

Highlights of the Vestry Meeting Friday, February 2, 2018

The February Vestry meeting was held during the annual Vestry retreat at King's House Retreat Center in Belleville, Illinois. Much of the evening's business was a review of recent events in the church as well as procedural issues pertaining to the Vestry, for the edification of the new Vestry members.

Because the meeting was held so early in February, the financial report for January was unavailable. The financial reports for January and February will be presented at the March Vestry meeting.

Former Junior Warden Mike Johnson urged all parishioners to contact the Junior Warden, or any Vestry member, when they notice something in the building or on the church grounds that needs attention. The sooner problems can be addressed, the less the repair is likely to cost. Father Todd extended thanks to Mike for serving as Junior Warden, and noted that 2017 was the first year that the building and grounds budget closed out with a surplus since Father Todd arrived at Grace.

2018's Junior Warden, Rebecca Harrison, extended thanks to Mike Johnson for agreeing to give her occasional help with building and grounds issues. Dick Entenmann will assist Rebecca with HVAC issues.

Senior Warden Lyn Ballard explained how the Executive Committee prepares for Vestry meetings. The Executive Committee consists of the Rector, the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer, and the head of the Personnel Committee.

Father Todd noted that the Executive Committee works hard to prepare for Vestry meetings, which helps the Vestry meetings run as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Vestry meetings are open to parishioners, and the Vestry strives to keep the business of the church as transparent as possible.

Lyn Ballard will submit a final financial report concerning the labyrinth to the Diocese. She will also submit reports at six and nine months post-installation to let the Diocese know how the labyrinth is being used. These reports are required by the Diocese as a condition of the Diocesan grant money that Grace received to be used toward the cost of the labyrinth. Lyn reminded the Vestry that the labyrinth is a resource for the community.

If parishioners have books about labyrinths that they are willing to donate, they will be gratefully received and placed in the Keane library.

Father Todd spoke to the Vestry about the governance of the Episcopal Church. He distributed pages from the *Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri* that pertain to church leadership (pages 38-39, and pages 52-53) as well as *The Parish By-Laws of Grace Episcopal Church*.