sSt Andrew's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
3/08/26

Present: Father Kevin Lowe, Sandy Elion, Ned Searles (clerk), Regina Weyer, Troy Williamson, Cathy Habegger, Loren Gustafson, Linda Swan, Jo-Ann Pacenta (treasurer), Rob Hontz. Absent: Jon Frey

Meeting begins: 11:45 am

Opening Prayer

Clerk reports on revisions to the February minutes.

Clarification about our church's relationship with Union County Supplemental Food Bank. St. Andrew's gives in kind donations to that organization; nothing goes to that ministry from our annual budget.

Vestry approves February minutes.

Reports

Rector Report

RW: is looking for 2 more parishioners to participate in the March 25 Soup and Scripture (10:30 to around 1 pm) lunch at First Presbyterian on Market Street. Baked goods are also needed.

Warden Reports

No new news from the wardens. JW and SW have been learning their new positions.

Treasurer Report

Jo-Ann: if vestry has any questions, I would be happy to answer them. Aside from heating costs, we have been diligently keeping expenses down. Heating fuel costs were much higher than anticipated this year due to the cold..

There was a question about solar panels. Citizen's Electric is charging St. Andrew's for industrial/commercial rate (70% higher than non-commercial, private residential rate). Citizen's Electric buys it from St. Andrew's at wholesale rate.

FK: It would be great to install a battery to capture the surplus electricity generated by the panels, but those are really expensive. We need to ask Maggie.

FK: a charge for my continuing education course did not appear in this month's budget report. The treasurer said it will be added to the next month's statement.

There was some discussion about online pledging options. St. Andrew's is still using Realm for online pledging. The treasurer works with Realm but will also accept checks. We will remind the congregation in a future Friday Flash that Realm is still an option for those who want automatic payments/pledges to be made to St. Andrew's.

Committee/Ministry Reports

Nursery: RW nursery staffing is all taken care of in Bonnie's absence. We are looking for a teenager to cover for the summer as all Bucknell students will be gone. Bonnie should return to work in a few weeks.

Property: On 2/9, some AA people got trapped in the elevator. They had to call the fire department. Port Elevator came later to fix it and the maintenance charge was $740. An employee for Port Elevator came on a later date for a follow-up maintenance check, but that employee got stuck in the elevator as well. They managed to solve the problem by installing a new relay switch.

We will repair the roof shed bordering the rear parking lot; the architectural shingles on top are in bad shape. We need a ridge cap and to replace the shingles.

We will paint the columns of the south red doors. The flush fixtures of the portico are rusted and they will be cleaned up.

Decluttering is a priority for the Property Committee. The vestment room--a lot of clothing has been laundered and put away. The goal is to make room on the rack for vestments that are currently being used.

The Property Committee would like to make it possible for the back door (north facing/rear parking lot) leading into the sanctuary to open automatically.

A smoke detector needs to be mounted in the Sacristy.

New address markers will be mounted later in the year.

The runway lights may need to be removed.

There is a large evergreen tree (pine) in the St. Francis Garden that needs either to be removed or trimmed and capped. It is now so tall that it is at risk of shading the solar panels on the roof. PC would like to remove it unless there is another option.

SE: I know someone who is a tree expert who can see if it is possible to trim the tree instead of removing it.

PC: presented prices/bids of different painting and washing jobs.

RH: Property Committee has been moving forward with the pew cushions. There is a sample in the Narthex, and those who have used them say they work great. The Property Committee will now decide on colors. The money is there and all we need is to decide what color we want. The cushion will be removable (not attached to the pew). A vestry member indicated that

SE: There is a concern that candles will drip wax on the cushions. The cushions should be able to be cleaned easily, if possible.

FK: The covers will be removable so they can be washed.

Pastoral Care Concerns

New Business

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.