

St. Stephen's 2015 Annual Meeting

January 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 11:45 AM.

Father James verified a forum.

Susan Feyrer was appointed clerk of the meeting.

Minutes from 2014 meeting reviewed. Motion made by Peter Nelson, seconded by George Woodzell to receive minutes as written. **Motion carried.**

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Chris Jones for putting the Annual Report together.

Christian Education

Christian Education:

- Miranda Rand reported that things are going well.
- She is looking for an additional teacher to work with 6th and 7th graders this fall.

Adult Education: Father James referred us to the report.

Youth Group:

- George Woodzell reminded people to order their Super Bowl subs.
- The youth will not be participating in the REACH camps this year, but will be doing a service project closer to home this summer.

First Friends: Brian Riordon reported for Kate.

- Both 3 and 4-year-old classes are full.
- Enrollment for next year begins in February and it looks like the classes will be full again next year.

Library:

- Jo Adams is thrilled to be our librarian.
- She encouraged people to direct any questions about the library to her, she would be more than happy to answer them.
- Eunice Chouffi asked people who borrow a lot of books to return them to an empty shelf, not in the little box normally used for returns.

Liturgical Ministries

Worship Committee: Deacon Pat referred us to her report.

Acolytes:

- Allison deKanel thanked the acolytes for their service to the church.
- She encouraged anyone in fourth grade and beyond to join.

Choir: Bob Acosta referred us to his report and asked parishioners to email him with any music questions or concerns.

Bells: Lisa McDonald thanked the bell ringers and the congregation for their support.

Altar Guild: Please see report. Carolyn Morin reported that new members are needed. Consideration is being given to forming a candle filling subcommittee of the Altar Guild.

Ushers: Dave Caruso encouraged members to volunteer to usher at either of the services.

Service

ECW:

- Carole Merrill-Mazurek encouraged all women of the church to attend the monthly meetings.
- Tracy Ormsbee reported that the ECW is sponsoring three projects and supporting additional activities throughout the year. Please see report.

Pastoral Care Teams:

- Father James reported that Richey Woodzell organizes the care teams and the teams are able to run on their own.
- He attempts to visit shut-ins at least once a month.

Community Outreach: Please see report for our numerous outreach activities.

SICM:

- Eunice Chouffi referred us to the newly hung SICM bulletin board, which she updates regularly.
- She asked for a volunteer to act as a back-up person to Marti Spang and herself. This person would attend the monthly SICM meetings on the first Wednesday of the month (Thursdays in Lent)

Tag Sale:

- Doreen May reported that last year's sale was a wonderful success
- She is willing to organize it again this year.

- She encouraged us to find a date for the sale and to decide what we want to do with the proceeds.

Fellowship

Fellowship Activities:

- Peter Nelson suggested starting up Agape dinners again.
- Erin Cohen asked members to let her know of any ideas they have for fellowship activities.

Foyer Groups: Gillian Woodcock invited parishioners to join the Foyer groups, even at this point of the year.

Building and Grounds

Buildings:

- Father James reported that the buildings are in good shape.
- Buildings are being used by parishioners and outside groups. For example, there are 6 times as many people coming to the Blood Drive as in the first year.

Over-the-Hill-Gang:

- See report.
- We thanked this group for all they do to keep the church's facilities running smoothly.

Informational Ministries

Communication:

- Chris Jones reminded people that the deadline for Messenger articles is the 25th of each month.
- Please let Chris know if you are not getting a weekly email update.
- The Communication Committee will be meeting again in February.

Our Clergy

Deacon's Report:

- Deacon Pat reported that the life of a Deacon is very interesting.
- She thanked the parishioners for the support this church gives her.
- We all thanked her for what she does for this church and the community.

Rector's report:

- Father James referred us to his report.
- We are poised for growth and he knows it will happen.
- In 2014, three churches closed in Schenectady. Since St. Stephen's is holding its own, we are in an envious position to other churches in the city.
- He referred us to page 21 in the report for our Parish Statistics. Our average Sunday attendance was down, but our fall attendance was up.

Finance

Budget:

- Father James referred us to the 2014 End-of-Year Budget and the Proposed Budget for 2015. Our Diocesan assessment is a high priority, but we had to cut it because of budget numbers. We have given money to the diocese over the past few years, but it has come from the Endowment Fund.
- We have 5 more pledges than last year, which is healthy for our parish.
- Jack Feyrer reported that we have tapped into the Endowment Fund for a new roof on the Rectory and the Diocesan assessment. These two items did not amount to more than the growth of the fund.

Nominating Committee

- The following people were nominated:
 - Junior Warden: Brian Riordan
 - 3 year Vestry term (Class of 2018): Joanne Frank, Peter Nelson
 - Still to be filled: 1 three year term and 2 two year terms
 - Clerk: Tracy Ormsbee
- Slate accepted as presented.

Acknowledgements

- Father James thanked Chris for his work on our Web page and Erin and Tracy for our Facebook page.
- Father James thanked the music director and the bell director for their ministry to the church.
- Jack Feyrer thanked Austin and Marti Spang for the work they do on the budget.
- Father James thanked Denise Crates for the wonderful job she does as treasurer of St. Stephen's

- Father James thanked our sextons, Joe and Donna White. He also thanked Rose Walker, our administrative assistant.
- Father James thanked the out going Vestry members and clerk for their ministry to the church.

New Business

- Father James shared that our bells are about 20 years old. They need to be refurbished for close to \$4,000. We are starting an Adopt-a-Bell drive to rejuvenate our bells. He asked parishioners to support this drive that begins February 1.
- Allison deKanel asked about delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Please see Father James if you are interested in volunteering. Peter Nelson volunteered.

Father James commissioned the new Vestry members.

Father James called adjournment to 12:43.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Feyrer
Clerk