

Minutes - Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, January 26, 2020

Call to Order and Opening Prayer - Fr. Joe Gibbes

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Rector's Address – The Rev. Joe Gibbes

Fr. Joe opened by thanking everyone for attending the meeting and a brief review of the accomplishments of 2019. He continued with a brief history of stewardship campaigns – not just at Church of Our Saviour but at Episcopal churches in general. He continued by stating he did not want to talk about money today, but instead wanted to talk about the “why” behind it all. And the uniqueness of our church.

The Episcopal Church has declined nationally in membership for the past 30 years but the past 10 have been particularly harsh. Only 4% of all Episcopal Churches have over 300 people and the average Sunday attendance for all parishes was 53!

He then contrasted those statistics by highlighting the vibrancy and growth of Our Saviour. We are blessed to regularly see new faces in our midst, to see our worship services continue to grow and we are financially stable. “But with that blessing, comes a mission...the Episcopal Church needs us to thrive. The Diocese of Florida needs us to thrive. And, perhaps most importantly, our neighbors around the church need us to thrive.”

“It is my hope and prayer that Church of Our Saviour be *the* resource for Christian vitality in Mandarin and the Diocese of Florida.”

Not to be better than other churches, but to continue to be a healthy and vibrant church...so hurting churches can find a friend and a hopeful model for health.

Before talking about ways to approach these ideas, he recognized the outgoing vestry members and presented each with a bible as a remembrance of their service: Theresa Meyers, Joe Nuetzi, Wes Longstreth and Chick Chance.

He then continued by indicating how Church of Our Saviour will be working on two things towards these ends:

1 – The vestry will be reduced from 12 people to 9 and will be restructured into two main areas of focus – a property committee and a finance committee. The main job of the property committee will be to develop a Master Plan for our campus. The finance committee will be developing a plan for year-round stewardship.

2 - We will expand our outreach ministries to do a better job of serving our immediate local community in Mandarin. We have identified two ministry opportunities – Crown Point Elementary and a program related to seniors, perhaps Meals on Wheels.

“It’s all about ministry because it’s all about Jesus Christ. All of us are here to help people wherever they are in their spiritual journey to live into a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. And, if called upon, we’ll be here to help other churches get back on the path.”

Fr. Joe concluded his address with these words:

“We must be good stewards of the incredibly special, unique thing that God has created here; and therefore we want to make ourselves available, if God should so desire, to be THE resource for Christian vitality in Mandarin and in the Diocese of Florida. For the expanse of the Kingdom of God, for the salvation of souls, for the restoration of hope, and ultimately for Glory of God. Amen.”

The Senior Warden’s Report was presented by Theresa Meyers. She thanked the congregation for the privilege of serving on the vestry for three years. She reviewed the meetings she had with various groups to determine more specifically the issues needing to be addressed. She thanked the member of the Our Saviour, Our Home Campaign – Joanne Booher, Rob Iseman, Joe Nuetzi and Caroline Ritchie. She reviewed the vestry reduction and restructure.

Three vestry members and one diocesan delegate were selected via random draw by children in the parish. New members are:

Mike Geiger - Vestry
Josh Pressel - Vestry
Jackie Wright - Vestry

Ron Henry – Diocesan Delegate

Marsa Beck was announced as a new member of the Our Saviour Foundation.

The Junior Warden's Report was presented by Joe Nuetzi. He, too, thanked the parish for the privilege of serving on the vestry for the past three years. Highlights for the year included the improvements to the parking lot (relocation of the dumpster and the railroad ties for parking areas), the repaving of the driveway, the new well, a new air conditioning unit in classroom two and new floors in the nursery. The fencing at the Family Life Center was also completed. Upcoming projects will include: improved lighting at the Family Life Center and the new drainage system.

The Our Saviour Foundation report was presented by Mark LaBorde. He reviewed the mission statement of the foundation and the impact for the long-term financial stability for Our Saviour. He announced the current members of the foundation: Marsa Beck, Brian Chappell, Cynde Covington, Anna Dooley and himself. He reviewed that in 2018 monies in the foundation were reinvested into an account with some growth opportunity and the foundation finished 2019 with a balance of \$165,000. It is a modest foundation with a great deal of opportunity for growth for long term support of Our Saviour.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Bob White. Bob reminded everyone that Church of Our Saviour always wants to be transparent in the budgets and expenses in all the areas of the church. In reviewing last year, the total expenses were relatively flat and the resulting "bottom line" was a deficit of \$12,500 vs. a budgeted deficit of \$10,000. The liquidity (cash) position at the end of 2019 was \$650,000. One of the "unwritten" goals is to maintain at least three months of reserves for expenses and at the end of 2019 we had 3.27 months of reserves using this methodology. Bob went on to explain the change in budgeting in that instead of using designated accounts to track spending everything will now be on the income statement which makes it much easier to forecast. He was also pleased to let the parish know that \$10,000 was being transferred to the Foundation for future financial strength and revenue. (Copies of the 2020 budget, the liquidity statement, pledged giving income and 2020 budget summary are available in the parish office.)

Fr. Joe then closed the annual meeting with the following comments:

It's good to have a deficit because it allows God to intervene and allows us to have faith. This is all about Jesus and ministry in his name. He reiterated how unique and blessed we are and we will do everything we can to continue to be able to bless this church, this community and this diocese.

The meeting was concluded with a closing prayer by Fr. Joe:

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it. Inspire our witness to your Son Jesus Christ, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Allen, Executive Administrative

Assistant to the Rector

January 26, 2020