

# **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

## **Vestry Meeting Minutes Highlights**

*The following are highlights of the January 25, 2017, Vestry meeting minutes.*

Director of Stewardship and Outreach Ministries Sally Dudley reported that the Annual Giving campaign now stands at \$2,007,060 in pledges from 493 pledgers. 60 new pledgers account for \$75,000 and half of the returning pledgers increased their pledge amount.

Tom McDowell distributed copies of the 2017 Budget and five-year historical references for budgeted expenses. The budget will use \$85,000 from Vestry unrestricted funds and \$113,000 from temporary restricted funds. The budget reflects increases in administration, salaries, employee benefits and an increase in payment to the diocese. Maintenance costs are significantly below last year's figures and total operating expenses are \$11,000 less than 2016. The Vestry approved the budget.

The search for our new Bishop Diocesan continues and the election is set for March 4. There will be an upcoming *ParishLife* article about this process. The candidates will be visiting St. Timothy's on February 16 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. All are welcome to come and meet the candidates.

Staff is currently working on developing a vision for how to use the space at 875 West Fifth Street building. An Upfit Committee including Jonathan Smith, Alex Stacy, Robert Jewell and Tom McDowell is evaluating the space. It was decided that the building will be opened for tours on Sunday, February 5 between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. The Vestry will be on site to answer questions.

Our new security guard is now working on Sundays.

Allan Burrows has agreed to be Junior Warden.

The annual Vestry retreat will be Friday, February 10 and Saturday, February 11 at the North Carolina Boys Academy in Hickory. Vestry and clergy will attend.

Henri Brown is stepping down as director of ReadWS. They are working on a transition process and director search now. Henri will move to a more program-oriented role.

Sara Ardrey-Graves reported that she has recruited members of the young adults' pub theology group as volunteers with Kids' Café.

The Episcopal 101 class has been well attended and enthusiastically received.

Upcoming adult education offerings will include a three-week series titled "The Gospel of Success," for which the first speaker is Dr. Kate Bowler, and a Lenten series on Robert Putnam's *Our Kids*.

Sara is planning to serve as chaplain for the RSCM Carolina course in July at Duke.

Junior Warden Sally Engram reported that treads on steps are being replaced in the Preschool and education building and LED lights are being installed in the top of the T.

The Music Committee announced that a bluegrass band will play for Sunday 5:00 p.m. services.

The Senior Adults Ministry donated \$1,020 in profits from their soup sale to the Farm Workers Ministry.