

## **Annual Meeting Minutes-January 8, 2023**

Opening prayer was led by Peter. The congregation shared a potluck meal together.

**Hunter Family**-The Hunter family will move to Lafayette to begin a campus ministry at UL Lafayette. Adam spoke about this ministry, stating that it is truly God's will for him and his family. At first, he thought that he would plant a church in Ruston once he completed the path of ordination. He wants to focus on college aged students because he feels that they are disillusioned with church. He has a passion to help them connect to the Gospel, and he is excited to start this new chapter. It will allow him to continue his studies and work toward ordination.

**Rector's Warden-Bill Cober**-As Rector's Warden, Bill is an advocate for the pastor. Bill spoke about the mission projects. Highlights from the year include two visits from the Bishop. One visit in the Spring involved a Holy Spirit weekend, and there will be a follow up program this year. In the Fall, the Bishop had a weekend with the Vestry. There was a retreat, and he spoke to the vestry about the growth of the church. This is not just a growth in population, but it is important to deepen the faith of those in the church. The church held the Fifth Theology on the Bayou in the Fall. The Second Annual Women's Conference was also held in the Fall. There are plans for a third women's conference. There were also two other Saturday workshops as well as the opportunity to host the ADRF (Anglican Disaster Relief Fund) Conference in the late Spring. The Art ministry is trying to put together a twelve week class for high school students, which will be taught by Kevin. The Deanery has had several meetings. All of the Louisiana Clergy met in April, and they met again in November at the Synod meeting. One of the biggest projects of the Deanery this year will be the campus ministry project. Foundation 39 is a foundation that is raising money to promote Anglican Missions in the state of Louisiana. This mission will help to raise money for the campus ministry effort. Anglican Compass is a website that promotes Anglicanism. Ownership was recently transferred to Peter. It receives 10,000 visits a week. Peter is the ministerial director. It has many articles and is designed for people who are just experiencing Anglicanism. The goal is to expand it to a publishing house.

**Scott Comeaux-Treasurer**-Scott reviewed the 2022 operations budget, which has a deficit of almost \$17,000 for the year. There are about \$64,000 in designated giving funds. Peter, Bill Cober, John Guillory, and Scott will work as members of the finance committee. The 2023 budget has not been approved yet. There is a draft budget, and it should be approved by the end of January.

**People's Warden-Dave Buckless**-It was a busy year. The playground was installed, which took longer than anticipated due to the weather. The slab for the mobile kitchen was put in with electricity. It took a couple of meetings for the vestry to make a decision about the placement of the slab. A railing was installed at the back door of the Family Center for safety purposes. For facilities and grounds, there aren't many people on the committee. Any volunteers are welcome. Looking forward, a deck with seating will be installed near the playground. There are maintenance and building concerns, such as old air conditioning units. One went out and was replaced recently. The others are also old and may need to be replaced in the future.

**Sam Hawkins-Outreach Commission**-There were no hurricanes this year. We hosted the ARDF Conference for Hurricane Preparedness. Skeeter and Susan Bell attended a training in South Carolina to become Hurricane Response Trainers. If there is a need in the congregation, we want to meet it. We serve meals at The Hub two to three times a year. We also partner with Gifting Grace, which provided

600 gifts to homeless students in our area. 19 out of 50 people preparing the gifts were from Trinity Anglican. We fed people at a hotel and provided Easter Baskets for forty children. There were also an additional forty plates that were taken to another housing complex at Easter time.

**Aaron Jeffrey-Associate Pastor**-Peter thanked Aaron for leading Trinity during Peter's sabbatical. Aaron explained that he spends half his time with the church and half his time with the deanery. He talked about the recent merging of the two services. Aaron thinks that this is a good decision because it allows us as a congregation to return to fundamentals. Simplifying gives us greater flexibility to emphasize our core beliefs and have community. It is an opportunity to teach more and pull us into a common focus.

**Peter Johnston-Pastor**-Bishop Clark said that Trinity is spiritually pregnant. It is time to pay attention to that and prepare for it. We are entering into a season where we are focused on unity in mission. There is a tension in that phase. How can there be unity when we are sent out in different directions? All of the missions (art, outreach, grounds/facilities, vision for the future, campus ministry, deanery, work with other churches, Anglican Compass, work of prayer, music ministry, finances, etc.) is done by the Holy Spirit, which unites us. There is unity in mission. There is a membership process, which focuses on four things: Baptism, Confession of Faith, Signing of Trinity Covenant, and Completion of Trinity Membership Class. This year at Easter, we will formally welcome the community in membership. This brings us into unity. We combined our services to create unity. There are more children in church. There is great joy that comes with all of these things. Ed Abell and Pat Brenham will be rolling off the Vestry. The new Vestry members will be David Brammar and Holly Hunter. All members were in favor of the appointment of new Vestry members. Children's ministry in the future will focus on children being fully inclusive in the service. The family center will be available as a cry room with live streaming of the service. Age specific programming will be developed in the future and incorporated before or after services.

A closing prayer was led by Peter.