

## **VESTRY MEETING October 10, 2023**

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

**Absent:** Alice Bennett, Doreen Marshall

**Treasurer:** Bruce Carpenter

**Chairperson:** Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

### **Opening Prayer**

**Agenda:** Motion to accept the draft agenda made by Linda. Second by Jeff. Motion carries. Addition to Rector's Report – Event November 4

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the September 12, 2023 minutes made by Jeff. Second by Linda. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to accept the September Treasurer's Report made by Jeff. Second by Margaret. Motion carries. Amended report sent out via e-mail.

### **Highlights:**

- Anticipate we will have a deficit for the year even if we hit expectations in both Operating Income and Operating Expenses (approximately \$18,000).

### **Senior Warden's Report:**

- St. Mary's Guild sponsored the September Community Supper. 75 people (includes takeout meals) were served a meal of Sloppy Joe's, Tator Tots & Whoopie Pies. The Sayre Christian Church will sponsor October's Community Supper. The menu includes "ghoulash".
- The October Rummage Sale was very successful with a profit over \$1,700. 10% of the profit will be donated to two food pantries. The balance is earmarked for AC repair.
- Request for an Eagle Scout Project (Boy Scout David Sampson). Landscape work to be coordinated with Glenn Murrelle & Jeff Watson to oversee. Scope of work to be determined.
- The Dyson upright vacuum cleaner is not working. Jeff will look at it.
- A Notice needs to be put in the Morning Times "Valley Calendar" for Community Suppers. Linda will call the newspaper for specifics & see that this is done. Jerry will continue to post on our outdoor sign.

### **Junior Warden's Report:**

- The air conditioning unit for the office is not functioning. It has been determined that the coil is leaking. Patton is attempting to source a new coil for our unit but

so far has been unsuccessful. Hal Fish is trying to determine the size of the unit for the parish hall to submit a quote for that unit. We expect to hear from both contractors within the week.

- Boiler #1 requires attention as it developed a leak at the end of last heating season. May be the patch that was applied last year.
- The radiators in the church have all been disassembled and cleaned.
- The shrubs on the north side of the church have been trimmed.
- The light in the vestibule of the church has been repaired.
- The no smoking sign in the parking lot has been “re-planted”. A no smoking sign on the north side of the church has been removed.
- The water damage in the closet has been determined to be old damage. The ceiling will be removed. The source of the damage to the ceiling in the undercroft has not yet been determined.
- After discussion it is decided to not have locks on the bathroom doors in the downstairs (safe church). Jeff will take care of this. Also to check the floor in the janitor’s closet.

#### **Rector’s Report:**

- Looking at a change in cleaning services. Pastor Melinda in discussion with Maria (but not as a sexton).
- Conference in Wilkes-Barre on November 4<sup>th</sup> - “How does Church work?”
- Parish Advent Retreat on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at the Valley Presbyterian Church. There will be a speaker and details are being finalized. St. John’s is also invited.
- Diocesan Convention is October 13-14. Linda will be attending with Pastor Melinda. The focus is on a potential merger of the Diocese of Bethlehem with the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. An 8 minute informational video was shown. Discussion followed. Of note, local Episcopal Churches include Athens, Sayre, Towanda, and Troy. Local Lutheran Churches include Sayre and Towanda.
- Discussion on upcoming annual pledges – stewardship approach. Do we want a “canned” approach from the Diocese or do we want a personal letter to our parishioners? The personal approach is preferred. Plan to finalize at our next meeting.

#### **Assistant Rector’s Report:**

- Pastor Scott started the Pastoral Care Zoom class through the seminary. This class will be every other month for six sessions.
- Started being called into the hospital. One weekend was called four times.
- Officiated the Lois and David Horn funeral on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Assisted with the Blessing of the Animals on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Worked with Youth Group leaders on the program year along with sending invitations to eligible youth starting on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Invitation to Family Night on October 6<sup>th</sup> was given to Redeemer’s Sunday School to hand out. The next Family Service is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Registered for training conference “Walking the Mourners Path” outside of Detroit for October 12-14.
- Visited a parishioner at the hospital and planning a home visit in October.
- Have a Mission District meeting as the representative on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Have a first call retreat with the Lutheran Synod October 22-24.
- Coffee with Jesus completed its first book. No one from the community joined the conversation but was a good book study. After a short break will resume with the next book (*Love Wins* by Rob Bell) and this book will also be discussed on Thursday evenings.
- Role as Transitional Pastor in Horseheads:
  - Working with local clergy and SAMS (approved lay leaders) finding supply preachers – has not been a problem.
  - Working with their council and able to schedule council meetings and pastoral visits to stay within the 20 hours for the month.
  - They are in the process of discerning their next step – calling a part-time pastor, partnering with one or more additional parishes, or becoming a Legendary Congregation (Synod takes over leadership).
  - Possibility they will want to extend my call past November. Looking for Council/Vestry input if they offer to extend my call to them. *Vestry members in agreement the Transitional Pastor role is beneficial to Pastor Scott.*
  - I was with them when they visited a local Episcopal Parish with their Canon.
- No local youth will be attending the Lutheran Youth Gathering.

#### **Sunday School Report:**

- The opening breakfast was held September 24<sup>th</sup>. The Chapel is being used as part of the Sunday School Program.
- A Halloween Party is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>. Plan to have games and snacks in the Parish Hall.
- A Christmas Play is being planned.

#### **Youth Report:**

- We have a new member. Youth are encouraged to invite a friend.

#### **St. Mary’s Guild Report:**

- Plans in progress for the Fall Fair November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Old Business:**

- The Parish Park Fair is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

#### **New Business:**

- A copy of our Mission Statement and Vision was distributed to members. Plan to discuss at our November meeting.

#### **Compline**

**Adjourn:** Motion made by Jeff. Second by Pastor Melinda – 9:02 pm

Next meeting is November 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Siebecker  
Clerk of Vestry

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