

The Episcopal Church of St. Andrew – New London, NH

Vestry Meeting Minutes

21 September 2023

Present: Jay MacLeod, Morris Edwards, Billy Kelly, Claire Pace, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Nancy Rollins, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Fifi Mitchell, Russ Potter.

Jay opened the meeting on Zoom with a prayer.

**August minutes** were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Treasurer's report:** Mike distributed a treasurer's report by email in advance of the meeting, noting that we are significantly ahead of budget year to date. He noted that Shelly is working with auditors on the report for 2022.

**Stewardship:** After discussion **it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to set a stewardship goal of \$435,000 for the 2024 campaign.** Before the meeting Jay had circulated a draft stewardship letter and invited any further comments or edits by email prior to the letter going out next week. We meet on Wednesday, 27 September to stuff envelopes. Rather than setting an in-gathering date, Jay asks for a prompt response with pledges.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Russ Register reported that the **bell rope at Old St. Andrew's** has been re-attached so that the bell once again rings properly. He also told us that the source of the **odor problem** in the basement at Gould Road has been identified as a clogged buried storm drainpipe. The pipe has been repaired and is draining so the odor should soon disappear. About the **relocation of the electric meter** following installation of the solar array, Russ reported that DigSafe has marked the location of the underground cable so that Harvey can now contact an electrician to complete the work. Once that is completed, we can re-visit installation of a paved walkway to the patio. Russ also reported that **hand rails** for the patio steps, two for wide upper steps and one for lower steps, will be installed at a cost of \$2300. Karen also noted that Becky Rylander said that the work of the **Building and Grounds Task Force** is nearly completed, with the goal of providing an inventory of ongoing capital needs that will be both a management and budget aid.

**Foyer group summary:** Alice reported on the recent foyer group kick-off dinner, noting that Nonie and Claire had helped assemble the seven groups and also helped with set-up in the parish hall for the event. With 47 people who signed up, Alice emailed to the 20 who were absent from the kick-off lists of their group's members with contact information, identical to lists each person who attended also received. Everyone was encouraged to set a date and place for their first in-home meal, which several have already done. Another year it might be helpful to stress that the initial meal is more than finding out what group you are in, but an opportunity to mingle widely with all participating.

**Jay's decade celebration:** Karen spoke about the pot-luck picnic planned for 8 October immediately following the 10 AM service as a time for the church to express gratitude and appreciation to Jay for his 10 years with us. A sign-up poster is in the hallway for food contributions. Claire and Harvey and Rosie Best are helping with the planning and volunteers to assist with setting up tables either Saturday or Sunday (weather permitting) are welcome. Jay commented that our shared ministry, what we've done together, is important to emphasize even as we celebrate his presence among us. What we as a church have done over these last 10 years has been enriching for us and those we've served, he noted.

**Worship:** Continuing to recover and heal from knee surgery, Jay noted that Kelly Sundberg Seaman will preside on 24 September and that Joe Rose has prepared intercessions recently. Messy Church is set for 1 October with the theme of Count Our Blessings. Zach is looking for help with an activity and with food. Blessing of the Animals on 7 October will include a return visit from the alpaca Alabaster. All Saints Sunday is 5 November.

**Skills Audit:** Claire reported that the testing tool has been used by some and that she can capture input in an Excel spreadsheet. She expects an October launch of the survey to all parishioners.

**Braver Angels:** Karen spoke about the gathering last Sunday (Being Blue in a Red Environment) and saw people from the outside community as well as parishioners in attendance. Jay noted that Jeannie Sperry had spoken convincingly at a national meeting about how churches can see their mission through Braver Angels programming. He also mentioned Paul Catsos who with Jeannie did a recent BA workshop on Skills to Bridge the Divide at the request of a Brentwood NH representative. Further, Bishop Rob is planning the post-Eucharist conversation at Diocesan Convention at Trinity in Claremont on 4 November to be about Braver Angels and learning to listen without bitterness. Acknowledging that the Episcopal church is not an easy place for conservatives to be, Jay is hopeful that the 1 October event, Being Red in a Blue Environment, is well attended.

**Any Other Business:** Billy asked about offering a coffee hour between the 8 and 10 AM services.

Alice noted that Mary Eysenbach has asked her to take over the church website. Alice is seeking guidance and oversight.

Jay intends to return with celebration of the Eucharist at noon on Thursday, 28 September and perhaps with some modifications as his healing continues going forward.

Jay closed the meeting with a moment of silence and together we offered a mutual blessing in the words of the grace.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Perry, Clerk

**Note: The next vestry meeting will be 19 October 2023.**