

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Hood River, OR
Minutes of Vestry Meeting
September 14, 2011

Present: the Rev. Anna Carmichael, Nick Kirby, Chris Samuels, Bob Thomson, Karen Myers, Cathy Peck, and Ruth Tsu

Absent: Jeanie Senior, Paige Rouse

We began at 6:00 pm with Eucharist.

Food was provided by Bob.

Anna began the meeting with an invitation to us to share some of our thinking about Stewardship. We did so completing the sentences "Stewardship is . . ." and "Stewardship is not . . ." Anna recorded our responses.

The minutes of the August meeting were unanimously approved, moved by Anna and seconded by Nick. In the future the minutes will be sent out to the vestry as soon as possible following the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Cathy distributed copies of the budget she had prepared and explained the format. Following a period of discussion, the budget was approved as presented – motion made by Bob and seconded by Chris.

Rector's Report

Anna is doing well and had a good vacation. The process to begin her doctorate is proceeding. She talked briefly of the GEM-sponsored initiative to explore alternative means of travel to and from church on Sunday, September 25. She announced that additional adults have been trained to serve as Door Keepers and Storytellers for Godly Play, and that Rite 13 has begun for middle school girls. The J2A program will begin on September 25 for high school students. On October 8 there will be a day-long training session at St. Mark's: Safeguarding God's People. It will go from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and there is no cost.

There will be opportunities to learn about the Anglican Covenant on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 beginning on September 22 and the following two Thursdays. Anna will also be presenting a workshop on the Anglican Covenant at the EDEO Annual Convention in Hermiston, October 14 – 16.

Jr. Warden's Report

Nick told us that George Kirby has the addition to the church sign almost ready to install. It is a beautiful piece of cedar which can be removed when necessary. Larry Cramblett installed a doorbell that rings in Anna's office. Russ Lamson and Cal Cargill repaired the ceiling tiles in the basement. Nick is planning to prune the flowering plum tree.

There was no senior warden report.

Discussion items/reports:

- Christian Education – in addition to what Anna already said, she added that the former priest's office (downstairs with an outside entrance) has been re-purposed as the meeting

room for J2A. The mentors did the necessary work to move books, clean, and paint the room.

- Because the Women's Guild has decided to hold the Holiday Bazaar prior to Thanksgiving, Anna is planning to offer an Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, Dec. 10. She asked the vestry if we would be willing to prepare lunch for the attendees. She would like to open it up to the community and there will be activities for children. She asked members to think about it and said a decision would be made at our October meeting.
- Pastoral Care – Anna asked the vestry to think of possible new member for the Pastoral Care Committee. Bob wondered about the possibility of beginning a church nurse program which some churches have found very supportive.
- Anna reminded the vestry of the EDEO Convention. Everyone is invited to attend, and Vicky Kelsey and Christine Lange are our representatives. Anna is preparing a display about the changes in our kitchen enabled by grants, one of which is from the diocese.
- At its meeting this noon, the Guild had a presentation by Matt Carmichael about St. Mark's archives. An Archival Committee will be formed and interested people are invited to participate, in addition to those on the Guild who have been concerned about the archives for some time.
- Anna shared information about the Discernment Group who will be working with George Kirby as he works to discern a call to become a Vocational Deacon. She asked that everyone hold George and the Discernment Group in prayer as they participate in the year-long process.
- Bob requested that the vestry agenda designate what is "old business" and what is new business. Also, he wondered how long in advance of the meeting items could be submitted for the agenda. Anna said that three or four days prior was sufficient.
- There was discussion about the possibility of providing a up-to-date gmail calendar that members can access.
- Anna said that the internet is working, but at the next meeting there needs to be a discussion about the computer in the office. It is very slow.
- Ruth shared a concern about the nursery. There was discussion but no resolution of the issue.

Anna closed the meeting with the dismissal at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Tsu