

Trinity Parish in Bergen Point
Vestry Meeting
Sunday, March 12, 2017

Present:

Father Gregory Perez	Jayson Cofield
Matt Guerra, Senior Warden	Marci McKim
Maureen Bonczowski, Junior Warden	Brian Minish-Malinconico
Mary LoSardo, Clerk	Carmela Raisch
Stephen Dittrich, Treasurer	Jane Wiazdzonek

The meeting was called to order at 11:15AM. Minutes from the February 12, 2017 meeting prepared by Mary LoSardo were reviewed. Motion to approve was made by Matt Guerra and seconded by Marci McKim; approval was unanimous.

Rector's Report**Ash Wednesday**

- More than 80 people received ashes at the 8th Street and 34th Street HBLR stations
- Next year we will have *Ashes to Go* signs available at both sites
- More breakfast bars will be purchased and distributed
- The distribution will begin at both stations at 7:30 AM

Hobart Housing

- Ground-breaking will take place sometime during April/May timeframe with ceremonial shovels and as many local government officials as possible (Mayor, city council, county executive, etc.)

Buildings and Grounds**Repairs**

- Estimates have been received regarding the sinkhole in the gravel lot (up to \$2000) and concrete work around the rectory, including extending the walkway behind the house another two feet (initial estimate approximate \$4200). The repairs would take place by the end of April. Matt Guerra motioned the repairs be approved; seconded by Jane Wiazdzonek. Approval was unanimous.

Parish Hall

- Many of the tables in the hall are shabby. It was agreed that we look into purchasing some round, fiberglass tables (spending no more than \$1000 in total), which can be used for Parish activities and also make our space more attractive to potential renters. (The tables would be closed and stored while the day program is in session.)

Building Expansion Plans

- Matt Guerra suggested it is time to revisit the plan to add on to our meeting space. Currently the Windmill Day Center participants use the on-site trailer weekdays and the older Boy Scouts meet

there on Wednesday nights. We have minimal space for meetings and cannot sponsor other groups and activities. The Vestry as a whole agreed we should approach our developer (Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corporation) after construction of the Hobart Housing project is underway.

Fundraising

Annual Dinner

- The Chandelier Restaurant will serve a buffet. Ticket price for the dinner will be \$50. We hope to have 150 people attend.
- The license for the 50/50 raffle has been approved.
- The tricky tray last year netted approximately \$7000. The biggest difficulty is having space to store the prizes as they are collected and then wrapped. Mary LoSardo suggested we look into the cost of a short-term rental (one-two months) of a storage unit to address this problem.

Holy Rollers March 11 Bus Ride

The bus ride to the Sands in Bethlehem, PA netted \$1020. Our thanks to Matt and Judy Guerra for donating the pre-trip breakfast.

Other Fundraisers

June Carnival

- The gentleman who runs Micky's rides will come to look at our space and recommend suitable inflatables and craft activities for our space. His staff is responsible for the inflatables; we would have to have volunteers for other activities (carnival games, crafts, cotton candy, popcorn, etc.)
- Mister Softee will be invited. Chris at Mona Lisa said he would be happy to sell burgers and fries.

Other fundraising opportunities under consideration

- Spaghetti dinner
- Comedy night
- A performance by Marci's band, *Red, White and Blues*

Programs

As discussed in *Five Keys for Church Leaders*, planning an event to recognize members of the community is a way to reach out and make people aware of our church. The vestry members agreed that a teacher appreciation event be held, since the teaching profession does not receive the type of recognition given to other civil servants and the Board of Education is imposing significant cuts in Bayonne this year.

National Teacher Appreciation Day is May 1st, so it would be timely to have this event in May. Andrea Resetar will be asked for input.

Personnel

Patricia is no longer working in the office. Father Greg received a resume from a woman who worked in the Assumption Parish office. She wishes to work only part-time and appears very qualified. Father Greg will arrange for her to be interviewed by the members of the Personnel Committee (Matt and Mary).

Annual Report to the Diocese

Father Greg distributed the draft of the 2016 report. A minor correction to the count of parishioners was made (two parishioners died last year). Mary LoSardo moved the amended report be approved; Brian Minish-Malinconico seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Other Items for Discussion

Requests to Rent Space

- The Seventh Day Adventists wish to rent space. They would require all day Saturday and would also want space to store their instruments. It was agreed we are unable to do this, since we rent the Parish Hall on weekends.
- The Bayonne Muslim Community can no longer use the space in St. Henry's. We would like to help them; however, their Friday services would be in conflict with the Windmill Day Center. Given our present space constraints, we are unable to accommodate them at this time.

Use of Parking Lot

A person having a Friday evening catered event at Mona Lisa's DaVinci Room asked to use our parking lot. Since the Parish Hall was not rented that night, Father Greg agreed and the person later gave a \$300 donation. Chris at Mona Lisa suggested his party planner mention the use of our parking lot to future catering customers under similar situations. The Vestry is in agreement.

Vestry University

Lois Denny, Marci McKim and Jane Wiazdzonek will attend on March 25th.

The Lighthouse for Aslyees

Incarnation Episcopal Church in Jersey City has entered into a partnership with First Friends of NY and NJ to house six asylum seekers who are being released from one of the four correctional facilities in Northern NJ. These individuals are NOT criminals but have had to flee their countries because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

While volunteers have done much of the work on repairs and furnishing the Parish House for these guests, unexpected issues with plumbing and electricity have raised the costs. Mary LoSardo suggested publicizing their GoFundMe drive on our parish website and Facebook page to assist this effort. The Vestry agreed, since this is a worthy effort to help refugees assimilate in their new lives.

Columbarium

Stephen Dittrich reported on his survey of other parishes and the rates they charge for their columbariums. He reported that our rates are in line with other Episcopal churches, which charge – on average – \$1800 for parishioners and \$2500 for non-parishioners. Roman Catholic churches tend to charge a higher rate: \$2500 for parishioners and \$5000 for non-parishioners.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brian Minish-Malinconico and seconded by Maureen Bonczowski. Approval was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Next meeting: Sunday, 4/2/17 at 11:15 AM in the vestry room. PLEASE NOTE: This is the second Sunday of the month, since Palm Sunday takes place the following week.