

## VESTRY MEETING June 11, 2024

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

**Absent:** none

**Treasurer:** Bruce Carpenter

**Chairperson:** Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

**Lectio Divina:** Matthew 10:7-16

**Agenda:** Motion to accept the draft agenda made by Bruce, seconded by Jeff. Motion carries.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the May 14, 2024 minutes made by Bruce, seconded by Jeff. One correction – the \$9.00 fee is an ADP fee to send the payroll report to NYS. Motion carries with the correction.

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

**Highlights:**

- A new category was created for "Special Events" in the Other Income and in Other Expenses.

The meeting was paused at this time so that all present could view the main entrance sidewalk project. The meeting then resumed.

**Senior Warden's Report:**

- The Parking Lot clean up was accomplished. Special thanks to Glenn and Jeff for all their help.
- A Farewell Reception for Pastor Scott will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> after worship. This will be a potluck.

**Junior Warden's Report:**

- The AC unit for the lower parish hall has been drained of refrigerant and powered down. The unit is ready for removal.
- The HVAC project began on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The first step includes removal of the boilers, air handler, and AC unit.
- Repaired a leaking flush valve in the atrium rest room.
- A new bulletin board has been hung in the parish hall.

**Rector's Report:**

**Pastoral Care:**

- An update was provided

**Christian Education:**

- VBS planning well underway for our joint venture the week after July 4<sup>th</sup>

**Outreach:**

- Community Garden Project with SJLC: Guthrie provided soil amendment and made the beds available Memorial Day weekend. Mary Rhodes purchased plants, and Alice Bennett, Mary and I planted them last week. All the produce (except pumpkins) this year will go to the food insecure via Guthrie for distribution. The pumpkin produce is for an October event for kids planned at SJLC.
- Parish Park Fair: Surely God heard our prayers as we had a perfect day and a great turn out. Thank you Vestry members for your many contributions!
- Narcan Training happened on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> in our parish hall. The trainer was exceptional, and the material provided was excellent. We have three Narcan doses on site, should we ever need it (and let's hope not).

**Buildings and Grounds:**

See Junior Warden Report – and an update on the boilers

I plan to take a few days off (June 17 through June 19) while Pastor Scott is still here to provide some coverage.

**Assistant Rector's Report:**

- The Lutheran Synod has a process of having an Exit Interview between the leaving pastor and leadership team. The Associate of the Bishop recommends a joint meeting with both Vestry and Council. It is meant to have the pastor share information and insights that might help the parish in the search for a new leader. *The Exit Interview will be on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.*
- I attended the Narcan Training at Redeemer on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- I made several home visits/communions for both parishes.
- From my perspective, the Parish Park Fair was a success. We had a good turnout from the community and with both parishes participating.
- I attended a joint VBS meeting. It looks very promising, and I am going to miss participating this year.
- Since people have stopped placing names in the Prodigal Box ministry for over a year, I recommend it be placed on hold for the time being. *Vestry agreed.*
- People continue to donate money to the Gas Can for gas cards. Will need to count and purchase gas cards.
- I attended the “Stronger Together: Partnership for Service & Safety” on May 16<sup>th</sup>. I gathered brochures and business cards to give to Canon Melinda. The valley clergy will be discussing the topics on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- After I gave my notice to The Bridge for writing vouchers, they asked me to see if anyone in either congregation has an interest in helping. You do not need to be clergy to be a voucher writer. They also are looking for help to answer their phones.
- Instead of taping signs to the wood doors, the parish/vestry may consider putting up a bulletin board on the stone wall leading into the Nave.

### Other Reports:

- Parish Park Fair - Margaret provided a report on this year's fair. It was very successful.
- Christian Formation – VBS is scheduled at Redeemer on July 8-11 with parishioners from SJLC and Sayre Christian Church participating. It will be held 6-8 PM. Volunteers welcome!

### Old Business:

- A new Sound System for the church (tabled at this time).

### New Business:

- **Sidewalk Project:** Canon Melinda and Bruce met with Greg Ward of JD Ward and discussed the scope of work. An anonymous donor offered to pay to have the cracked sidewalk repaired (removed & replaced) in front of the entryway doors. The work was halted last fall when it was discovered that the concrete was more than 18 inches thick. Greg conjectures that when it was poured, some type of portico may have been planned at a future date. The project as it stands now is to remove the four large concrete squares and do a new pour. As for the area that is now graveled, Greg suggests we think about removing that entire sidewalk (perpendicular to S. Wilbur) as we no longer use it with any frequency. This will raise the cost of the project, however, it would eliminate the need to shovel snow on a sidewalk rarely used – arguably a plus. It was suggested to keep the lower part of the sidewalk for the Prayer Wall. *A motion was made by Canon Melinda, seconded by Jeff, to remove the sidewalk but to keep the lower portion for ease of use of the Prayer Wall. Motion approved.* We have a contract with JD Ward and will use DIT funds for the balance.
- **Summer Worship:** In the past, Canon Melinda has had complaints about worshipping in the parish hall in the summer and that worshipping in our beautiful church is preferable. At the same time, there have been complaints that folks can't hear over the fans. I am told that there are industrial sized fans that are quiet. I suggest purchasing two such fans to replace/supplement the fans we currently own. However, have not located quiet industrial sized fans at this time.
- **Office Copier:** needs a new drum. The copier and drum are now obsolete. Jerry has investigated purchasing a similar copier with wireless printing capability (which the old one did not have) for \$1579.00 and we would keep our cost per copy maintenance contract with EBE Office Source, whom we have found very responsible and reliable. This particular copier, however, does not have the capacity to print 11 x 17 copies, a size we occasionally use for the Annual Report, funerals, and other occasional special services.  
Options:
  - Assuming we cannot find a drum, we purchase this copier AND ask SJLC if we can use their copier for our occasional need of 11 x 17 copies (of course, we'd pay for the copies and provide paper, etc.)

- Alternatively, we could explore with SJLC sharing their copier. If we were to choose this option, we might explore getting a laser printer with copy capability.
- 11 x 17 copies could also be printed at the UPS store.
- We just purchase a new copier with or without 11 x 17 capabilities.
- We need to compare price and ease of use. Once we have more information, Vestry can make an informed decision.
- **Fund Raising Idea:** Summer Beach Read Sale – we haven’t had ready access to our “bookstore” in over three years. I suggest we test run a book sale on Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>. We would have some books outdoors, park side during the farmer’s market (10 to 2). We would entice people inside by having books leading to the parish hall. To make this happen, we would need:
  - People willing to move the books and some tables outside and back inside after the sale
  - A few pop up tents
  - Volunteers – at least 2 people outside and 2 people inside
  - Someone to coordinate – Linda Murrelle would be willing to coordinate this sale
- **Clergy Staffing:** Pastor Scott’s last day on payroll is approximately July 6. His last day of physical presence is Sunday June 23. The remaining days will be vacation days. Both parishes to host a potluck in celebration of his ministry.
  - The Bishop intends to give us a deacon for at least a few months for Sunday coverage.
  - The diocesan budget for 2025 has my position funded at the half time level. They intend to ask the parishes to contribute a total of \$60,000 (\$30,000 from each parish) to keep my position at the full time level. They will handle payroll and benefits paperwork. This leaves us with a couple of decision points:
    - Can we function as a parish with an even more part time priest?
    - If not, can we hire someone (assuming someone is available) to make up a full-time equivalent? Some options include asking a retired or part-time priest/pastor to work a day or two. I am having lunch with Hazel Hunt+, Betsy Sentigar+, and Jira Albers to explore this as an option.
    - How can we balance the competing needs? Part of the discussion might include ways to work smarter, not harder; a look at what does a clergy person really need to do and how realistic is it that our lay members pick up any slack? Other clergy for Bible Study?

**Compline**

**Adjourn:** 8:50 PM

Next meeting is Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM (No meeting in July)

Respectfully submitted,  
 Diane Siebecker  
 Clerk of Vestry