

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER VESTRY MEETING

May 10, 2022

Members Present: Linda Murrelle, Sr. Warden; Ruth Barber, Alice Bennett, Betsy Schumacher, Diane Siebecker, Debbie Zurn, and The Rev. Cn. Melinda M. Artman, Chair.

Also Present: Treasurer Bruce Carpenter and The Rev. K. Scott Harvey

Absent: Jeff Watson, Jr. Warden (excused) and Doreen Marshall (excused)

Opening Prayer: Canon Melinda opened the meeting with Prayer

Agenda: Debbie moved and Ruth seconded the approval of the agenda. Diane asked that New Business be amended to include Requirements for Vestry; inability to hook with Realm, and reimbursement for the Gather 22 event. Canon Melinda removed “Resetting Our Direction” from Old Business. The motion carried as amended.

Minutes: Linda moved and Betsy seconded the approval of the minutes. Several typographical errors were identified. A friendly amendment was offered to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried. A ‘track changes’ copy of the April minutes and a clean copy of the April minutes are attached.

Treasurer’s Report;

- **Monthly Reports.** Bruce reported that we are a third of the way through the year and we should see 1/3 of revenue received and 1/3 of expenditures made – and the reports reflect that this is true. Bruce also reported on a meeting with Mike Dowd, trustee of the Kresge trust. The check is significantly smaller this year than last. Although Mike thinks we have been overpaid the last few years, Bruce observes that the amount received is reflective of three-quarters of the year’s interest and not the full year.
- **Audit:** Bruce presented the Audit findings provided by Joan McDonald. She is much happier with us and praised us for adopting most of the recommendations of the last audit. She still insists upon a locked bank bag. After some discussion, Alice moved, and Betsy seconded a motion to purchase or acquire a locked bank bag and directs Bruce to check with First Citizen’s Bank about options and availability of said bag. The motion carried. Diane moved and Betsy seconded that the Auditor’s Report be accepted. The motion carried. Canon Melinda thanked Bruce for his hard work in making the Treasurer’s Report simpler, clearer, and more transparent. The Vestry joined in with its thanks as well.
- **Change of Accounting/Bookkeeping Program:** Our current accounting software is QuickBooks and they are requiring us to use the cloud and charging us for that usage – approximately \$1000 per year. A downside to QuickBooks, apart from this change, is that changes to an entry is not recorded or captured – which can be problematic during an audit. An alternative is Realm, a church based accounting software that uses a fund accounting approach. Any change to an entry is recorded. It is less expensive than QuickBooks. After some research and discussion with Paula Lapinski at the Diocese, Bruce is making the change to Realm. The downside of the change (apart of learning a

new program) is that we lose historical continuity. We can still have QuickBooks on the desktop, it becomes a more cumbersome process to look up an historical expenditure.

Senior Warden's Report:

- **Community Supper:** Came indoors. The turn out was disappointing with only 40 suppers being served, and half of those were take out. Given COVID numbers the supper will return to "take out" with a change in how the meals are delivered. Customers will come to the Parish Hall to pick up a warm supper, rather than pick up a pre-packaged, cold supper. This change back to take out only will need to be advertised. The Youth Group is being fed this Sunday with the leftovers.
- **St. Mary's Guild Rummage Sale:** was cancelled for last weekend as there is no effective way to keep people safe. The rummage sale is being rescheduled for late June, and if necessary, it will be held in the parking lot.

Junior Warden's Report: On behalf of Jeff, Cn. Melinda reported that the boilers seem just fine.

Rector Report: Cn. Melinda reported:

- **COVID Protocols:** Bradford County continues to be Pennsylvania's COVID hotspot, therefore, wearing masks is required in the building and the blue tape is being put back up within the church.
- **Pastoral Care:** Cn. Melinda invited Ruth Barber to present two outreach ideas from the church she attends in Florida:
 - **Prodigal Prayer Box:** We all have prodigals in our lives, someone with whom we are estranged, have lost touch with; who, for whatever reason no longer interact with us. The Prodigal Prayer Box allows us to place the names of our prodigals in the box and to have these individuals held in prayer by the community.
 - **Gas Can spare change:** This is a literal gas can that we fill up with our spare change for those who might be in need of gas money. Cn. Melinda explained that from time to time she would exchange the silver for Dandy gift cards so those in need can purchase gas there.
 - Cn. Melinda plans her next vacation planned for first full week in June.

Assistant Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott reported that he found two books on Exodus and one historical fiction book on Exodus for summer reading. These books are in preparation for a Fall Bible Study on Exodus.

Parish Park Faire: In Margaret's absence, Bruce provided a brief update on the Faire. Maureen Wright is being given a table and tent for her "Reading for Kids." All our food items are on a good path. Alice called on each Vestry member to provide a baked good. Diane mentioned that her 13 year old grandson needed community service hours, could he help? The answer was a resounded "yes" and an invitation for all his friends to come help as well.

Sunday School/VBS: Betsy Schumacher reported that VBS will be the 3rd week in July, it has something to do with “Australia” and features Bible stories around a theme of “in the beginning.”

Communication/Evangelism update: Debbie Zurn showed the Vestry prototypes of what a brochure regarding the Church of the Redeemer might look like. A simplified version of the former brochure will be prepared for the Parish Park Faire that will prominently include information regarding VBS and the inside of our weekly worship bulletin. Approximately 200 copies will be prepared. A more extensive version will be produced, to be available in our Tract Rack.

Old Business:

- Reflections on Gather 2022: Ruth, Betsy, Debbie and Diane attended the Diocesan event Gather 2022 and report that it was a good experience with an excellent national keynote speaker, a good workshop of Vestry and other various offerings. Diane gave the Vestry the same quiz she took. She helped re-enforce duties of the Vestry.

New Business:

- Bonnie Garrity and Betsy Schumacher have requested that the ceiling in a small storage space (aka closet) under stairs – near Boy Scout room, be replastered. The Vestry walked down the hall to view the problem. It was decided to have John Paul Jones pull down the ceiling and remove the resulting debris.
- Cn. Melinda asked whether we want to have a 6 week course on “Becoming the Beloved Community?” [A look at systemic racism and how we participate in it, how we can reduce it.] The consensus of the Vestry is “yes” and whoever comes to the event is meant to be there. Cn. Melinda will follow up.
- Cn. Melinda asked, assuming St. John Council concurs, do we want to have a combined worship service with St. John for mid-June through August? The Vestry consensus is “yes.”
- Diane noted that St. Mary’s Guild is willing to provide the kitchen with a new Bunn Coffee Maker. Alice moved and Betsy seconded a motion that the Vestry accept this gift. The motion carried.
- **Safeguarding God’s Children:** Diane asked whether the Vestry was aware that we all need to take this training? She received an affirmative response. She is in process of becoming compliant with this requirement.
- **Realm e-mail:** Diane reported that she is having difficulties signing up for Realm Connect and what is Realm anyway (besides an accounting program.) Cn. Melinda responded that it was a church software program that tracks pledges, allows sign-ups for various activities, and offers a parish directory to name a few portions of the app. Diane was referred to Jerry Evans, parish administrator, for assistance with the e-mail issue.
- **Gather 2022 Reimbursement:** Diane noticed that the audit identified a fund [Hollingshead] that covers education expenses for church members. Therefore, she moved and Ruth seconded that the conference fee (\$25 per person) and mileage be reimbursed for herself, Scott, Ruth, Jack, Linda, and Debbie as applicable. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned with Compline at 8:58 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

The Rev. Cn. Melinda M. Artman