

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Vestry December 15th, 2021

The vestry of St. Matthew's met December 15th at 6:00 on Zoom. Members present were Anita Freer (Sr. Warden), Chuck Messley (Jr. Warden), Kyle Dennis (Sec.), Dawn Burger, Ellen Gregan and Selena Ellis. Also present were Rev. Jay Bruno (Vicar), Rev. Nancy Cook (Deacon) and Deb Hansen (Treasurer).

Night time devotion from Mission St. Clare led by Rev. Jay Bruno and Rev. Nancy Cook.

Old Business-

Motion to accept November minutes with correction to date on perishable food give away by Ellen Gregan, seconded by Selena Ellis. Passed unanimously.

Motion to accept November financial by Kyle Dennis, seconded by Selena Ellis. Passed unanimously.

Average Sunday attendance for November was 35.

We are still in masks for the time being.

New Business-

Approved a list of people to ask to consider running for vestry for next year. The list includes Fanny Neely, Martha Nehus, Melinda Hood, Marlissa Yarberry, Susan Alford, Tanya Kennedy and Chris Yarberry.

Deb Hansen gave a report of the results of this years Stewardship season. We have 4 additional pledges for 23 pledges total. The total amount pledged for 2022 is \$50,586 for an average pledge of \$2,199.39. More than half of the 19 existing pledges increased their pledge for the upcoming year.

We still have \$600 in the budget for outreach. Selena Ellis suggested using some of it for CJCOHN. Dawn Burger suggested using some for the Tornado Relief fund. Fr. Jay suggested giving some towards the Bishop's Fund.

Motion to give \$200 to Bishop's disaster relief, \$200 to CJCOHN and \$100 to Bishop's Fund by Anita Freer, seconded by Ellen Gregan. Passed unanimously.

Dawn Burger said that Barbara Miller who lives in the RB house would like to use our shed to store some boxes. She also said that was part of her rental agreement when she rented the house. Chuck Messley said that there isn't any more room in there with all the

lawn mowers and supplies, and that the building leaks and wouldn't be good for storage anyways. Barbara also needs someone to blow the leaves off of her driveway because she's afraid of falling walking to her car. Chuck said he would check with Kelly Kennedy and see if he could go do that and maybe check on the state of the yard periodically.

Chuck Messley said the wall oven in the old vicarage needs to be replaced and that we need to do it soon to get it ready to be rented in January. He said he's going to look into replacing it and would prefer to get a floor unit because it would make the house more attractive to renters.

Fr. Jay and Anita Freer attended a Zoom meeting with the Bishop and others from around the diocese. There were discussions of the disaster in northeast Arkansas and the diocese's response to it, different responses and practices of churches around the diocese to Covid-19 and how it has affected their attendance. Bishop Benfield said that he is currently leaving smaller decisions concerning Covid-19 regulations to individual churches.

The vestry had a discussion of masks and decided to keep them through the holidays and have another discussion of it at the January meeting.

Fr. Jay said that Safeguarding Our Children will be available online and will be required every three years for clergy and anyone in the church working with children.

Fr. Jay suggested making an appeal once a month to members of the church to donate to the food pantry. Rev. Nancy Cook said she would be happy to do it during the announcements at the service.

There was a discussion by the vestry of the details of the perishable food give away for December.

The vestry decided to send thank you cards to the Boy Scouts and to Rex Avery.

The vestry set the date for the annual meeting for Sunday January 23. We will decide before then how and when the meeting will be held.

Motion to adjourn by Ellen Gregan, seconded by Dawn Burger. Passed unanimously.