

St James Vestry December 13 2022

Fr Mac, Rusty, Marilyn, Phyllis, Paul, Gini, Billy, Janice

Fr Mac opening prayer.

Fr Mac will make calls to potential vestry candidates. The vestry was asked to come up with a list of potential candidates and Fr Mac thanked the vestry for the list of candidates submitted. Marilyn asked if we have an updated vestry job description. Fr Mac said he could come up with one with responsibilities and time commitments. Discussed the option of "seasonal" vestry members serving via Zoom. 2-3 months gone out of the year vs six month resident. The issue with out of town or part time residents is would they really know our congregations needs.

Bishop Michael Hunn's 2023 calendar has been released and Taos is not on the schedule. He will visit parishes closer to Santa Fe.

Discussed looking for a new ISP because Taos Net cannot handle bulk emails.

Our annual meeting will be January 29, 2023. We will have one service at 9:15 with a lunch following. Sylvia + Lyle will cater. Ballots will open two weeks prior to the meeting and like in the past voting will be open during the meeting. We will vote for 3 candidates we also will vote for an alternate. Fr Mac will reach out to Sylvia and Lyle. Janice and Billy will be in charge of the drinks, tables etc...

Paul is required to give a report at our annual meeting.

Next up- pledges. Who hasn't pledged? Where are new pledges going? Food Pantry, Outreach...

Janice had to leave the meeting. The rest of minutes are from a Zoom recording.

Paul has "not so pretty" budget news on our giving drive for 2023.

We will end the year \$70,000-\$80,000 in debt. Most of that are Fair Share. Which fortunately our Diocesan Treasurer is not worried about but, we do need a plan to pay it back. It's not fiscally responsible to carry that over year to year.

Pledging overall we are currently at \$278,000- 280,000. We've got 61 pledges so far. We had 71 last year. Covid and inflation has made it a challenge. Hoping with phone calls in the next few days we will get more pledges. However our income in pledges is below as well. Fr Mac asked if he should his share his story about the direct deposit stopping mid year. Also Paul says online pledges sometimes have been refused. The most common issue is the credit card needs

to be updated. We should make our members that choose direct deposit aware of these issues.

Projecting budget deficit- \$33,000 Fair share and \$7,000 to our own line of credit. Plus projected \$34,000 in the hole from last years budget. Combined we are looking at \$78,700 deficit.

Pledges on track for \$276,000. We had \$290,000 pledged but our actual income is only \$207,035. If all the people give in December maybe we get to \$290,000. Projected finishing around \$276,000- 280,000. Fr Mac did not recall us approving a massive deficit budget. Paul suggested that the deficit is not too massive. It's always been a defect budget but we've always made it up. This time we are not. Fr Mac added that we did plan off what people told us they would pledge. And, he shared his recent experience at the grocery market- four bags of groceries cost \$200.00. Things have changed since 12/21. There is still hope in December. Fr Mac will be responsive to the numbers in planning and staff allocation. Paul said on a positive side our hourly employee is coming in lower than when we had a salary employee.

Geoff (Last Name?) is joining us to talk about the Boy Scout program in Taos. St James has hosted Troop 98 for 5-6 years. The cub scouting program(hosted at a different church) in Taos stopped working 5-6 years ago. Basically there is not much participation or interest among local adults and children. Vince was the last of the Scouts in Troop 98 to graduate to Eagle Scout. Geoff is here to ask if St James parishioners have any interest in starting up the Cub/Scout Troops. Scouting has gone coed on all levels. Taos has graduated over 10 Eagles in the past nine years. There are financial resources and there is equipment available to start up a Cub/ Boy Scouting Troop in Taos. Geoff asks if we have any questions.

Rusty agreed the program is wonderful but, thinks we need to take this info under advisement. And, figure out if there are young families or leadership to take it over. We thank you for your service. And, understand you cannot continue since you live in Midland, TX. Fr Mac asks, will the charter be maintained with the Lions Club? If there is an active charter the Lion's Club will continue to maintain the charter. The Rotary is also an option if the Lions Club no longer wanted to be involved. Thank you Geoff. Fr Mac is an Eagle Scout and he would love to be engaged but, he cannot "do everything" and he will not be the Scoutmaster. Fr Mac said he was planning on starting a publicity campaign because there might be some interest in the community. All agree Geoff being transferred to Midland was a huge blow to the Taos scouting program.

Back to budget.... Paul.

2022 budget was \$433,000 income. Actual income is 415,000

\$419,000 projected for next year. So not as high as what we did last year. What we were talking about with Sydney leaving her salary was \$11,000 if that falls under Family Ministry and they take on the Sunday school role that's a salary we already have money for. It would come out of expenses as well. The other budget increase is salaries- a 3% increase on all salaries. The salary increases were recommended by Dioceses. Inflation is higher than the 3% increase but we can't take on 7-9% salary increase. The Diocese would like the vestry to understand 3% is lower than inflation and we need to continue to do increases to make up for past years when inflation was high but the salary remained the same.

Comments/questions?

Harvey added that no one knows where it's gonna go... the economy the future kinda of a scary kinda situation. We know that inflation is gonna be around for a while. The markets have not been kind to philanthropist. I do feel like next year we may be ok if we don't go into a deep recession. But, the warning signs are there. If we can repair and manage our budget now we always seem to make it though. I just have to hold my faith that God will come through for us.

Changes in 2023 Budgeted Expenses- if someone did not use all of their budget this year they will not get it in 2023. There are a few exceptions to that rule. The only increase on expense side is music program. it's not copy-rite, it's not music, it's paying musicians. Eric has been paying the musicians to come and sing because, COVID. He is projecting that the issue will continue.

Budgeted \$463,000 in 2022. For 2023 the budget is \$455,000. We saved money on expenses. The new phone system and internet contract saved us money. \$451,000 is projected expenses for 2023. Paul suggested we might be able to save more money if someone is good at negotiation with copier expenses. Paul is not a good negotiator. Fr Mac, says THANK YOU Paul! This is Holy work you do. Everyone is in agreement- Thank you Paul.

Marilyn wants to know if Paul will send out a draft budget. Paul responds, yes. School of Music is starting up again and we will continue to support Taos School of Music. The culinary program at Taos High School has also restarted. Do we want to continue to support the culinary program? Marilyn suggested keeping money for Taos's Culinary Program in our budget. All agree we will find out what the culinary program is up to these days. Fr Mac suggested maybe it could come out of discretionary fund. We decided to leave the Taos High School

Culinary Program in the budget. Paul will make his calls to his pledgers. And send budget out in 2-3 weeks.

Marilyn got a call from the bank and our check signers need to be updated. Apparently the bank said we never provided the minutes. Harvey added we jumped through hoops... Marilyn thinks we push this back till January since it's December. We will update those names next month.

We will plan on a vestry retreat for new members in February. How about Saturday Feb 11 for our vestry retreat. 9-noon.

Fr mac will preach on Christmas Eve and Fr Mike will preach on Christmas Day. We will have one service on New Years Day at 10:30. Billy is interested in doing music at the Christmas Day Mass. Fr Mac told him to reach out to Eric.

January 17th 5:30 via Zoom will be our next vestry meeting.