

VESTRY MEETING December 12, 2023

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

Absent: Margaret Cole, 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 New Business -upcoming holiday service & gift for Jerry.

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the November Treasurer's Report made by Linda. Second by Jeff. Motion carries. There was brief discussion.

Highlights:

- Even if we meet expectations in both Operating Income & Operating Expenses, we will have a deficit for the year; approximately \$18,000.

2024 Budget Highlights:

- Changes from budget presented in November discussed.
- Projections for 2024 Pledges decreased to \$83,000 (previously \$85,000.)
- Maintenance Services Expenses over by \$150 for 2023. Will leave this at \$2,000.
- Motion to accept the 2024 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee (Linda, Scott, Melinda, & Bruce) made by Melinda. Second by Jeff. Motion carries.
- A deficit of \$19,000 is projected for 2024.

Senior Warden's Report:

- Stained Glass Windows Celebration – planning for April 2024. A Gospel Quartet may be performing with a free will offering. May use the Hollingshead Savings Account to hire this group. Would like this celebration to be a festive occasion.
- The November Community Supper served 90 people. Plan to raise the cost of sponsorship from \$100 to \$150.
- Eagle Scout Project – Melinda will reach out to Scout Leadership as to the plan.
- Cleaning the Undercroft – hold off on any more rummage sale items for now, planning a Work Bee for clean up & to get rid of stuff no longer used. Tentative date end of January/early February.

Junior Warden's Report:

- The outdoor lights in our parking lot have been repaired.
- The lock in the parish hall men's room door has been removed.
- Boiler #1 has failed. We believe that a sensor in the firebox is bad or that the U control is bad. Parts for this boiler are obsolete. A new part would be approximately \$700. Jeff is trying to locate used parts. We are now operating on two boilers. Jeff has contacted a manufacturer of cast iron boilers to request pricing on a replacement unit. Researching cast iron vs. aluminum.
- The blower unit for the radiator in the atrium has failed. A replacement unit is not available. Jeff will remove the unit and attempt to make a repair on the bench.
- One light in the office has been repaired.
- Concrete work out front was started; however ran into issues & project on hold until spring.
- Greening of the Church is scheduled for 12/17.
- The pilot lights on the stove are going out. Jeff will repair.
- Betsy inquired about cleaning the carpet stains in the parish hall hallway. Berry Enterprises charges 50 cents a sq. ft. Jeff will measure the area needing cleaning. Jerry can make arrangements if it is decided to move forward.

Rector's Report:

- Vestry terms ending include Linda, Doreen, & Alice. Only Alice is eligible for re-election. Need to recruit new members.
- Vestry to serve snacks after caroling on 12/17.
- **Stewardship:** Letters were sent to our active members & known contributors (approximately 40 people) during November. Vestry members were asked to sign the letter & provide a personal note. From these letters, we had 23 households submit a written pledge, totaling \$59,166. If each of the 17 "non-pledgers" provided \$1,470 over the course of the year, we will easily make our estimate of \$85,000 for "pledge". Two letters will be sent out toward the end of next week: one to active members reminding them of the importance of their Christmas donation and the other to persons who have had some association with the parish and asking for a year end donation.

Although not directly related to stewardship, the Kresge trustees are now Emily Garrity & Doreen Marshall. Canon Melinda will send a thank you note to Attorney Chris Jones.

- **Annual Meeting/Giving Statements/Parochial Report:** December & January are among the three most stressful months for the staff because of workload. Offices will be closed Christmas Day & New Year's Day. Pastor Scott will take the week of December 25th as a week of recuperation and Canon Melinda will take the week of January 1st as a week of recuperation. We will be "all hands on deck" upon returning in order to prepare Giving Statements, the Annual Meeting, and the preparation of the Parochial Report. Canon Melinda believes it is important to add a handwritten note to every Giving Statement expressing our

thanks. Reports for the Annual Meeting need to be submitted as soon as possible after the first of the year. Prepare the report in a Word document and email to Jerry.

I suggest that the Annual Meeting take place on January 21, 2024 (or the following weekend) after the Sunday service with a potluck. An alternative might be to have the Annual Meeting take place on Saturday, January 20 after the 5:15 pm service followed by a potluck. Would the Saturday folks stay?

Proposed Table Topics (these come directly from the Parochial Report):

- What opportunities and challenges did we face in 2023?
- What changes do you hope to see in our community of faith?
- How have we named, addressed and/or dismantled injustices of racism personally, as a congregation, or in the Valley?

We will have a draft Parochial Report for the Vestry's review in February.

- **Pastoral Care:** A Graveside service was held for a parishioner of the former Grace Episcopal Church, Waverly. One of our parishioners had a car accident. A Memorial Service was planned for another parishioner.
- **Formation:** *Coffee with Jesus* concluded on November 29th. We had a good, small group at Celebrations coffee shop, and a larger group for Thursday evening at Redeemer. Interestingly, the Wednesday coffee crowd was primarily Lutheran and the Thursday group was exclusively Episcopalian.
- **Outreach/Community:** We had a fabulous turnout from our parish for the Bridge Sleep Out on November 24.

Canon Melinda has been asked to sit on the board of **Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Twin Tiers**. Am considering the request, however, thinks they need someone with more time than I can give them.

Both Canon Melinda and Pastor Scott are involved in our local clergy association.

- Motion to approve Resolution of the Vestry (regarding Canon Melinda's housing allowance) made by Alice. Second by Jeff. Motion carries.

Assistant Rector's Report:

- Home visit November 27th with communion.
- Next Family Service scheduled for December 20th.
- *Coffee with Jesus* and the Thursday night book discussion (*Love Wins* by Rob Bell) concluded. Plans are studying the Psalms for Lent.
- A group from Redeemer attended the Bridge Sleep Out on November 24th along with providing a collection from the parish.
- Completed a course from the NYC Commission on Human Rights on Confronting Sexual Harassment; required for staff and clergy in New York State for Lutheran congregations.

- Completed Clergy Ethics and Congregational Boundaries on December 5th through Safe Gatherings for New York Synod.
- Completed Homeless Training – How to manage problematic behaviors compassionately.
- Youth Group met on December 3rd and scheduled to meet December 17th.
- FYI. Requested St. John Lutheran Church to lower my housing allowance to \$16,000.
- St. John has started providing half of the money sent by *Our Savior's Lutheran Church* to reimburse us for my time as their Transitional Pastor.

Sunday School Report:

- Christmas Play performed

Youth Report:

- Small group

St. Mary's Guild Report:

- Fall Fair proceeds approximately \$4,500
- Considering changes to the Fall Fair, possibly one day event

Old Business:

- How will we intentionally live into our Mission Statement/Vision Statement this program year? What do we want our clergy to focus on? Laity? ***Tabled***

New Business:

- Betsy requests the ropes in the last few pews be removed for Christmas services. All in agreement. Diane would like the ropes removed permanently. No discussion.
- Christmas gift for Jerry \$50 Gift Card – motion made by Alice. Second by Jeff. Motion carries.

Compline

Adjourn: Motion made by Linda, second by Jeff – 8:39 pm

Next meeting is Tuesday, January 9, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Siebecker
Clerk of Vestry

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