

Worship and Music Committee Meeting
December 9, 2019 9:30 a.m.

Attendees: Pr Julie, Carina McVeigh, Jayne Pompey, Guy Ervin, Carol Broderick, Allison Johnson, Denise Sobolik, Randy Churchill, Sonja Demeter.

The meeting was opened with prayer by pastor Julie.

Minutes of the last meeting were not available; they are on the Church website.

Staff Reports:

Choir/Bells: J Pompey reported that choir & Bell choir music is ready for the Christmas Concert. She noted that Choir members who wish to sit with their families have been instructed to leave for the choir loft after the psalm in the worship service.

There was some discussion on a plan for "Godspeed" service for the Riley family on Dec. 15 since they have contributed so much to Mt. Cross in the short time they have belonged here. There is a service in the LBW and it will be used. In addition, it was decided to give them an ornament engraved with "Rooted in God's grace...etc." and that this will become our practice for other members who move away. G Ervin reported that the organ has finally been tuned!

Praise Band: C McVeigh reported that the band is doing fine and are preparing for their part in the Christmas concert. A percussionist is still needed, and no one among the Church youth has responded to her appeal.

Rpt from Council: A Johnson reported that Council wonders if the bells might not need refurbishing if they were better cared for. J Pompey replied that the bells are covered with a cloth after each use and that to polish and put them away after each performance would be too time consuming. It was noted that on Wed nights some children have been observed running up and down the stairs to the loft and that this has the potential of harm to the bells and other equipment as well as potential for injury to the children. Two suggestions to Council: Cordon off the stairs, and ask J Zimmerly to remind the children that the loft is off limits.

Pastor/Services: We discussed the history of the choir loft, choir being "up" and "down", that Mt Cross owns risers, and the fact that that when the choir is "up" the new choir robes cannot be appreciated by the congregation. Consensus seemed to be that each location for the choir has merits and variation is OK. In 1st Service, there was a question about when the birthdays/anniversaries will be shown on the wall. Zimmerly & McVeigh will be doing a training with the youth who are handling the audio/video so that it will be consistent. Pastor will continue to make announcements only at the end of the service (unless it pertains to the service). She will continue to explain how Communion will be conducted. C Broderick noted that this is important for visitors and new members. Pastor questioned the use of the pew attendance books. They are not used by everyone, and the accurate count of attendance is done by the ushers. There were several comments, pro and con: I.e. it is helpful to new people to learn names of others in their row, it's not accurate since some do not sign it, etc. D Sobolik said that a "member" is someone who attends at least once a year, and contributes at least once a year, so the books are one way to monitor particular attendance. All agreed that if the

books are eliminated, some system will be needed to replace them. Pastor said she had heard all opinions and would take them into consideration.

Bible Studies/Adult Ed: A discussion ensued over whether Bible studies should be clergy -led or Lay-led. There were pros and cons offered. There were positive comments about the Thanksgiving service led by A Johnson and the adult class she led on The Churchless, as well as the current Adult class being presented on A Christmas Carol by Mark Storer, which someone noted were not studies of Scripture. There “seemed” to be a consensus that both clergy and lay leaders should be used, but that further discussion might be needed re: the study of Scripture. The Wed night study of Sun lessons, Men’s and Women’s studies led by Pastor are going well. Recent training for ushers went well.

Stair Chair: \$12,000 seems to be a fair cost by two separate estimates. Acorn Co. has come and measured , but we are not committed to them. Discussion was all positive about the need for the chair as there are currently musicians who have physical limitations to climbing stairs and there are bound to be more since Mt Cross is a congregation with a majority of older members.

Other Items: Altar Guild will order poinsettias to dress the altar for Christmas, and members may sponsor/dedicate for \$5 each.

Next meeting- Feb. 10, 9:30 AM.

Sonja Demeter