

## St. James Episcopal Church

### 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting

5/5/2019

- I. The meeting was opened with a prayer at 9:15 am by Fr. Mike Sowards
- II. Drew Beck introduced the Agenda and said the theme of the agenda was “Grateful, Growth and Blessed” which permeates our life at St. James. The Agenda was approved by all
- III. Introductions and Thank you ‘s
  - A. Fr. Mike thanked Jackie Dahlen for her 3 years of service on the Vestry
  - B. He thanked Dale Pennapacker for his years of hard work and service as Treasurer of the Vestry
  - C. A certificate and roses were presented to Barbara Bateman for her 6 years of faithful guidance as Rector’s Warden
  - D. Dale presented Bob Brown with a certificate of Thanks for his stalwart service performing audits and financial guidance to the church. He also thanked the Audit Committee.
- IV. Vestry Nominations:
  - A. Marilyn Hastings, Ned Travis, Sarah Deacle and Patty Earhart were nominated and approved by acclamation as new Vestry members
  - B. A motion was approved for Jon Yenney, Phil Tatem and Faith Parschall to continue as delegates to Convention and the Deanery
- V. State of the Parish
  - A. Fr. Mike noted that membership has enjoyed steady growth in the past 5 years from 458 to 558. Average Sunday Attendance increased from 145 to 175.
  - B. Individual giving has increased since 2013 from 85 pledges to 129 amounting to a change from \$199,746 to \$270,725
  - C. Dale discussed our spending and noted that 12.1% of our income goes to giving to Outreach, the Diocese and the Rector’s discretionary fund (\$56K)
  - D. Our total receipts were \$693K and we only needed to transfer \$20K from reserves
  - E. Our annual audit was the 6<sup>th</sup> clean audit in a row, we are fiscally sound and in adherence with diocesan mandates and the principles of the Episcopal Church
  - F. Endowments- We have been blessed that endowments have increased from \$615 in 2015 to \$1,453K in 2018. This has enabled us to replace the church roof and build the new Outreach House.
  - G. Serving the Parish- with many activities, fellowship, community events, education, and communication. Deacon Lou will also be extending his ministry by starting services at a long term care facility which has none at this time.

#### H. Committee Reports

1. Outreach – currently has 196 clients, 77 average clients/month, increased number of volunteers, increased donations from the community
  - a. Also we help St. Mary’s Bainbridge Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army with rental assistance and with the James Earhart Memorial Job Club
2. Education- Lauren Exley has done a wonderful job with Church School which has over 60 children registered who learn lessons created in-house assisted by a large number of volunteer teachers. There are also have been many events and activities for the children
  - a. Adult Education- there is an active an well attended Bible study on Wednesday and Christ and Coffee on Thursday
3. Parish Life- Many events during the year including Ham and Oyster dinner, Coffee Hours, ECW, Christmas Eve Dinner, Book Club, Foyer Gatherings and Christian Ed Celebration
4. Communication- The website continues to be updated to be more user-friendly, VANCO is on website for online offering, Social Media- You Tube has recorded Sermons updated regularly, Happenings is the weekly informational email, The Epistle is available online or hard copy at church. On the website under Forms there is a Community Request Form which can be filled out in order to publicize any event that needs to be advertised.
5. Member Ministry- has the function of welcoming new members and supporting those in stressful situations with the Casserole Brigade. They also organize the new members breakfast, Spring Women’s Retreat, photo directory and children’s sanctuary bags
6. Buildings and Grounds- recent projects include the new railings and concrete at the front of the church and structural support for all 3 buildings. Future projects anticipated are the parking lot and painting

#### VII. Master Plan Update

- A. Our Outreach House contract was \$954K but we are trying to get the cost down to \$850K
- B. Steve Folk was thanked for his hard work for saving us thousands of dollars on the project
- C. Estimated completion date is the end of July 2019 or earlier
- D. Address is 146 Evansburg Rd, Collegeville, PA 19426

E. Fr. Mike also thanked Bob Brown for his building experience and assistance with this project

F. Capital Campaign- Growing to Serve, a 3 year journey- Projects include:

1. New construction of Outreach House
2. HVAC in Sanctuary Building which will reduce energy costs
3. Upgraded electrical system in Sanctuary Building
4. Participation rate is 54% so far (69/128 families)
5. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> we will have a Creative Giving event with an appraiser from 9am-3pm  
Items such as coin collections or other possibly valuable items (no furniture) that may be donated will be appraised. We will use Alderfer Auctions for donated items to be sold.

VIII. There were no questions at the Q and A

IX. Rector's Summary- Fr Mike reported that at the Clergy Conference in Cape May NJ, there was great interest in St. James' work and Outreach.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 for Holy Eucharist