

## VESTRY MEETING AUGUST 8, 2023

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

**Absent:** Jeff Watson

**Treasurer:** Bruce Carpenter

**Chairperson:** Rev Cn. Melinda Artman

### Opening Prayer

**Agenda:** Motion to accept the draft agenda made by Bruce. Second by Betsy. Motion carries. Discussion: Correction – next meeting date September 12, 2023

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the June 13, 2023 minutes made by Betsy. Second by Alice. Motion carries

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to accept the June Treasurer's Report made by Linda. Second by Margaret. Motion carries. Motion to accept the July Treasurer's Report made by Betsy. Second by Linda. Motion carries

### Highlights:

- DIT is long term and needs to last (Bruce firmly opposed to borrowing from the DIT)
- When looking at “% of Annual Budget” keep in mind that 58% of the year is over
- YTD Net Operating Income shows a \$6,325 deficit while Net Operating and Current Non-Operating Income shows a \$6,618 deficit
- The Organ/Brick Work Project in total cost \$5,215  
Mason expense was \$1,465 and Organ Pipes including repairs \$3,750  
The job is complete and invoices are paid
- We will face AC issues soon. We need to be thinking about how we will pay for fixes. One possible avenue is to borrow from the Capital Funds account and repay it when the expected bequest is received

### Senior Warden's Report:

- The July Community Supper was sponsored by the Cardiac Cath Lab. Approximately 90 dinners were served (includes takeout)
- The oven pilot light went out during cooking of the chicken. Additional chicken had to be purchased

### Junior Warden's Report:

- The brick project in the church has been completed; the archway behind the organ pipes looks like new. The organ is ready to be used. The organ required minor repairs & the cost also included disassembling & re-assembling the organ

- The AC unit for the office area needed to be re-charged again. It has been determined that the coil is leaking. A replacement coil will cost between \$1500 and \$2000 including installation. Have received a quote from Patton's and a quote from Hal Fish is pending
- The AC unit for the lower parish hall is not functioning properly and needs to be replaced. Parts are unavailable and the refrigerant in this unit is no longer available due to government regulations. Quotes pending
- Parking Lot sealant was done in 2021. Possibly do in 2024
- Betsy noted that the ceiling is falling in the Undercroft. Bruce will take to the dump

### **Rector's Report:**

- After a wonderful effort to weed and spruce up the grounds in May, Glenn Murrelle rid the grounds of our abundant weed crop in late July
- Our mowers continue to make our grounds look fabulous – THANK YOU!
- Regarding the AC unit in the lower level of the church, it is over 30 years old and needs replacement. Estimated cost is \$20,000. The AC unit stopped working just before VBS
- We received a bid to reseal our parking lot – over \$5,000. The parking lot was resealed in 2021; we should not have to reseal it more often than every 3 to 5 years
- Regarding the oven that stopped working, the needed repair was identified. John Paul Jones will be making the repair and install the part (which we have on hand) prior to our August Community Supper
- Maria Layton has been hired to wash all the pews (there is brick/mortar dust and significant bat excrement on our pews) prior to services resuming on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Estimated cost is \$90
- The rugs replacing the kerosene soaked rugs in the parish hall came in the last week of July. At the request of our treasurer, St. Mary's Guild paid for the rugs directly. In addition, the rug in the Parish Hall was professionally cleaned by Class A on August 1<sup>st</sup>
- "*Veggie Tales: Jonah and the Whale*" made its third or fourth appearance for VBS. With much effort, Bonnie Garrity rounded up a crew that refreshed older props, repurposed other props, and created brand new props. I was very impressed with all the decorations and most impressed with the transformation of the Chapel into the Belly of the Whale – so much so that I asked that it be left up so our parishioners can see it when we return to worship here. Setting up was exhausting work for a small group of people. Working without AC was very frustrating – and I appreciate the kitchen crew who sweated to make creative treats/snacks. We had approximately 17 children participate with 2 youth expressing an interest in Youth Group and 4 children expressing an interest in Sunday school. I am blessed to be allowed to participate in our VBS program – I truly love doing it. By all accounts, this years VBS was a success

There is some interest in combining our VBS with St. John – I note that Epiphany and Valley Presbyterian joined forces these last two years and

presented one program in Waverly. Previously, we had some resistance to the idea of a joint VBS program with St. John. What both churches experience is that we no longer have enough volunteers, although the work gets done, it is done by a very small group of dedicated people. I would like us to be proactive in deciding whether and how to both honor the labor of love VBS has been for decades AND figure out a less burdensome way to provide this type of programming. **A motion was made by Diane, seconded by Bruce, to explore the possibility of joining forces for VBS or other options with St. John.**

**Motion carried**

- Christian Formation/Outreach: we have begun a book group at Celebrations Black Diamond Cafe on Wednesday mornings at 10. In the first two weeks, we have had good attendance from St. John and our parishioners. And we are visible being the church outside our walls and in the world. In other news, I still have not gotten a young adult group “Thirsty Theology” off the ground
- Pastoral Care: we have two parishioners with close family members undergoing cancer treatment. Names are on the prayer list. Our members need our TLC too – it’s so hard to watch a loved one suffer. I was called to the hospital twice for folks in need of either an Episcopal priest or someone in a Christian tradition. In the first case, the individual’s church closed and he had no priest. In the second case, I was the closest minister
- Plans for the fall:
  - We are looking for a Bible Study to offer in October/November time frame
  - At St. John we are hopeful of getting 3 people training in facilitating grief groups. I’m certain any of our members would be most welcome to participate in a grief group as the need arises
  - Youth group is floundering somewhat
  - Please think about what is most important to you about our parish life and what you would like your clergy to focus on – and what you might be willing to do to help
- Dreams and not yet plans:
  - “Thirsty Theology”
  - Some type of celebration for the windows...maybe a wine and cheese event with an organ recital?
  - Sending our youth to the Lutheran Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 2024
- Miscellaneous:
  - I have followed up with attorney Christopher Jones with regard to appointing new trustees for the Kresge Trust
  - In accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, I passed along to you (via email) a notice that the Rev. Arthur L. Jones, III has resigned his orders (meaning he is no longer a priest)
  - I am away on Diocesan business the week of September 11<sup>th</sup> and as a result will not be in attendance for Vestry
  - I will be on vacation from about September 20<sup>th</sup> until October 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Diocesan Convention is October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

- Planning a one day retreat during Advent/late November led by Rebecca Drebert. St. John's will be included
- Taylor Maslin from Athens is in a group of Christian Disciple Makers that targets small college campuses. She is looking for contributions for her group; possibly could be a speaker at worship or at a St. Mary's Guild meeting

**Assistant Rector's Report:**

- I attended the NEPA Synod information (via zoom) for the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024. They referred to [Glearn.elcagathering.org](http://Glearn.elcagathering.org) to take some courses to learn more about the event. I also joined the ELCA Network for Children, Youth & Family ministry. We have started identifying people for both the Gathering and Young Adult Gathering. The Young Adult Gathering is new for 18-35 years old since the last Gathering was cancelled. They have a stronger emphasis to include non-Lutheran youth from my previous experience
- The ELCA Youth Gathering will be July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans with the theme of "Created To Be". It is open for youth that are in 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of registration (fall 2023). The registration fee will be between \$375 and \$475 based on time of registration. (Sept 15-Nov 1) \$375, (Nov 2-Feb 14) \$425, (Feb 15-Apr 15) \$475. Hotel, meals and travel costs are extra. There is limited funds to possibly offset fees for the gathering at the time of registration
- The Lutheran Church in Horseheads should send the first donation to St. John of the \$700 + mileage this month. I believe St. John will keep the \$700 giving a credit of \$350 to Church of the Redeemer for my salary and forward the mileage to myself
- I have completed the paperwork and background checks to be a volunteer chaplain at the hospital (Pastor Scott has previously received Clinical Pastoral Education).
- I have another first-call retreat with the Synod scheduled for October 22-24, 2023
- I completed Transitional Pastor training (via zoom) that was presented by the Florida-Bahamas Synod. It was geared for first-call pastors and those working as an interim pastor or those in congregations in transition
- I was able to help with St. John VBS, but health issues prevented me from attending the VBS program at Church of the Redeemer

**VBS/Sunday School Report:**

- VBS went very well
- Start date for Sunday School is 9/10/23. Possibly having a breakfast that day

**Youth Group Report:**

- Attendance is low
- Discussion on Lending Library

**St. Mary's Guild Report:**

- The fall Rummage Sale & the Fall Fair are in the planning stages
- Monthly meetings resume in September
- Book Sale being held outside on the park side August 11, 2023

**Old Business:**

- Verizon has installed a dedicated “analog” phone line for the alarm system. The Fire Alarm issue is resolved
- The Parish Park Fair is cancelled for the year. Focus on the 2024 Fair. Tentative date is June 8, 2024

**New Business:**

- Use of the Chapel in the lower level: This area was used as part of the 2023 VBS program. The Columbarium and the Altar were blocked from view. It is suggested to only cover these areas with white linens in the event the Chapel is used for other purposes

**Compline**

**Adjourn:** Motion made by Bruce. Second by Alice – 8:37 pm

Next Meeting is Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Siebecker  
Clerk of Vestry

