

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

20 July 2023

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

Absent: Mike Quinn, Karen Zurheide.

We opened the meeting with an informal prayer, awaiting Jay's arrival.

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

Buildings and Grounds: Russ Register noted that **the entrance floor grate** has a new steel angle support. Related to **patio reconstruction** he noted that a rain gutter has been installed that will conduct water away from the patio and that a concrete deer, a memorial gift, has been restored to its place in a nook above the reconstructed patio. He also explained that the **electric meter** currently in the basement utility room and subject to water seepage will be relocated outside. Because of the solar array, a new meter that can measure both incoming and outgoing power will be installed after trenching is accomplished to relocate cables that will connect with the new meter. This work will postpone work on a planned **handicap accessible walkway** to the new patio. With trenching completed, a four-foot-wide walkway from the parking lot and through the memorial garden will provide access to the patio. Concern was expressed regarding material for that surface, wanting to be certain it will provide sufficient support for wheelchairs and walkers.

Lin spoke of an ongoing **odor downstairs**. Russ will take her concern to the Buildings and Grounds committee and Shelly will also be advised to seek someone who can assess and perhaps correct the situation.

Mission/Outreach: Jay spoke of the planned baptism during the 6 August **Messy Church** event. Usual arts and crafts activities in the parish hall will precede the baptism (rather than Eucharist) in the sanctuary, with a corporate meal to follow. The next Messy Church event is slated for 10 September rather than the usual first Sunday of the month which falls on Labor Day weekend. The October date needs to be confirmed with Missioner Zach Gobeil, perhaps returning to the first Sunday of the month.

The **Hospital Day parade** is the same weekend (5 August) and Jay has prepared a booklet with the Story of the Lost Sheep to be passed out along the parade route, in keeping with the "A Storybook Celebration" theme. Zach has obtained a flatbed truck for a float on which the story will be acted out. We discussed possible banners for the sides of the float.

The **Windowdressers Community Build** is slated for November. It is a week-long event and a sign will be posted in the hallway on the Monday evening asking for quiet when Meditation is in session.

Finance: Mike distributed 30 June financials with a written report prior to the meeting by email. In his report Mike had noted that Pledge, Gift and Contribution revenue is above both last year's results and the budget. The primary variance in expenses is in Buildings and Grounds, which are being reviewed to determine which might be capitalized, removing them from Income and Expense reporting. Unable to be present, Mike invited questions also by email. Jay suggested that if there are questions, we will send those to Mike and cc all vestry members.

Jay spoke of the successful "light" **stewardship** campaigns in recent years and recommended a "full-on" campaign once every five years. **It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to adopt a five-year stewardship strategy** as outlined by Jay. This fall's campaign will be the fourth year of the light touch, and we will determine who the primary letter-writer is to be; we will also determine an ingathering date, perhaps a bit earlier than last year's ingathering early in December. The time to begin planning the more ambitious 2024 campaign (for 2025 budget) will be the April 2024 vestry meeting.

Worship: Jay spoke of the plans he is making for this coming Sunday's service where the Old Testament account of **Jacob's ladder** is heard. Where we are just now experiencing a spate of deaths, this lesson from Genesis provides an opportunity to celebrate the church living and church departed. This will include incense around the Otto memorial bench at Old St. Andrew's and incense in the memorial garden at Gould Road. The sermon that day will consist of a conversation between himself and Jameikah and Shemar, our interns.

Jay also spoke of plans for an **evening service** to close out Old St. Andrew's for the season on 3 September. In response to questions about **outdoor worship**, we decided this could be offered at a "last minute" depending on progress with outdoor projects noted above, and the weather. Recalling our success outdoors into the fall during COVID, we may be able to offer outdoor worship at 10 AM later this year.

Interns: Jay said he has been so happy with our very personable interns Jameikah and Shemar. We had expected that interns would provide some of their own meals and cooking but it has turned out that our hosts have done all the shopping and food preparation. Jay will reimburse hosts from budgeted "Voorhees start-up" funds and will plan to include a budget item next year to cover those expenses. The interns have helped with recent music camp and visits from Boston youth and will close out their time with us with the busy 5-6 August weekend. They will rest on 7 August and fly to Voorhees to resume their schooling on 8 August.

Skills Audit: Claire reported that language stating our purpose in conducting an inventory of parishioners' talents and gifts is complete. She is working within Constant Contact to develop a questionnaire which will be tested (perhaps by vestry) before sending to the entire parish. A directory of said talents and gifts from questionnaire responses will be created to be shared with church members.

Any Other Business: It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to name Jim Mathias to the Outreach Commission.

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 17 August 2023.