

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
December 2, 2018

After offering a prayer for the Parish and the Vestry, Father Robert was pleased to call the 175th Annual Meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Nomination and Election of Secretary

Father Robert nominated Mary Moore to be the recording secretary for the annual meeting. The motion was seconded from the floor and approved.

Approval of Minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting

Father Robert called for a motion from the floor to approve the minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting as presented at the end of the 2018 Annual Report. The motion was seconded from the floor and approved.

Rector's Report

Father Robert noted that his report would be noticeably shorter than in previous years since he had fewer months this year on which to report. He announced that on January 13, 2019, Bishop Wimberley would be with us and he will preside at both the 10:30 and 12:30 services. During the 10:30 service we will present several adult candidates for Reception into the Episcopal Church. At the 12:30 (Spanish) service, Bishop Wimberley will confirm 9 high school students and receive 45 adults.

Father Robert reflected that during this past year we had 14 baptisms, 5 marriages and 6 funerals. While there were no confirmations done locally in 2018, the high school confirmation class will be ready to be confirmed in the spring of 2019.

Father Robert remembered those who have died including:

- John Amos
- Jean Hunnicutt
- Wally Eberhart
- Suzanna Askew "Tudy" Roberts
- Marian Peacock
- Susan Alexander**

*** Susan Alexander's name was inadvertently left off the list presented at the meeting but her name was then published in the Sunday bulletin and Emmanuel e-letter – asking for prayers for the repose of her soul as we did for those mentioned at the Annual Meeting.*

There were no transfers from the parish during 2018 while 25 new families transferred into Emmanuel. Father Robert stated that the health of the parish is good!

Father Robert recognized Emmanuel's staff as being truly selfless in their dedication stating that we could not accomplish what we do without them. There were 2 staff changes for the first time in at least 10 years. Sam Polk and Denise Thomas have both left Emmanuel and two new staff members, Anne Weaver and Miguel Santo were hired this year in their place. Father Robert noted that the music program has grown in the past two years and he is grateful to Michael Brewer who has risen to the task of directing the Music Program.

As he looked over the past year, Father Robert echoed sentiments he shared at the 175th Anniversary Gala Celebration in November: We as a parish are fruitful as a congregation in responding to the life of grace that God has given to us. We've been able to do that because as a parish, we have committed ourselves to five modes of service: we are radically hospitable, we are passionate in our worship, we are intentional as a faith community and committed to and interested in faith formation, we are willing to risk taking mission and service seriously, and we continue to be a faith community that shows extravagant generosity.

Father Robert thanked the Vestry for their willingness in encountering those who come to us and engaging, welcoming, and assimilating them into the life of Emmanuel, noting that people are very good at telling us how they want to be involved. He shared that he and Karen were extremely grateful for all the prayers during his adventure into the healthcare system this year. He thanked Terrie Seward for her service on the Vestry and as Senior Warden for the past two years noting that she was invaluable in many ways and he was personally indebted to her,

Senior Warden's Report

Terrie Seward, Senior Warden, shared reflections on her three years on the Vestry the last two of which she has served as our Senior Warden. A transcript of her remarks follows:

Good morning!

*Well, it's been another really great year here at Emmanuel! Time flies, that's for sure, but these past 3 years on the Vestry, for me, have really flown by. But what an exciting time to be present together this particular year – 2018 - at this point in time in Athens GA at Emmanuel Episcopal Church– the year we celebrate our 175th anniversary. We – **YOU** – do A LOT around here. But this year, we came together and did even more. As we celebrated our 175 years with birthday parties and Galas, we also continued to celebrate Emmanuel's long history of community giving. Each month, we focused on something different to help those in need. Just to recap, you all gave within short 30-day window segments:*

- 178 cans of food to the Athens Area Food Bank
- 306 pairs of socks plus another 200 pairs from VBS for a total of 506 pairs to IHN who used some and also further distributed to other agencies
- 199 personal care items to the Red Cross
- 929 diapers plus another 2,694 from the Day School for a total of 3,623 - donated to the Athens Area Diaper Bank (founded by one of our Day School parents, Erin Campbell) – who further distributed to Children First, Project Safe, and the Homeless Shelter
- And now in December, we continue our tradition of our Giving Tree to collect Christmas presents for children in our Community and in the Diocese

Along the lines of giving, and just as a reminder of what we do give financially on an ongoing basis, this year we were able to disburse approximately \$246,000 using funds from your pledge dollars, Endowment grants, and discretionary funds, which is quite amazing! And not to keep you here until next week listing all of them, these funds went to such groups as Our Daily Bread, The Ark, Action Ministries, Athens Nurses Clinic, Episcopal Foundation/Hunger Walk, St Etienne School in Limonade Haiti, Episcopal Relief and Development, Downtown Ministries, Clarke County Mentor Program, ESP, Bigger Vision, Nancy Travis, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Books for Keeps, NE GA Food Bank, Salvation Army, YMCA, YWCO, Cancer Foundation, and Jubilee Partners, just to name a few. And in addition to this significant financial support, there are also the many, many hours that so many of you give in your volunteer time.

As for celebrating within, we were so thrilled to be able to renovate our Common Room this year and as a birthday present to our Parish, without asking for any donations to complete it. As you well know since you are sitting in here as we speak! I think it goes without saying that it is a beautiful space and one that I hope we continue to use more and more as we move forward - I know conversations have already started on how to do that. There are never lack of reasons to get together! The goal was to have the renovation completed in time to move back in and have a birthday party in September, which we did. While there were a few lingering things to complete at that time, everything we had planned (and more) is done and I am also MOST happy to report that the project came in right on budget! And to cap things off, the Gala we held just a few weeks ago at the Georgian was extremely well attended and was a really fun evening.

We are grateful for so much, but it would be hard to leave today without mentioning something I know we are all REALLY grateful for, and that is for Father Robert. He, as you know, had a little procedure over the summer that ended up being far more serious than was originally thought. I truly believe there was Divine Intervention, because it is truly a miracle he is with us. When I think about this most recent year and all of that and the bigger question of I wonder why we are all here together at this particular point in time in history, I think the same for Robert. He is here for a purpose, no doubt. What has been accomplished in his tenure and under his leadership has been amazing. Emmanuel needed him to guide us through these last 13 years – and guide us he has. I have known this all along, but have really seen it in so many ways over the last 3 years in particular, and in the last 2 years as Senior Warden especially. I am so grateful for the opportunity and experience.

I would also be remiss in not mentioning the outstanding staff we have here – both “old” in tenure, not age - and new. During Robert's little “vacation” this summer, Melissa and Karen have become family. Since Robert timed his vacation to start the very day the Common Room renovation began, Melissa and I in particular are grateful for the experience which has no doubt enabled us to launch our next careers as Construction Project Managers. We've definitely got this down!

So – the State of Emmanuel is strong. But we need all of you – and others that were unable to be here today – we need your generous pledging so that we can continue to open the doors every day and minister to our

own personal needs, those in our community, state, Diocese and beyond, and to do what Jesus has called us to do – gather in his name. And we say it all the time – we need you not just in treasure (which is really important don't get me wrong) but we need you in time and talent as well. Don't wait to be asked. Look at all of the opportunities and jump in to something that peaks your interest. It's not hard and is more rewarding than you can ever imagine. I leave my tenure with a grateful heart. And I can assure you that you are in great hands with an outstanding staff and an outstanding Vestry class going into 2019. Emmanuel is in great hands!

Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

Phil Bettendorf, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the 2018 Financial Summary and Treasurer's Report as outlined below:

As we have been blessed to say each year in the past, all continues to be well with our finances. I will talk about several things this year, the completion of our Phase 2 capital campaign that renovated the Church, the Day School, Thrift House and our operating fund.

Phase 2 capital campaign

- 2018 is the final year of our 3-year campaign.
- Almost \$1.4 million was pledged for the project.
- As of October 31st, 83% has been collected, leaving \$240,994.04 to still be collected
- So, if you still have your pledge to make, please do so for us to wrap up this project.
- If you weren't able to pledge and you love the space, we are always happy to accept any additional donations to this project.

Day School

- The Day School finances are good with an annual budget of \$334,000
- They are self-sufficient with tuition paying for the costs of the school.
- The Church, of course, provides the space at no charge with the DS contributing to help with the utility expenses.
- There are approx. 80 students in the DS

Thrift House

- Thrift House finances are good with an annual budget of \$68,000
- The Thrift House is also self-sufficient covering utilities and other expenses as well as generating revenue for us to donate as outreach in to our community.
- The Church, of course, provides the space at no charge and we have so many wonderful volunteers who are passionate about the Thrift House ministry.

Operating Budget

- For 2018, we have revenues of \$914,000 budgeted with \$973,174 in expenses. We hope to continue to control our remaining expenses and finish as close to zero as possible.
- Our 2019 **stewardship** campaign has a goal of 200 pledging units and \$750,000 in pledges (versus \$697,000 in pledges for 2018).
- We have approx. 425 potential pledging units (family as well individual).
- Many people don't pledge. Of this number many will still give, they just choose not to pledge.
- Now, as a member of the finance committee who helps with the budget, I sure wish we could get more to pledge so we can better plan on budget and not have approve deficit budgets and control our expenses so closely. We want to grow and do new things but it's sometimes challenging to do so.
- **WE NEED YOUR HELP** – please pledge so we can finalize our budget.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE:

- We still have memorial pavers in our All Saints Terrace for loved ones who have left our earthly home.
- We have terrace pavers in the parking lot entrance in thanksgiving for loved ones or families still with us. So, honor someone with that gift- birthday, Christmas, anniversary, etc.

- *Of course, we are taking reservations in our columbarium for way in the future.*
- *So, there are plenty of ways to give and it will be pleasing to the one who really counts.*

Father Robert noted that Phil has served for the last 7 years as chair of the Finance Committee. He makes it look easy due to his incredible ability to make things work. He will step down this year for a much-deserved break providing the opportunity for a change leadership.

Bob Davis provided a brief update on the Stewardship Campaign. Bob described the campaign as robust with 80% of the monetary goal pledged by 148 pledging units to date. He thanked all for their participation and generosity and noted that pledge cards are always available.

Father Robert noted that Bob is an example of one who has jumped in when and where needed and his involvement has been so important to Emmanuel.

Presentation, Nomination and Election of Vestry Class

Rob Hoyt, Chair of Vestry Nominating Committee, outlined the Vestry nominating process and introduced the committee members. The committee was comprised of the outgoing Vestry class, Randy Forester, Bill Fox, Rob Hoyt, and Terrie Seward and two members-at large, Erwin Greene and Sondra Lange. Rob explained that the committee received nominations from the parish which resulted in a robust number of potential candidates. Following a discernment and interview process, a slate of candidates was presented by the committee to the Vestry and the proposed Vestry slate was approved for presentation to the Parish. The proposed Vestry class for 2019-2021 was introduced and recognized.

A motion was made from the floor that the proposed vestry slate of Rich Connelly, Walter Jarrett, Bob Smith, and Lane Stewart be approved. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Rob noted that as Junior Warden he was grateful to have served with Terrie Seward as Senior Warden.

Father Robert followed Rob by noting that the Vestry would be going on their retreat next weekend. He is grateful to the member of the Nominating Committee for their help in raising up new leadership.

Father Robert asked Terrie to talk briefly about the lawsuit arising from the Phase 2 renovation project. Terrie explained that the company who worked on the ceiling restoration requested additional funds at the end of the project that were not part of the original agreement and which we did not agree to pay. The company filed a lawsuit against Emmanuel. Our lawyers have been gathering documentation and hope to file a Motion for Summary Judgement. They believe we have a good case and there is no real need for concern. Terrie has offered to remain involved in the process until it is resolved.

Recognition of outgoing Vestry Class

Father Robert recognized the service of the outgoing vestry members: Randy Forester, Bill Fox, Rob Hoyt, and Terrie Seward. He noted it was now time to say thank you to those who have served for the past three years. They will be presented with a copy of the Book of Common Prayer/Hymnal in the near future.

The outgoing member shared their thoughts. Randy Forrester was honored to serve and learned much along the way. Bill Fox thanked Father Robert, Melissa, Karen and others and noted that "this is a big operation and Robert does an amazing job - he surrounds himself with good people - blessed with wonderful people." Rob noted the tremendous opportunity he was given to engage with people he had not engaged with before and to "break out of his 8:30 bubble." Terrie thanked all for the opportunity to serve, to envision the future, and to get to know everybody better.

New Business

Father Robert asked Michael Brewer to talk about our new organist. Michael explained that we have hired Anne Weaver from Austin TX and she will begin on the Third Sunday of Advent. She has a master's degree in Music Theory and is a hand bell specialist. Michael noted that Emmanuel has 2 1/3 octaves of hand bells and the donated funds to allow us to fill out the third octave. Anne would like to expand the Hand Bell Ministry and is looking forward to sharing her gifts. She is an Episcopalian, an Episcopal music director, and a believer in the music ministry.

Father Robert noted that Michael has been at Emmanuel his whole life and his response when asked to do anything is always "thank you for giving me the opportunity." Michael said it is a great honor to serve the parish as Music Director and a wonderful job to have. He then invited all present to join the choir (especially altos!)

In response to a question concerning the organ, Father Robert explained that prior to the Phase 2 renovation the pipe organ was dismantled and we were offered \$4,000 for the pipes and the woodwork surround. Rather than accept the offer, the pipes and woodwork were placed in storage in New Jersey at no cost at this time. He explained that if we now decide to get another pipe organ, the old pipes will provide us a \$150,000 discount off the cost of the new organ. Noting the conceptual organ sketches located in the Narthex, he indicated that the Vestry has had, and continues to have, discussions about how to proceed. A new organ would open us up to collaborating with artists and other musicians in the community and beyond as well as providing authentic music for our worship.

Adjournment

A motion from the floor to adjourn was made and seconded. Looking forward to a new year and our advent celebrations, Father Robert adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Moore
Recording Secretary