

VESTRY MEETING MARCH 9, 2023

Members present: Rev. Cn. Melinda Artman, Alice Bennett, Bruce Carpenter, Margaret Cole, Doreen Marshall, Linda Murrelle, Betsy Schumacher, Diane Siebecker, Jeff Watson

Also present: Rev. Scott Harvey

Absent: none

Treasurer: Bruce Carpenter

Chairperson: Rev. Cn. Melinda Artman

Opening Prayer

Agenda: Motion to accept the draft agenda made by Alice Bennett. Second by Bruce Carpenter. Motion carries.

Discussion – addition to the agenda to add a report for Food Pantry Outreach

Minutes: Motion to accept the February 14, 2023 minutes made by Betsy Schumacher. Second by Jeff Watson. Motion carries.

Discussion – correction on page 2 for the Discretionary Income (general use for the needy in the community)

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Margaret Cole. Second by Jeff Watson. Motion carries.

Discussion – Typo first 3 pages February 2023 (not January 2023).

Highlights:

- DIT (Diocesan Investment Trust) will be coming & numbers will improve
- Bruce attended a Webinar regarding finances. Will be adding the check register to the monthly treasurer's report to provide full disclosure
- Margaret researching Venmo/PayPal options for the Parish Park Fair
- Funds still needed for the Window Restoration Project \$2,191.81
Betsy suggested announcing this information in an upcoming E-blast

Senior Warden's Report:

- February's Community Supper was successful with over 90 people served (approximately half were take-out). This was sponsored by the Cardiac Cath Lab

of RPH who provided the food for a heart healthy meal. Blood Pressure screenings were provided.

- To clarify for Diane, the Community Supper at Redeemer is the last Thursday of the month.

Junior Warden's Report:

- Boilers may need a valve at minimal expense
- The outdoor light on the parlor steps has been replaced. The cost of the replacement fixture was \$75.00
- A brick mason has been located (Thanks Bruce) to execute the necessary repairs to the archway behind the organ pipes. The brick mason is Wayne Place & he is local. There are a few issues that he needs to resolve before repairs begin. The most pressing issue is the size of the bricks. The bricks required for this repair are no longer manufactured. The mason believes that he knows of a source that may have some used brick of the required size. The mason has agreed to make the necessary repairs between the middle of June or the month of July. The cost of this repair will be between \$2500. and \$4000. There will be additional cost to have the organ pipes removed and re-installed. This cost has not yet been determined. Will need David Peckham to provide an estimate for this.
- Pilot Light out on cook stove. Will be taken care of
- First Aid Kit in Parish Hall has been secured on the wall
- AED (defibrillator) is functioning properly. Margaret suggested the possibility of hosting a CPR class which would include AED training. Members interested.
- Downstairs toilet was running for a period of time & needed repair (John Paul)

Rector's/Assistant Rector's Report:

- Mary Brougham died 3/5/23. The Funeral Service will be 3/10/23 here at Redeemer. Pastor Scott will be presiding
- Pastor Scott has arranged to take home communion to Helen Tracy and Jerry and Janice Patton
- Some of our Vestry members (Betsy, Diane, Linda) attended Pastor Scott's initial year review at SJLC 3/15/23. Our Senior Warden attended the Family Worship Service just prior to the review. The mutual evaluation was very positive & our Vestry members heard some good ideas from the St. John Council.
- Pastor Scott attended a mandatory First Call Pastor's Retreat the last two days of February. Pastor Melinda & Pastor Scott attended a Chrism Mass at Nativity

Cathedral in Bethlehem, followed by a working retreat with Diocese of Bethlehem staff, & then the ordination of Maryann Philbrook on 3/4/23. The Bishop had asked the Vestry to be Maryann's sponsor for ordination & we happily obliged.

- Per the auditor's recommendation, we have started a new process for paid maintenance projects. As with anything new, the roll out was a little bumpy.
- The last full week of February was eventful. Redeemer hosted Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Margaret Cole provided excellent direction & coordination for this event. Andrew Mizener was a star of the evening as he flipped the pancakes. Our noon Ash Wednesday service drew 21 people, with about 1/3 of the congregation from St. John's & the remaining 2/3 from our parish. The evening service held at St. John's was low attendance likely due to inclement weather. There was four members from each parish (exclusive of "staff"). The Community Supper was held as stated previously. Three members of the CCL are also our parishioner's: Emily Schamel, Pam Diehl (retired), & Margaret Cole. Margaret coordinated this event & Pastor Melinda would like to give thanks for all the CCL did & also thank our usual crew of Linda Murrelle, Sherry Gaubauer, & the extended Marshall family who cook, set up, & clean up. Several people attended SJLC's Family Fun Night on 2/24/23. There was a multi-generational computer trivia game competition called Kahoot at the outset of the evening. SJLC plans to host another Family Fun Night & our parishioners are invited.
- On 3/8/23 Pastor Melinda provided a tour of the Church to our Boy Scout Troop.
- Our joint Bible Study with SJLC (along with a soup & salad supper) got off the ground on 3/6/23. This Lenten study is Seven Words – Listening to Christ from the Cross. Good attendance from Church of the Redeemer & SJLC plus an attendee from Trinity Athens & Athens UMC.
- Parochial Report was turned in early. Thanks for all your help.
- Pastor Melinda suggested & the Diocese implemented a webinar on Parish Finance. Bruce & Pastor Melinda attended. We at Redeemer are following best practices. Bruce puts in an extraordinary amount of work on parish finances. Thank you Bruce.
- Jeff Watson does an amazing job keeping our property functioning and looking great. Our grounds are kept pristine through a core group of volunteers. Glenda Hinsman intends to come to our next meeting to bring to our attention that the grounds are too big for Glen Murrelle to handle, even with her assistance – weeding alone is a big job. Additionally, our Tower Room looks down at heals. Let's think of suggestions on managing the grounds.

- Pastor Melinda will be away in her diocesan role (North Carolina) the afternoon of 3/12 through 3/17.
- Pastor Melinda has been called for Jury Duty on 3/20/23.

Sunday School Report:

- Lenten program in process

Youth Group Report:

- No representative going to the Episcopal Youth Event

St. Mary's Guild Report:

- Met 3/7/23 for the showing of the Lenten movie "40: The Temptation of Christ". Good turnout & 2 parishioners from St. John's also attended. The movie was well received. It was noted this movie can be viewed on Amazon Prime.

Report on Food Collection:

- Alice reported that the food collection is going well. Parishioners like that it is a designated item each month. Half of the items go to Feed My Sheep at the Athens United Methodist Church and the other half go to the Valley Food Pantry. A Thank You note has been received from the AUMC. They are most appreciative.

Old Business:

- Easement Issue – the Diocese's recommendation is to continue to use the document as written. Pastor Melinda has provided Vestry members with a draft letter to Clifton and Gloria Hall in this regard and all agree with its content.
- Parish Park Fair - tentative date June 10, 2023 pending Sayre Borough Council approval.
- Sharing Biographies with SJLC and vice versa – this is a St. John initiative with regard to "getting to know you". The suggested questions & a sample write-up was provided to Vestry members in a recent e-mail. "Parishioner of the Week" would be in the E-blast. Discussion followed with concerns voiced regarding this information would be on-line as the E-blast is on our Web page. Some people might not want this information "out there".

New Business:

- Indoor & Outdoor Property Maintenance – Spring Clean Up Day for the church interior (upstairs) will be March 25, 2023 from 9 am until noon. All are invited to come to help spruce up the church in time for Holy Week. Outdoor Clean Up Day will be May 13, 2023. A list of tasks will be provided. Suggest a Fall Clean Up Day also. Would like to invite Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, & students from the local schools who need community service to be a part of these events.

- Wednesday services during Lent - 12:00 pm at Redeemer includes Stations of the Cross & service, 12:30 pm service at SJLC. On Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be held at Epiphany School at 12:00 pm.

Compline

Adjourn: Motion made by Alice Bennett. Second by Bruce Carpenter – 8:26 pm

Next Meeting is Tuesday, April 11, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Siebecker
Clerk of Vestry