

**St. Stephen's Church Annual Meeting
January 22, 2017**

Meeting called to order with prayer at 11:45 a.m.

Verification of a quorum: Yes

Appointment of Clerk: Tracy Ormsbee

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting. Motion to approve by Brian Riodan, second by Peter Nelson. Motion carried.

Christian Education and Adult Education report: Fr. James: The addition this year was the outreach component to the children's education. Thank you for that.

Liturgical Ministries report: Altar Guild: June Russell is going to retire. Jane: We need some new members.

Lectors and Chalice: Need more members.

Bell choir and Choir: Thank yous.

Acolytes: Fr. James: We do have acolytes on a full-time basis. Important ministry. Makes life so much easier for clergy.

Daughters of the King: May change meeting time from Wednesdays.

Community Service/Outreach report:

Crop Walk: Priscilla – Thank yous. Looking for more walkers, contributors and prayers.

SICM: Thank you to Eunice for being such a good representative of SICM in our church.

Pastoral care: Richey: Visiting parishioners who can't come to church. Looking for more people to take the book each week to schedule visitors, make a meal. Fr. James: when we had parish fair this fall, we had several people sign up for outreach and we are meeting for the first time this week.

Fellowship:

ECW: Running it by committee. Had a planning session to come up for priorities for this year. Outreach, trips, fun outings, Bible study, fellowship luncheon. This is a sisterhood, so every single woman in our parish is invited to enjoy us. Males can come – just have to be accompanied by a female.

Foyers: Welcome to anyone who would like to join us.

Family nights: pizza delivered, made it easy for people to come. Halloween and Christmas events. Next family night will be Easter. Would like more of the congregation to come and interact with the kids. Great time to get to know each other better.

Quilting: Having a great time. Peter: will we try to resurrect Agape suppers? Fr. James: Used to be very successful. Tried to bring back a few years ago. It didn't catch on. If interested, talk to Peter.

Coffee hour: People signed up for 8 a.m., but fewer for 10:15. Appreciate people signing up. Fr. James: Important for evangelism. New young family came to coffee hour last week.

Jobs and Help:

Over the Hill: Austin: Meeting irregularly. Solving some heating problems. As things come up, we try to handle them.

Art in Parish Hall: Carole: Arts and Crafts projects from the homeless community. Will have on loan for three months. Sculptures, photographs, masks, paintings. Need help deciding where to put hang them.

Communications: Fr. James: Thanks to Chris for so many things. Report, Messenger, Directory.

Warden report: Brian Riordan: Fairly smooth year. Report gives a sense of the decision-making this year and what's coming. Over the Hill Gang's work helps the budget. The congregation and budget numbers going in the right direction. Those types of things make it easier on those on the vestry. Everyone welcome to come to the vestry meetings. Great mix of people, backgrounds they bring to the table. It's a great service, great thing to be a part of. Fr. James: Thank you to Brian for 6 years of service on the vestry.

Clergy reports: Fr. James: Amazed how quickly Dennie and Tom have assimilated into the congregation. Her goal is to be here when Lent begins.

Deacon Pat: As I look around I realize I don't do the deacons work myself. Everyone in this room has contributed in one way or another. Thank yous.

Rectors Report: Fr. James: Not breaking records but steadily growing. Doesn't matter whether Episcopalian or not, people are looking for a community. Shows from parish statistics, we've had a lot more baptisms than other churches in Schenectady. Financially, comparing pledges from this year to last year. Have a number of very generous givers in this congregation. Grateful for all pledges. Able to do the things we do. Sign of a healthy church: short vestry meetings. Ours are sometimes under an hour. Do most of our work by committees. We built this building with some difficulty. It's taken some time but we're really using this building well. We set aside our time and effort and money to build this and we're fulfilling that ministry of using it. Nonprofit organization so we don't allow people to use it for money-making activities. Everyone says what a beautiful space this is and how easy it is to use the kitchen.

Financial report: Denise: Thank you to counters. I know I can always count on you. Fr. James: I want to thank Denise. One of the benefits in living in the rectory next to the church you get a sense of what's going on in the church. Denise often in the office working on reports. Grateful to her family.

Endowment: Austin took over managing the endowment. It's doing very well. Fr. James: It's there for emergency reasons. Paying diocesan assessment. This is the second year in a row we've been able to pay it through pledges. Not full assessment, but trying to increase it in future budgets. Balance with what we're able to do in the community.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Jim Syta: Filled slots for vestry and jr. warden. Stephanie Grimason, Mary Ann Harrington, Dan Ruscitto, Claudia Jakubowski. No nominations from the floor. Motion to accept the slate by Richey Woodzell, second by Elissa Prout. Approved. Still looking for a clerk.

Commissioning of Wardens and Vestry Members

Delegate for Diocesan Convention: Fr. James: Diocesan convention second week in June. Three delegates and clergy represent this congregation. It's in Speculator. Peter Nelson has been lay representative many many years. Thank you. If anyone else would like to go, invited. Motion to nominate Peter by Carole. Second from Liz. Approved.

New business: Doreen May: Looking for ideas for tag sale. Would like to hear from people. Community looks forward to it. Fr. James: Thank you for doing it. It's a lot of work. Great fellowship for us and a service to the community.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Ormsbee
Clerk
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