

Vestry meeting October 15 2023

Attendance: Mth Darlene Kuhn, Tim French, Marilee Roth, Judy Joseph, Don Hoak, and Barbara Ryan

Mth Darlene opened meeting at 12:10 with prayer. The book "Walk in Love" discussed and finished. Read for next vestry "The Church Cracked Open" by Stephanie Spellers introduction and chapter one.

Treasurer's report: Peggy Lefebvre submitted report in her absence. We are still on schedule for a net loss of \$26,000 this year. \$15,000 for building repair and fire suppression update contributed to loss. Mth Darlene stated she has decided to go part time beginning in January 2024. She must work a minimum number of hours for pension. She will preach two times per month with other clergy preaching the rest. Net income from fall fling was \$13,000. Mth Darlene's base salary is \$40,000, annually \$76,000 with housing allowance, insurance, and pension. The housing allowance, insurance, and pension are mandated by the diocese.

Voted to give Candace, church administrator, raise to \$15.00 per hour; 2024 salary \$8933., 2024 \$15,000.

Voted to acknowledge Peggy for her treasurer work, David Lewis for computer work preparing weekly eblast and Mediatorite, and Max Merrifield for cleaning bathrooms each Monday. No decision was made on actual acknowledgement.

For 2024 budget raised altar guild allowance to \$750 due to expense of altar candles (special size and dripless candles not available at regular store) and wine shipping coast (communion wine 19% alcohol and not available at local groceries.) Marilee will check with various church stores to see if they carry the wine therefore avoiding the shipping cost.

Flower guild funded by donations. Suggested to use same flowers two Sundays. "Free" flowers, picked locally, used whenever possible.

Discussed ad in New Buffalo Times and Harbor County News to advertise church to visitors and second home owners. Barbara suggested about 6" by 21' as Calvary Church has. Mth Darlene suggested quarter page ad. It will be looked into cost.

Marilee discussed the service hour sign hanging from name sign in front of church. Needs to be replaced; she will ask Mick Lantis to make a new sign.

Tim moved, Judy seconded, to approve reports. Motion passed.

Tim discussed the combined vestry meeting held October 2nd with St. Paul's and St. Augustine's vestries; discussed shrinking attendance, what our "church area" is, and ideas for increasing attendance. All expressed interest in holding another meeting.

A eucharist, pot luck, and panel discussion of Religion and Politics was held October 11th. Meeting was recorded. Panel consisted of clergy, lawyer, and a social worker. 19 people attended discussion.

New business: Mth Darlene wants a new directory prepared and requested help from someone involved in church for many years. Barbara Ryan volunteered to help. David Lewis reported he is able to see who reads the eblast and Mediatorite. Peggy would know who contributes but does not attend.

The 2024 church calendar, published by Ashby Company was discussed. Marilee will check on cost for basic calendar, having Mediator photo on top as opposed to their generic one, and cost for various quantities.

Tim ended with prayer at 1:35.

Respectively submitted, Barbara Ryan, vestry secretary