

Grace Church in the Mountains
Annual Parish Meeting
December 3, 2017

The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. After an opening prayer, Rev. Schaefer previewed the meeting agenda.

A motion was made and seconded that Mary Lockey be elected to record meeting minutes. **Passed unanimously.**

Rev. Schaefer stated that Donna Buckner and Lisa Hardeman, as out-going Vestry members, would serve as tellers for the Vestry election. A motion was made and seconded that Lorelei Yerse serve as the third teller. **Passed unanimously.**

Ballots were distributed and votes cast for the 2018 Vestry. The slate of candidates included: Crystal Clary, Paula Eachus, Mary Needham Hartman, Mary Lockey, Kenneth Ratcliffe, Melanie Walt, and KG Watson.

Rector's Report

Rev. Schaefer expressed gratitude for the hospitality shown to her and her family during the past months as they settled into a new home and a new ministry.

Copies of the 2017 annual report are posted on the Grace Church website.

Rev. Schaefer reviewed the three Missional Priorities adopted by the 2017 Vestry:

- 1) "To grow in mutual love for one another specifically by improving our ability to communicate across difference."
- 2) "To develop a vibrant ministry to children, youth and young adults."
- 3) "To cultivate a culture of 'welcoming' that engages each person's spiritual gifts."

With fifty-seven ministries ongoing in the church, there is a need to coordinate their organization. An ad hoc committee will be formed to discern financial priorities and how to go deeper with outreach ministries. (The Sunday evening Spanish Misa was discontinued due to low attendance. Are we called to offer this service?)

Deacon's Report

The Rev. Dn. Ray Escott reported on his service within the diocese:

- Serves on the Commission for Global Mission
- Serves as a mentor for individuals discerning a call to the diaconate
- Serves as chaplain for the Daughters of the King
- Coordinates the outreach team
- Coordinates the Eucharistic Visitor ministry

Senior Warden's Report

Jim Moore, Senior Warden, reported that the church is ahead on payments for the building loan secured to improve facilities.

The focus of the Stewardship Program took a broad view (beyond tithing) and encouraged individuals to ask how they might be better stewards of their lives. He restated our motto: "Open to God's Transforming Grace."

In closing, Jim thanked "all who keep the church up and running", and all who spend hours in budget preparation and management.

Miscellaneous Business

Paula Welling reported on the Parish Read: Sanctuary of the Spirit, by Bishop Stephen Charleston. The book is available on Kindle (\$9.99) or can be ordered (paperback copy) through Paula at a cost of \$15. Reading will occur from Christmas through Epiphany with reading assignments posted daily on the church Face Book page. Discussion will also occur on the closed Face Book page. The Adult Forum on January 7 will be devoted to a final discussion of the book.

Website Preview

Rev. Schaefer reported that a new website is under development. The new site will include vibrant pictures that can easily be changed. The parish directory will also be included. Sign-up for activities will be available and easily accessed. (There is a need for more contributors to coffee hour!)

Stewardship

Bill Collins, Junior Warden, reported that a summary of the Time and Talent card responses is posted on the web site. There were 166 responses spanning 614 areas of ministry.

Categories (narrowed to parish-based ministries):

- Worship = 130 sign-ups
- Outreach (including Grace Giving Garden) = 176
- Congregational Care = 37
- Administration/Treasury = 52
- Education and Formation = 97
- Hospitality and Fellowship = 72
- Building and Grounds = 50

Bill encouraged more participation and reported that follow-up to those who returned Time and Talent cards will occur in January.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Welling, Treasurer, previewed the 2018 budget and stated that the current Vestry will give final approval. A copy of the budget report distributed at the annual meeting will be posted on the web site.

\$295,000 budget includes salary cost for Young Adult intern and rector salary increase.

There is currently \$251,000 in pledges and \$35,000 budgeted for loose plate offering.

\$4,200 in additional pledges is needed to balance the budget. Several families have yet to pledge.

Rev. Schaefer encouraged individuals to speak with Vestry members if there are questions about the 2018 budget.

2018 Vestry Elections

Kenneth Ratcliffe, Mary Hartman, and Crystal Clary were elected to serve a three-year term on the Vestry. Rev. Schaefer welcomed the new members and offered her gratitude to outgoing members: Donna Buckner, Lisa Hardeman, and Jim Moore.

Adjournment

Rev. Schaefer closed the meeting with prayer at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Lockey
Secretary of the Annual Meeting