

St. James' Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 13, 2011

Lori Walton+ called the meeting to order and led the opening prayer.

Announcements

- Please sign-in
- There are sign-up sheets for the following: Available for Lunch, altar flowers and Sanctus candle, e-mail and weekly newsletter, children's classes and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

The Sunday, January 31, 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

Nomination and election of Deanery representatives/Diocesan Convention delegates

- The Deanery candidates are Barbara Dabney, Alice Johnson, Jim McConnell, Scott Whitaker, and Tim Young
- It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. Motion passed.
- The top four candidates will be the delegates, and the other will serve as alternate.

Nomination and election of new vestry members

- The Vestry candidates are Valle Brokes, Bob Bynum, Janet Fischer, Gary Gearheart, and Donald Razzolini
- It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. Motion passed.

Senior Warden's Report – Jan Scrutton

- The Annual Report shows a myriad of opportunities available at St. James'.
- 2010 was a challenging but rewarding year. St. James' started the year in interim time, and ended with St. James's first female rector, Lori Walton.
- Our community was well cared for during the interim period, thanks to efforts of our interim priest, Kathy Crary. We wish Kathy and her new congregation the best.
- This was the year of the search and the Search Team. Jan thanked the Search Team for their hard work.
- Thank you to everyone who stepped up and kept things running during interim time.

- Thanks to John Maloney, who has led the Faith Formation team for many years, and to Bruce Roberts, who is succeeding him..
- Our parish hall was empty this November as Abode Services has changed its program from Winter Relief to Home Warming. We moved in our first Home Warming family.
- One of our goals was the stained glass window project, and now new stained windows grace the Narthex entry way. Mary Casas took on the challenge of organizing this project.
- It has been an honor to work with this vestry. The vestry worked well together on the rector search.
- We are taking the advice of the Diocese regarding the Schader Trust, and will take our time to invest in the gift and future of St. James'.
- Jan S. thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to serve.
- Jan also thanked her family, Beth, Tom, and Mike Scrutton.

Rector's Report – Lori Walton

- Lori Walton told the story of the Masowe Apostles and their understanding to sacred space.
- The story of the Masowe Apostles reminds us that church has little to do with the buildings themselves. The real work of the Kingdom has to do with creation and our relationship to it. The work is centered and finds its sustenance in the ultimate relationship with Jesus Christ.
- This is Lori's 20th Sunday as rector. The past 4½ months has been months of great joy and some challenge, and Lori has tried to spend more time watching and listening rather than doing.
- In watching St. James', she has seen a community that laughs easily and speaks loudly, a belief in the ability to make a difference and enact real change, a connectedness to each other that creates a fabric that sorrow and crisis cannot break, a willingness to commit to the work and ministry of this church, a love for your history and a respect for the wisdom of our elders, and, an ability to self-start and to see things through to the desired outcome.
- Lori gave examples of how the actions of our community show the hands, the voice, and the heart of Christ. This is who we are, and why we are – Christ to one another, Christ to the world.
- Some areas at St. James' are well developed, such as faith formation for adults, social ministries and parish life.
- There are other areas that warrant some focus and leadership.
- We are simplifying the materials for worship. There will be two things needed: The Order of Worship (10:30) or Book of Common Prayer (8:00) and a Hymns and Lessons sheet. There will be a second sheet that lists news and announcements, but is not needed for worship.

- During the intercessory prayer and thanksgivings, when the Eucharistic Minister invites your expression of prayer, you may say out loud the prayer in your heart.
- Part of creating worship that is alive and growing is to allow for different voices and styles to be seen and heard. To that end have been trying to procure a vocational deacon to serve primarily on Sundays. Hope to have the new person begin in March.
- New outreach effort will be launched later this spring with the Diocese and other churches called Little Dresses for Africa. Will be creating dresses/shorts for children of Africa. This draws on the talents of our community to make a difference globally.
- The areas Lori feels compelled to put her effort into are visitors/newcomers, children and youth.
- For visitors/newcomers, Lori wants to develop a system of welcoming people, and more effectively integrating them into the wider community. This will involve the creation of printed materials, stronger modes of communication through phone calls, emails, and mailings, and a system of introducing people to the Episcopal Church and St. James' through classes and fellowship.
- Like many congregations, we are aging, and if we want to remain healthy and thriving, we have to attend to our teenagers and children. The development of a child's faith is some of the most important work that the church does – and if we do not breathe life into this area, then we're failing down on our most basic call as Christians.
- Every single one of us has a responsibility to connect with all members of our congregation.
- The church is the people, the buildings serve only to support the people and the expression of God within the people.
- Think of ways you can contribute as well – pray for the efforts of others, and invite others to join us.
- Excited about working with a community who claim their places as Kingdom-workers and who know what it means to be the hands, the voice, and the heart of Christ.

2010 Annual Report

- A motion was made to receive the annual reports as written. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Comments from the floor

- Like the Weekly Newsletter sent via e-mail. The Weekly Newsletter will transform and morph as we go forward.
- Thanks to Jan Brandt for all of her hard work as treasurer.
- Thank you for the printed news and information sheet, not just info on the webpage.

- A member is any person who has taken communion at least three times in the past year. Anyone 16 and over may vote.

Endowment Report

- Dave Nelsen is chairman. Members are Patty Lacy, Marnie Hartmann, Chris Lubwama, and Joan Roberts. Jan Brandt is treasurer.
- The endowment fund has existed for 8 years.
- The current principal value is \$84,490, and the market value is approximately \$90,000.
- The legacy society is the Shell Society. It includes individuals who have mentioned St. James' in their will.
- Presenting 3 checks from earned income: \$837.00 to General Endowment, \$733.00 to Memorial Garden, and \$523.00 to Little Church Fund.
- Will writing sessions are held periodically if you need to prepare or update your will. The next one is on March 26th at St. Mark's in Palo Alto. Cost is \$75 per person.

Financial Report – Jan Brandt, treasurer

- Jan B. presented St. James's Statement of Financial Position
- Thank you to the counters for all of their hard work
- The full financial presentation was last week.
- We received 100.2% of pledged income.
- The original deficit budget for 2010 was -\$7,900.00, but we ended \$14,583.52 in the black. Some of this if from pledges donated for 2011. We also did not have a secretary for 4 months, and we changed clergy at a different than budgeted.
- Our 2011 budget has a \$1,806.76 deficit.
- Money from clergy housing and the Schader Trust are in FDIC insured CDs. They are not earning much money.
- Any check over \$500 requires two signatures.

Voting

- The votes for Vestry and Deanery will be counted following the meeting. The results will be communicated next Sunday. The new Vestry and Deanery members will be commissioned after the vestry retreat.

New Senior Warden – Mary Casas

- Thank you to the retiring vestry members – Scott Kennedy, Penny Trant, Charlie Paratore and Jan Scrutton. To Scott and Charlie – thanks for your hard work on Facilities and the formation of a new Facilities Committee. And thanks to Jan S., a jewel of a person, and Penny, the queen of the kitchen.

Mary Casas led the closing prayer, and Lori Walton adjourned the meeting.

Vestry/Deanery Representatives results

- The results of the Vestry election and the Deanery representative election were announced on Sunday, February 20, 2011.
- The new vestry members are Janet Fischer, Valle Brokes, Gary Gearheart, and Donald Razzolini.
- The new Deanery representatives are Barbara Dabney, Alice Johnson, Jim McConnell, and Scott Whitaker, with Tim Young serving as alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hart
Clerk of the Vestry