

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

18 May 2023

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

Absent: Russ Potter, Karen Zurheide.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer for Ascension Day.

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

Finance: Mike distributed 30 April financials with a written report prior to the meeting by email. Work continues to get QuickBooks to produce a balance sheet. Operating numbers are good, he said; we are above budget compared to last year (excluding one-time gifts) and have a surplus. Jay explained that “supply clergy” is higher than budgeted because we had not properly allowed for new payment policy in 2023 for supply clergy when Jay is present.

Buildings and Grounds: Russ Register noted that Old Yankee Stoneworks may be able to start **patio reconstruction** by 1 June. **Removal of bats** at Old St. Andrew’s has been completed and the building is open for prayer at all times. Russ said that Harvey Best is looking into a solution to the now silent **toller (bell)**. We are on track with materials and permits in place for the **solar panel installation**, perhaps quite early in the projected May-to-August window. The **cross** over the Memorial Garden has been brought into better alignment following the reroofing.

Claire reported that **Window Dressers** will be on site from 9 to 15 November. This non-profit organization creates windows to protect against the cold, including for families with limited financial resources. The organization will do outreach in advance and will be responsible for measuring for window installation. Participants in the program are also expected to provide some work/time as windows are created on site during that week in November.

Mission/Outreach: Nancy spoke about the recent trip to **St. Christopher’s Mission in Bluff, Utah**. She spoke of the trip out and places visited along the way. Once all gathered at SCM, the group replaced double-hung windows, worked in the garden area and the community garden, did interior painting and also exterior painting of the tiny houses, built bunk beds and worked in the community kitchen. Morning prayer services were held outdoors daily, and time was spent with SCM vestry members. The group learned about Navajo culture and about efforts to bring back Navajo sheep and Navajo peaches. Nancy suggests the group meet to debrief and then meet with those who went previously to discuss next steps in our relationship with SCM and Navajoland. There will also be a presentation to the congregation and jewelry for sale.

Jay noted that two **Voorhees interns** (from Jamaica and Bahamas) will arrive on 9 June with their first Sunday to be 11 June. Their 8-week internship takes them through Sunday 6 August. Housing still needs to be worked out, probably four weeks in one home and four weeks in another. Due to visa requirements, Andy Seward and Karen Zurheide will serve as their

mentors to match their experience with their majors while also getting them involved in our ministry. Get-togethers with parish youth are anticipated as well as other exciting and compelling experiences. The Hospital Day parade, with a “storybook” theme, falls during their final weekend with us and a float, perhaps featuring both Messy Church and live music, will be considered.

Both interns are singers and another opportunity for them would be a **music camp** from 24 to 28 July. In respect to a music camp, it was **moved, seconded and unanimously approved to give Jay permission to seek a diocesan grant from Our Kids Commission** for a youth program over the summer and perhaps into next year.

It was **moved, seconded and unanimously approved to name Jackie Thompson** as a second representative to KREM, joining Froncie Quinn. Jay noted that he is seeking suggestions for people to name to the Outreach Commission to replace Christine Kellett and Janet Heyl.

Pastoral Care: Claire spoke about the **prayer list** after she with Karen and Jay received an email from Marni Eaton who has managed the list for years. Marni has suggested that a system tracking requests for names to be added operate with a 6-week time frame so that names don't remain on the list beyond need, yet permitting long-term prayer as appropriate. A meeting with Shelly is anticipated to work out details of recording and monitoring such a list.

Alice noted the resumption of monthly offering of **Holy Communion at Sunapee Cove**, beginning 28 May. This will be either the fourth or last Sunday of the month, to be confirmed with Sunapee Cove. Meanwhile those from St. Andrew's living at Sunapee Cove may welcome social visits from our Eucharistic Visitors between those Sundays, with Jay noting communion once a month perhaps sufficient. It is also possible non-Episcopalians will attend the monthly half-hour services.

Jay spoke about **Foyer Groups** as another way to bring us together. If we are to offer these again, it is important to plan no later than our next vestry meeting in order to have the gatherings commence in the fall.

Jay also noted that he has not yet found a colleague to assist with weekly Zoom meetings for **Bible Study**. He will check with Celeste Hemingson to be sure she is amenable to our promoting her weekly lectionary study on Zoom on Wednesday mornings to the congregation in lieu of the planned in-house study, a program some St. Andrew's parishioners are already participating in.

Worship: Jay reported that Zach Gobeil headed up a great **Messy Church** session in May with the 4 June theme to be “Building on Rock.” He noted that a small group does the planning on Zoom and a larger team of volunteers runs the several activities each month. The first Sunday in July falls on a holiday weekend and a Messy Church activity at our 1 July Summer Fair will likely substitute for the Sunday service that month. The August event will fall on the final Sunday Voorhees interns are with us. The September event may be moved to late August rather than holding it on the first Sunday, Labor Day weekend.

Without a firm start date for patio construction and length of construction yet to be determined, **outdoor worship** at the 10 AM service is difficult to schedule. Based on earlier

information, Jay had tentatively scheduled it for the last two June Sundays and first two July Sundays (18 June through 9 July) but has now asked Russ Register to confirm with Harvey Best the 1 June start date announced earlier in this meeting, a scenario that would likely require a later series of four Sundays (or none).

Any Other Business: Dates for **Philips Brooks** visits were re-confirmed: 19-20 July and 2-3 August.

Alice brought a suggestion from Gardner Yenawine to see if the vestry is interested in preparing a **skill and interest assessment** of parishioners. A survey via Constant Contact could be used. Claire and Nonie will work with Gardner.

Jay closed the meeting with a prayer 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 22 June 2023.