jan Schroeder said the Redeemer Youth Group will present the musical, "Mary Poppins," on February 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m., and February 24 at 12:30 p.m.

**Upcoming Events**

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

& February 24, 12:30 p.m.

March 3, 10:00 a.m.

March 13, 7:00 p.m.

March 20, 7:00 p.m.

March 27, 7:00 p.m.

RYG musical: "Mary Poppins"

Jazz Mass

Voices: Lynne Olson

Voices: Kaye Whitehead

Voices: Erin Hagar

**Adjournment.** Matt gave a thankful tribute to Caroline Stewart with thoughts from Pastor Natalie Bolz-Weber, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar