

The Episcopal Church of St. Andrew—New London, New Hampshire  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
23 February 2023 (via Zoom video conferencing)

Present: Jay MacLeod, Morris Edwards, Billy Kelly, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Russ Potter, Nonie Reynders, Karen Zurheide, Claire Pace, Phyllis (FiFi) Mitchell, Claire Pace, Nancy Rollins (for the first agenda items via telephone)

Apologies: Nancy Rollins, Alice Perry

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed new members Russ Potter and Fifi Mitchell.

**January** minutes were accepted as true and accurate of the meeting.

**Proposal for Hosting a Community Build:** Ed Hoyt submitted a proposal that we host a community build by **Window Dressers**. Ed reported that Kearsarge Climate Action will organize this undertaking locally. The request is that Window Dressers be able to utilize our parish hall for their program from a Friday through the next Wednesday. Specific dates have not been decided but are likely to be in the late Fall. The project involves the building of precisely-measured window inserts that will protect a person's home from the cold. The window inserts are low cost compared to other options on the market. This would be of benefit to our community. Volunteers from our church are already involved in this effort. In its first year of operation in our region, the goal will be to build a maximum of 200 window inserts. Anyone may take part, but low-income residents are especially welcome and will be charged on a pay-what-you-can basis. Ed indicated that the cost for larger windows (44" X 68") would be \$61 to \$77 depending on materials used. The question of church liability was raised, and Jay reported that we do have liability insurance but he will verify coverage for this event given that power tools will be used for this project. Fire safety was discussed. Power tools are used on only the first day. Jay indicated that this project aligns with our church mission which includes preservation of our planet and helping the poor plus it could introduce new people to our church. We request that this event not be scheduled to interfere with Messy Church which occurs on the first Sunday of the month. **It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to allow Window Dressers to utilize our space at a yet to be determined date.**

**Legacy Fund Committee:** We reviewed and discussed the Legacy Fund Committee's report which George Jamieson submitted prior to the meeting. If there are questions regarding the report, individuals are encouraged to email George as Chair of the Legacy Fund Committee. George is available to attend our March meeting. The vestry is asked if two new members can be added to this committee. The individuals are John Moses and Charlie Forbes. Karen praised the work of the Committee, noting that twelve new legacy gifts were received in 2022. Gratitude was expressed for George's work and Mike Quinn was also thanked for drafting many of the policies. **It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to have John Moses and Charlie Forbes become part of the Legacy Fund Committee.**

**Voorhees Partnership:** Jay shared email correspondence he has had with staff at Voorhees College regarding next steps in recruiting one to two student interns to come to New London for a period of eight weeks this summer. Our goal is to not only support students via a scholarship funded by a designated "Last Sunday" donation but to develop a relationship with the school. Jay reviewed some of the challenges that a prospective student might face. The stipend that St. Andrew's will offer of \$300 a week may need to be supplemented. Additionally, students may want to interact with peers in this community, not just our congregation. He discussed reaching out to Spring Ledge Farm and The Barn Playhouse to explore ways that these organizations might enhance the interns' experience over the summer. Jay and Karen will travel to Voorhees to interview candidates. They will work with Voorhees administrators to review applicants prior to the trip. This trip requires one full day on campus. In the future, when there is experience with interns and administrators, it is hoped that there will not be a need for us to travel to Voorhees for interviews. Interviews could be done via zoom. What the Voorhees interns do for work while they are here will depend on their current skills and interests. Billy asked whether there was a team that would work with the interns and Jay indicated that he would like to form a team to work with the interns. We will have a better idea about candidates in about one month. The expectation is to have candidates by 28 March if this project is to occur this year. Russ Potter indicated that he has an interest in being part of the team that works with the intern(s).

**Finance Report:** Mike indicated that there is no report for January as office staff have been preoccupied with completing the annual parochial report for the Diocese and national church. There have been no updates regarding 2023 pledges.

**Day Care Feasibility:** Dr. Brian Frenkiewich asked at the annual meeting that St. Andrew's Church consider opening or housing a child day care. He indicated that a day care could meet a pressing need in this community and could increase our church's exposure to new people who have young families. Karen indicated the Executive Committee discussed this issue and is committed to studying its feasibility. Karen's initial research indicates that a day care might require extensive renovations to our current spaces in order to meet licensure requirements. Concerns were expressed about funding a project that could be costly and could financially operate at a loss. Mike Quinn mentioned that the city of Lebanon is planning to open a day care for up to 200 children. Karen indicated that the prime motivator would be to meet a community need rather than attract families to church. She has experience of day care in two church settings where no families utilizing day care actually began attending the churches in question. Lin expressed concerns regarding security for children in our church venue since there is no entrance or exit that could be limited to the day care. Jay has spoken with Brian who himself suggested that we start by considering the feasibility of housing a day care facility in the building. Karen agreed to undertake further research and report back at our next meeting.

**Missioner:** Jay reminded existing members that we had received a grant from the diocese to fund half the salary of a 15 hour per week missioner. The missioner is to work primarily with children and families. Advertisement will begin next week for this position. Karen, Billy, Lin and Jay comprise the Vestry priority group working on engaging children and young families and will undertake the hiring. Vestry members were encouraged to share information about this new position to any potential candidate they may know.

**Newcomers:** Claire reported that St. Andrew's has many new members and that it would be good to host another newcomer event. FiFi volunteered to help Claire plan this event. There was discussion relating to how we welcome new people at our church and that everyone needs to be involved with this. Jay reported that Marilyn Paradis continues to lead the "Loafers" who visit and welcome new families and individuals.

**Formation:** *The Chosen* weekly discussions from the start of Lent to Pentecost will begin this Sunday. Twelve individuals were present on Monday to see the first and second episodes of season one that will be discussed this week. Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rusnak and Jay will lead the weekly discussions. The church will make the series available for viewing every Monday.

**Pilgrims** to the Holy Land will have a reunion on 11 March and will discuss how to share their experience with the congregation and wider community. It is expected that the sharing will be done online via Zoom.

The **pilgrimage** to St. Christopher's in Bluff, Utah will take place from 25 March - 2 April 2023.

A walking pilgrimage along **Cuthbert's Way** would begin in Scotland and would finish at the holy island of Lindisfarne in England with pilgrims then traveling to Durham Cathedral where St. Cuthbert is interred. The rector of St. Thomas in Hanover has confirmed that walking Cuthbert's Way is a rich spiritual experience. The pilgrimage could be offered in Fall 2023 or Spring 2024.

Finally, Jay reported the online bible study planned for Tuesday evenings would be delayed until after Pentecost when he hopes to have recruited a co-leader from another church.

**Parochial Report:** Several people including Jay, Shelly and Mike have been working on the parochial report which is due 1 March 2023. The vestry needs to review this report. A copy of the completed report will be sent to everyone. This report goes to the diocese as well as the national church.

**Worship:** Karen reported that Clement Kigugu, Executive Director of Overcomers Refugee Services, will be our special guest on Sunday, 12 March and will share the pulpit with Jay. His organization will be the recipient of March Last Sunday offering.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Pace, Clerk Pro Tem

Note: The next vestry meeting will be 23 March