

VESTRY MEETING JUNE 13, 2023.

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

Absent: none

Treasurer: Bruce Carpenter

Chairperson: Rev. Cn. Melinda Artman

Opening Prayer

Agenda: Motion to accept the draft agenda made by Linda Murrelle. Second by Jeff Watson. Motion carries. Discussion: none

Minutes: Motion to accept the May 9, 2023 minutes made by Rev. Scott Harvey. Second by Jeff Watson. Motion carries. Discussion: In Jr. Warden's Report – typo Lawngevity (not Longevity).

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Jeff Watson. Second by Alice Bennett. Motion carries.

Highlights:

- Summary provided. Divided into 3 categories – Income, Expenses, and Net Operating Income. Focus on Net Operating Income. Net Total Income at a loss \$14,576.
- Receipts & Income Comparisons over Time – corrected data for March & April 2023 provided. Note: Capital/financial income & expenses are no longer included for 2023.

Senior Warden's Report:

- It was a successful Community Supper May 25, 2023
- Attended "Gather 23" and highly recommend attending future gatherings.
- Altar Linens moved to the Safe Room.
- New refrigerator received for the Parish Hall.

Junior Warden's Report:

- All 3 boilers have been shut down. Boiler #1 has a small leak that will be repaired before next heating season.
- AC units have been uncovered and powered up.
- The clock faces have been re-set mechanically by Jeff and Jerry has coordinated the time with the bells. The clock hands shift and will have to live with it. The clock lubricated.

- A downspout on the north side of the church has been repaired.
- The AC unit for the Parish Hall has had the insulation re-installed.
- A new white board on the Prayer Wall has been installed.
- The mason is unable to commit to a start date other than the original last 2 weeks of June or sometime in July. Jeff has arranged for the Organ Pipes to be removed.
- Materials have been purchased to repair the screens in the bell tower. John Paul will make the repairs.
- Will get a quote from Barry Enterprises for carpet cleaning (Parish Hall). Verbal quote of 20 cents a square foot.

Rector's Report:

- Mid-May until now has been eventful. We experienced two deaths within the St. John parish family and 3 funerals there or at graveside. Fr. Ben Lenz did a graveside service on our behalf for a former parishioner (Betty Bennett). Pastor Scott & Pastor Melinda, along with Linda Murrelle attended the Diocese's Gather 23 event on May 19-20, 2023. The Gather 23 Event was well worth attending and the keynote speakers were well received. Next year's event will be May 4th and Pastor Melinda hopes more of our community will make the effort to attend. Pastor Scott & Pastor Melinda also attended annual gatherings on the Lutheran portion of their responsibilities.
- Pastor Scott & Pastor Melinda have both been involved to varying degrees in planning for two Vacation Bible Schools and participated in planning for the Parish Park Fair. Unfortunately, representatives of the two parishes realized that we do not have enough volunteers to carry off the Fair as we have done in years' past. There was also a concern about a lack of vendors. The working group is considering a scaled down version and perhaps hold the event at St. John, using their space and pavilion to host at least our chicken barbeque. The postponed event will be based on Boy Scouts availability and St. John's willingness to host. The bracelets from last years fair have yet to be located.
- As we did last year, we will share summer worship with St. John. Our service will be a blend of Lutheran and Episcopal worship services and whichever church we happen to be in...that's the hymnal we'll be using. While worshipping at St. John, almost all of our worship will be displayed on the Big Screen TV. We will experiment with using our TV in the parish hall to do the same displays when our turn begins in August. Service time will begin at 9:30 am. Pastor Melinda is still searching for an intinction cup.
- After worship, we hope to offer the following:
 - Invitation to Brunch with the Pastor's at Beeman's
 - In the hour after the service an Adult Forum that may include:
 - Talk-Back – your thoughts on the sermon and/or the Lessons
 - Community Leaders to discuss items of concern in their field and how we as a faith community might be involved in addressing the concern. Potential community leaders include Tiffany Robbins & Heather McAllister, head librarians at Spalding and Sayre Libraries, respectively; Jill DiLasio, PhD

Superintendent of Sayre Public Schools, Police Chief Daniel Reynolds, and Dr. Verlyn Warrington &/or Erin Wayman to discuss systemic health care concerns.

- We intend to start “Coffee with Jesus” on Monday mornings beginning July 24. Bonnie Norton donated a few copies of What Made Jesus Mad by Tim Harlow and we intend to use this book as the conversation starter. We believe that we will host at Celebrations Black Diamond Café but they are not open on Mondays, so possibly will be on a Tuesday.
- Pastor Melinda & Alice Bennett attended the Pride Event at the Bradford County Courthouse.
- Monthly food collections may be dropped off at the host church or the atrium. St. John’s will organize items for CHOP.
- Volunteers to help plan a two-parish retreat for the fall or later – or for our Convocation – are Margaret Cole and Diane Siebecker. Pastor Melinda notes that she really needs help in her role as Northern Canon Missioner in getting our particular Convocation off the ground and more volunteers would be welcome.

Assistant Rector’s Report:

- Met with the council of OSLC in Horseheads and they agreed with the terms created from the Vestry May meeting. Have started helping them by arranging supply preachers per their local clergy and lay leaders for June and July. Pastor Melinda & Pastor Scott created a preaching schedule for the Sunday’s Pastor Scott will be in Horseheads.
- Received an email to save the date for an online training for Interim Pastors from the Florida-Bahamas Lutheran Synod. The skills should be beneficial in helping with the transitional pastor role along with term call.
- Wrote a voucher helping a person keep their utility turned on.
- Made two visits to the hospital.
- Helped with May’s Community Supper.
- Attended Gather 23 and NEPA Synod assembly.
- Attended a Facebook discussion on how to engage with those disconnected from Church and faith in our community with Pastor Eric Johnson along with reading his book called “Provoke Life: How You Can Help Jesus Change The World”. Pastor Melinda and I have been talking of implementing some of his suggestions.
- Helped with two funeral services at St. John Lutheran Church and led a graveside committal service in NYS.
- Forwarded a link from a church in Atlanta to Bruce to see if we can create a virtual prayer wall on our webpage. They have a way people can add prayers to their wall after reviewed by a moderator. The person can request to be shared, shared anonymously, or just sent to their prayer team.
- Created a QR code for Redeemer – for bulletins, informational pamphlets, signs, etc.
- Have been accepted to volunteer with Robert Packer Hospital as Chaplain. Hope it will make it easier for hospital visitations and increase visibility in the community.

VBS/Sunday School Report:

- Looking for teachers for VBS.

Youth Group Report:

- Had a discussion on Isolation, Depression, and Loneliness. What would God want us to do?
- No meeting June 18 (Father's Day). Will meet Wednesday, June 21 after Family Worship Service.

St. Mary's Guild Report:

- Annual Picnic was held June 8 at the home of Betsy Schumacher. It was a lovely gathering.
- Next meeting in September.

Old Business:

- Fire Alarm quotes discussed. A spreadsheet with details from Boss, Sentry, and Teledair was reviewed. Suggestions: look at reviews of each, have a sub committee meet with each company, and have someone knowledgeable (Skip Roupp?) review all quotes. Vestry members felt a need for more information before making a decision.
- The Parish Park Fair is currently postponed. A new date depends on having volunteers and Boy Scout availability. No decision made.

New Business:

- Discussion on paying for repair of the brick arch and installing a fire alarm system (using round numbers: \$4,000 for the arch, \$4000 to 8,000 for the alarm system = \$8,000-\$12,000). Will we get any reduction in insurance with a new alarm/fire system?
 - Potential Resources:
 - Borrow from ourselves via stained glass windows
 - Borrow from ourselves through DIT (Bruce does not recommend)
 - Apply for a Colt-Sterrett Loan from the Diocese (assuming we qualify)
 - Apply for a Long Name Society grant. Must apply by 9/15 for an October grant. Max grant is \$5000
 - Wait on alarm system until bequest is turned over to us
- Window Restoration Project – a list of windows available to adopt provided

Compline

Adjourn: Motion made by Alice. Second by Jeff – 8:20 pm

Next meeting is Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Siebecker, Clerk of Vestry