

St. Mary's in Tuxedo Annual Meeting January 19, 2020

While the congregation settled into their lunch of quiche and salad, Father Rick Robyn said an opening prayer at 11:25.

The first order of business was the election of new members to the the vestry, Sally Sonne, Inger Grutterich and Dennis Trotter. A motion was made by Jim Freeman and seconded by Calvin De Mond. It was passed by acclamation.

Next a motion was made by Sara Cassis and seconded by Elizabeth Ochieng, to move the nomination of Lili Neuhauser to the position of Senior Warden. This too was passed by acclamation.

The one year vacancy left vacant by Lili's appointment will remain open for the time being, while candidates are considered.

Treasurer's Report:

Frank Favia gave the summary of the 2018/2019 fiscal year. We ended the year with a slight surplus of \$2900.-

Pledges were exceeded for the previous year, which was good news, due to some new members joining the church.

Events were successful thanks to Jane Garafano with the Dinner in the Nave (\$21K), the concert in May, spearheaded by Sue Heywood (\$17K) and others smaller efforts.

Keeping our church in good physical shape is a priority looking ahead, the fire alarm system needs to be upgraded but on the plus side, we had a decrease as we searched for our new organist.

The total amount for the endowment is \$3,250 M, which made a healthy increase in the past fiscal year of \$240K. We were able to utilize more money from the fund.

Frank looked into the Episcopal Insurance Foundation and found that the percentage we pay, 8-10% was actually quite good, compared to the 25% offered by the church. CHECK ON THIS , NOT SURE I HEARD THIS CORRECTLY.

Sue Heywood handed a written report on our yearly Outreach efforts. She made the following point very clear, these monies do NOT come from Annual Giving money, a point we need to be better about getting out to the community. All together we distributed \$61K in funds to needy pre-school children Soup for Scholarships, Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for up to 32 local families, a yard sale (made \$3550.) clothing for the homeless, food for local soup kitchen, ongoing assistance to an injured village worker and on. This is the foundation of what St. Mary's is about and it is an enormous effort on Sue's part along with so many who assist her in this ministry.

Rector's Report:

Father Rick described the past as as A Year of Building. He now has formulated a greater vision for the future. He first recognized and thanked Matt Hlavka for the 6 years of leadership as Senior Warden, through many challenging times. Long time parishioner Calvin DeMond has served two terms on the vestry, along with Elyse Fuller and John Cassis who all are stepping down, we are grateful for their service!

Building Faith and Practice:

2019 meant we welcomed back Sheldon Eldridge as our Choirmaster, our music program is as strong as ever, Sheldon as ably assisted by our talented Choir Scholar, Bruce Xu.

As Christian Education program has had it's challenges this past year, the addition of a monthly Family Service, the first Sunday of each month, where the children will actively participate with all duties during the 10 o'clock service, will bring more understanding and inclusion to our youngest members.

“Share your talents!” The most important ministry we have is volunteerism. We all have something to offer and while it is work, it is a wonderful way to do good works and share in camaraderie with fellow parishioners.

Building God’s House:

With thanks to Billy Mincey, Junior Warden, the Conditions Survey will be presented to the congregation in the spring. This will provide a road map, once assessed by the greatest need, the top issues of dampness and ventilation.

The sound system will finally be replaced thanks to the efforts at the Dinner in the Nave, where we raised funds on the tails of two very generous donors and a raising of paddles where many others joined in the efforts. A hearing impaired component will also very much assist those who have trouble hearing the services and music.

Our internet system is sorely in need of replacement and a system is being looked at that will be seamless throughout the entire campus.

We welcomed a beautiful blue runner in the Nave thanks to a generous parishioner as well as the repair of the stone wall along Route 17 by the Keep.

Looking ahead, a capitol campaign is in our future, as we look the restoration of this beautiful building and it’s outstanding windows. Pledging was up from 67 to 74 families, great news indeed and we look toward larger numbers going forward.

Building Community:

Father Rick thanked Sue for the extraordinary efforts of the Outreach Committee.

Our Pre-School is highly praised in the area, it’s outstanding program has served so many of the youngest in the area, giving them a solid educational start. As the Town of Tuxedo is implementing a Pre-K for 4 year olds in September, we have decided to close that program after

this school year in June. We hope to enhance the Pre-K 2 and 3 year old programs.

In all, we are making a difference in this community and beyond, with kindness and the support of one another. Something we all can be very proud of.

A closing prayer was said at 12:15, a motion was made by Lili and seconded by Elizabeth to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully, Lili Neuhauser, outgoing Clerk of the Vestry