

## Vestry Notes

By [Larry Smith, Senior Warden](#)

Vestry Meeting on February 28, 2017

*[These notes are meant to give interested parishioners an idea of the key topics that are being discussed by the vestry. We also have formal minutes of the meeting that are taken and recorded by the Clerk of the Parish, Linda Bracken. If you would like to see the formal meeting minutes, please contact the church office.]*

Your 2017 Vestry met for the first official meeting of the year on Tuesday, February 28. We opened with a brief service of evening prayer followed by silent meditation. We closed the meeting with the last part of the prayer service. Tom has brought us this practice - it is a wonderful way to keep us focused and in the Spirit as we conduct the business of the parish.

The first item on the agenda was a chance for everyone to “check in” by sharing brief observations of where we may have seen the Spirit at work in and around St. Stephen’s recently. There were quite a few comments about the general sense of energy and excitement around the church. In particular we all agreed that this past Sunday was a wonderful dual celebration of Mardi Gras and of Clark Duhrkopf’s 20 years of ministry at St. Stephen’s.

After some beginning-of-the-year housekeeping, we turned to business agenda for the month. A few highlights:

We discussed and approved a joint ministry agreement with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Lake. The purpose of the partnership is to provide mentoring services for families in transition from homelessness to more stable living conditions. This is a ministry that St. Stephen’s has been involved in for many years, and this latest partnership is a wonderful way for us to help continue the program while strengthening our ties to other congregations in the area. Thank you to Lisa Taylor and her team for bringing this idea forward and for their continuing work in this ministry.

Chas McKhann gave a brief report on our financials. In summary, with one month in the books, our income and expenses are in good shape.

We spent some time with our Youth Minister, Adam Estrem who continues on his path to ordination. As his official congregational sponsor we had the opportunity last night to formally declare our continued (enthusiastic!) support for his ordination to the Diaconate, which will take place on June 27, at 7:00 PM at St. Mark’s Cathedral. Mark your calendars!

Associate Rector Lisa Weins Heinsohn brought forward a statement of Mission, Vision, and Values for the Children and Youth Ministries. Lisa and a team of parishioners have done an outstanding job bringing focus and establishing a vision for what Children and Family Ministries should look like in the coming years. There will be more information to come on this, so stay tuned!

We closed the meeting by concluding the prayer service. The vestry will be meeting again on a retreat on March 11, and then for our regular formal meeting on March 21.