

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

21 April 2022

Present: Jay MacLeod, Joe Daly, Chris Heyl, Billy Kelly, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Chuck Thompson, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Morris Edwards, Claire Pace.

Jay opened the meeting with the collect for the Thursday of Easter week, noting that we, like “all who have been reborn . . .,” should show forth in our life as a church what we profess by our faith.

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

Finance: Mike submitted by email in advance of the meeting ledger to budget, balance sheet and a treasurer’s report. In the report he noted that pledge revenue is down slightly compared to the prior year. A question about the diocesan fair share was answered by noting that outreach is not figured as operating expense and consequently not a part of the fair share calculation.

Braver Angels: Jay reported on the well-attended launch event, noting that the team is working on arrangements for trainers to conduct workshops on “Skills for Bridging the Divide” and “Depolarizing Within.” The plan is to keep the workshops in-house initially and later to engage the wider community. He noted that the team (Woody Canaday, David Balford, Jen Giles, Penelope Whitman, Peter Ruth, Jeannie Sperry) welcomes feedback and also that individuals can join Braver Angels and do workshops on their own online.

Parish Directory: Nonie described meetings held with Shelly, Alice and Karen and decisions made about the preparation and format of the directory. Alice spoke about the need for more parishioners to submit photos and described requirements for photos to allow her to properly crop and size those uniformly.

Worship: Jay had earlier shared survey results by email. With those results in mind, and after discussion, we decided

- Beginning 24 April, masks will be recommended but not required in church, and urging people to be mindful of their neighbor’s vulnerability
- People will be invited to share the peace in words and gesture
- Communion will be offered in two kinds but communicants can refrain from the wine by a simple sign of crossing arms over the chest
- Collection plate will be passed and brought forward at the Offertory
- Online worship will continue

Also referring to the survey, we discussed at length the pros and cons of summer 8 AM worship at Old St. Andrew’s – particularly in regard to Buildings and Grounds and Altar Guild concerns -- with the result that we will move toward making it feasible to worship there this summer, likely

involving professional cleaning among other steps, and perhaps a delayed start depending on how long it takes to get the building ready after two years closed. In the fall we will begin a closer and more thorough look at the concerns around both structural issues and routine worship in that space.

We also discussed possible outdoor worship at Gould Road at 10 AM again this summer, recognizing that online worship is a bit more difficult outside. Jay thought we might offer a mix throughout the summer of indoor and outdoor, in part depending on the weather on a given Sunday.

Vestry Retreat: Karen reminded us of plans for a day-long retreat at her house on 6 June, possibly from 9 AM to 4 PM, with Susan Schweizer as facilitator. Goals for the day include an opportunity for vestry members to grow closer to one another, to grow in personal faith, and to commit to vestry responsibilities. The day will include “appreciative inquiry” style questions and answers and devotional time, with snacking and lunch included. With no set outcome planned, Jay looks forward to the day concluding with a collective vision of where we as a church want to get to.

Planned Giving: Jay reminded us of the information session between services this coming Sunday.

Any other business: Dodge-Drum-Sing for youth after school on Fridays begins 6 May and runs for seven weeks through 21 June. Response was upward of 30 youngsters with some on a waiting list. Some parents have volunteered to help and can do so if they undertake Safe Church training.

Jay will be away Tuesday through Friday, 26-29 April.

The vicar from Bluff, Utah will be at St. Andrew’s the weekend of 7-8 May. The Rev'd Joe Hubbard will lead a discussion of the book *The Four Vision Quests of Jesus* by Steven Charleston on Saturday evening and preach at both services on Sunday morning.

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 May.