

VESTRY MEETING April 9, 2024

Present: Rev. Cn Melinda Artman, Alice Bennett, Bruce Carpenter, Margaret Cole, Rev. Scott Harvey, Glenn Murrelle, Betsy Schumacher, Diane Siebecker, Jeff Watson

Absent: Mitzi Mohn

Treasurer: Bruce Carpenter

Chairperson: Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

Lectio Divina: Acts of the Apostles 5:27b-42

Agenda: Motion to accept the draft agenda made by Bruce, seconded by Jeff. Motion carries. Add to new business – Narcan Training. Add to other reports –Parish Park Fair update.

Minutes: Motion to accept the March 12, 2024 minutes made by Alice, seconded by Jeff. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the March Treasurer's Report made by Alice, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.

Highlights:

- 25% of the year is over. Receipts and Expenses are where we would expect, although still with a deficit. Anticipate looking at a 5 year financial forecast. Think about alternate ways to increase income.
- Regarding our Parish Administrator NYS tax issue – believe this is resolved.
- DIT 348 Conklin distribution was not received. Do we want quarterly distributions? Probably not at this time.
- Explore ways to save money – Solar Panels and Cell Tower.

Senior Warden's Report:

- Thank you to Canon Melinda and Pastor Scott for Holy Week Services.
- The Wednesday Service will be held permanently in The Chapel of the Holy Innocents.
- A Unification Meeting was held regarding combining The Diocese of Bethlehem and The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. This was attended by Alice, Bruce, Linda, and Pastor Scott.

Junior Warden's Report:

- Asked John Paul to adjust the tower clock mechanically, which he has done. However, the clock face facing the hospital does not operate properly because the large hands are bent, not allowing the hands to pass each other. At this time how to repair this issue is unclear. *Inquire as to insurance coverage?* John Paul

was also asked to check the tower roof and the drain from the roof running thru the tower, all seemed to be well. He also dry lubed the clanger for the bells.

- Six lights in the lower Parish Hall have been replaced.
- The drain in the Sacristy is backing up; Acid drain cleaner has been poured in with poor results. I have been trying to remove a plug in a 2 inch pipe that drains directly into the dry well with no luck so far. Now working on plan "D". There is a plug in the concrete floor that I believe runs to the dry well which was removable, it was filled to the top with debris.
- I attempted to repair the light cover in the kitchen using bonding material and very small bolts. The other side of the cover broke when I tried to install it. The manufacturer of the light cover is out of business and replacements are not available. Thus will need to live with no light fixture.
- I have had three visits and several phone conversations with Jeff Paul concerning our boiler project. He has proposed an idea that he claims will save us about 3K. Discussion on stainless steel boilers and how chlorine can affect them. Expect a quote from Jeff Paul within two weeks. I have not heard from Van Patton since his initial visit. Isaacs from Upstate New York has reached out and will meet April 10.

Rector's Report:

Lent is always a busy time of year for the parish and this March was no exception.

Notable activities included:

- Wednesday noon Eucharist was followed by Stations of the Cross.
- Bible Study (Jesus in the Psalms) was ably led by Pastor Scott on Monday evenings.
- First Communion classes, also ably led by Pastor Scott, were held late Wednesday afternoon at St. John.
- Holy Week, especially the Triduum, was rich and spirit filled. For the last seven years we have shared these services with St. John. Thursday, Friday and Saturday services had 30 people attend each service with people from both parishes. Our attendance on Easter Sunday was 65, which was an increase of 15 over last year. We had a number of children at this service which made worship that much more joyful. Please think about someone you saw at the Easter service who used to attend regularly and hasn't attended regularly in recent years. What might we do to bring them back more regularly?
- Our parish continues to support Baby Bob with prayer, cards, and gift cards.
- I am attending the Board Meeting of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Twin Tiers, acting as a liaison between the Valley churches and BBBS. A fundraising event is happening at Valley Lanes on May 11th.
- I conducted a funeral service for Beverly Hill on March 19th. Beverly is Norma Stevens' sister and was raised in this parish.

Discretionary Fund:

- At the end of March, I sent through PayPal \$103.20 for the purpose of buying Prescription drugs, \$77.48 for taxi service, and \$103.20 for partial rent payment.

Although not within our parish (i.e. Sayre Borough) these funds assisted a struggling family of 10 going through a medical crisis in the Binghamton area. They reached out to us via Facebook.

- I sent \$1,417.23 as the 4th quarter (2023) contribution to The Bridge and \$498.98 as the 1st quarter contribution to The Bridge. These contributions have been noted in the eBlast so our congregation knows how the collection is being used.

Related to the Diocese:

- I attended the Renewal of Vows and Chrism Mass (this is the holy oil used at Baptism) at Nativity Cathedral in Bethlehem on March 21st.
- Convocation 1 is meeting April 9th at 3 PM at Christ Church in Towanda. Bishop Kevin Nichols will attend. Linda Murrelle and I typically represent the parish; however, this meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend.
- Gather 24, the Diocese's offering for lay formation is Saturday, May 4th from 8 to 5 PM. The event is at the Rail Riders Stadium, which is more accessible to us than is typical. There are numerous workshop offerings available and this information has been shared with Vestry. Betsy, Linda, Diane, Ruth and Jack have attended this event.
- The Diocese of Bethlehem is known in some quarters as one of the worst dioceses in terms of preventing abuse. The Diocese's new consultant on Safe Church, Tim Wagner, is a police officer and is a survivor of such abuse. Our Bishop is determined to make sure that we never appear on a "worst diocese" list. As a result, part of Tim's job is to make sure that every church leader has the required Pennsylvania background check AND has taken all of the Praesidium Safe Church classes. Much of our leadership (Vestry members, Sunday School teachers, Youth Group leaders, St. Mary's Guild leadership) are out of compliance. I am in the unfortunate position of having to enforce the standard. Failure to comply with these requirements will have to result in the affected individual resigning from leadership and turning in any church key in his/her possession. If the on-line Safe Church courses are trying for you, know that you can attend a 4 hour "in-person" class with Tim Wagner on Friday, May 10th or Saturday, May 11th in Dallas, PA (about 90 minutes from Sayre).

Property related issues (mostly not directly related to the Junior Warden):

- The Undercroft cleaning project continues. Maria is also vacuuming the area with the shop vac.
- It may be worthwhile to see if we can fix the tower clock with insurance funds. I understand that the hands on the face toward the hospital are bent and cannot move past one another. I suspect that wind has caused this problem.

Pastoral Care:

- Brenda Zello is recovering from shoulder surgery. Pastor Scott has made an extra effort to take communion to our shut in community. Audrey Garfield has liver/kidney cancer and has requested comfort care.

Assistant Rector's Report:

- Bible Study has ended. We had about 20 people each week and broke into 3 smaller groups for better discussions. We may offer a book study in the summer.
- The next youth meeting is scheduled on April 7th and April 21st.
- Wednesday noontime service moved back to the parlor.
- Holy Week and Easter Sunday were well attended. It was a joy to see such a gathering on Easter morning along with being able to give a children's message to children attending the service.
- The next Community Supper is April 25th.
- I have resumed reaching out to members and making appointments for home visits.
- I attended the local Clergy Ministerium meeting at the hospital cafeteria on April 3rd.
- I have two more zoom classes on Pastoral Care through the seminary. One class is in May and another in July. I am also registered to take a class on how to minister to a faith community affected by suicide.

Other Reports:

- Mother's Day Flowers – orders being taken. There is a sign up sheet in the office and order forms in the church.
- Lawn mowing teams – would like to increase to six teams.
- Parish Park Fair update (Margaret) – Saturday, June 1st. Vendors signed up (8-9), have musicians, planning games, food includes chicken BBQ, Pork, and Hot Dogs.
- Vacation Bible School – Sayre Christian Church would like to participate and maybe St. John's.
- Heifer International (Betsy) – will send \$300 to Heifer. Purchasing Bee Hives.

Old Business:

- The Stained Glass Window Celebration is Sunday, April 14th. The Reception will be from 3-5 PM and the Concert by "Tribute Quartet" will be at 6 PM. Hopeful for a great turnout and wondering if we have done enough advertising.
- Jeff Watson assured Vestry that there is no lead in the building.

New Business:

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) of the Twin Tiers is holding a bowling fundraiser at Valley Lanes on May 11, 2024 from 1 to 4 PM. They hope for children/youth to form teams and that each team will raise \$400 for BBBS. Vestry agreed to sponsor the registration fee for four children/youth at a total cost of \$100. Perhaps our youth would be interested in forming a team. In addition, individual members of Vestry may give any amount toward a team total of \$400.

- Narcan Training will be held Saturday, May 18th in the Parish Hall.

Compline

Adjourn: Motion made by Diane, seconded by Betsy – 8:28 PM

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 14, 2024 @ 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Siebecker
Clerk of Vestry

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