

VESTRY MEETING January 9, 2024

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

Absent: Linda Murrelle

Treasurer: Bruce Carpenter

Chairperson: Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

Opening Prayer

Agenda: Motion to accept the draft agenda made by Bruce. Second by Jeff. Motion carries. Add to New Business – Trifold & Super Bowl Sunday

Minutes: Motion to accept the December 12, 2023 minutes made by Bruce. Second by Jeff. Motion carries with one amendment made – Cn. Melinda objected to having the ropes in the last few pews removed permanently

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

Highlights:

- Year to date operating income is short of expectations (88%). Pledges fell a little short but were more than made up in other areas. We had a DIT distribution, a \$5,000 gift from St. Mary's Guild, other gifts over \$600, Pastor Scott donated his payments from Our Savior Lutheran Church back to St. John's and Redeemer, and we had a huge Christmas offering (incredible generosity!). Operating Income at year end is 105% of what we budgeted.
- Operating Expenses for the year to date are a bit below expectations (96%). Altar expenses for the year were above budget (147%) but this is covered by the Bixby Trust. A huge cost savings was seen in Building Maintenance (51% of budget) – Thank you Jeff! The other operating expenses were all within a few percentage points of budget.
- Net Operating Income: we ended 2023 with a deficit of \$3,700 not the \$18,000 we anticipated.
- Community Supper had a good year – lots of meals served and a \$1,900+ increase in the savings account.
- General Discretionary Account – because of the DIT distribution, impressive 1st Sunday plates and a very generous donation, Pastor Melinda has over \$1,400 to send to The Bridge.
- The Payroll service has started with a few minor bugs to work out.

Senior Warden's Report: (provided by Pastor Scott)

- Stained Glass Window Celebration scheduled for Sunday April 14, 2024 with the Gospel Quartet booked
- Maria was able to clean the stain on the carpet in the hallway of the downstairs
- Community Supper was held December 28th with a good turnout
- Cleaning of the undercroft to be scheduled

Junior Warden's Report:

- Boiler #2 was down & was restored
- Issue with Boiler #1 – air handler broke down
- The Boiler System has reached “critical mass” and needs replacement
- The AC in the office and in the Parish Hall are not working – Jeff will contact contractor for quotes
- The door to the Parish Hall is broken – will repair

Rector's Report:

- Deep thanks and appreciation to Linda, Doreen and Alice for being on Vestry. Only Alice is eligible to run for another term and is willing to do so. Glenn Murrelle and Mitzi Mohn are considering running for Vestry
- Helen Tracy has passed away

Assistant Rector's Report:

- The next Family Service is scheduled for January 17th
- Plans are studying the Psalms for Lent, more information to come when available
- We had 8 people attending December 23 (Saturday 5:15 service), 26 on Advent IV am service, and 45 on Christmas Eve service
- Due to the weather forecast, a decision was not to have service January 6 and 7th
- I completed an Adult Mental Health First Aid course on Friday the 5th. I was introduced to the course at a Diocese of Bethlehem Clergy event
- Made Pastor Calls for several parish members and visited with communion to 2 other parishioners before Christmas
- Was called into hospital as a volunteer Chaplin and provided a business card to an Episcopalian new to the Valley
- Caroling was cancelled due to the weather
- The youth went bowling on December 26th
- Will have class #3 for Pastoral Care through my seminary on Zoom this Thursday
- Ash Wednesday is February 14th
- Holy week starts March 24th and Easter is on March 31st
- Our congregational meeting is January 28th this year
- The check for the bequeathment arrived. Bruce will work with the Diocese to best understand the options how to invest the funds along with what accounts to place some of the funds for easy access for the special projects. Please think about where we need to use the money along with keeping our ministries in mind

Sunday School Report:

- Have started a new program
- Will be doing the Heifer Project during Lent

Youth Report:

- Our small group continues to meet

St. Mary's Guild Report:

- Had a Christmas celebration/dinner at Yanuzzi's Restaurant on December 5th. We had a good turnout. Pastor Melinda gave a talk on "The Women Who Gave Us Christmas".

Old Business:

- Kresge Trustees – Emily Garrity and Doreen Marshall will be at the courthouse January 18, 2024 for official confirmation. Pastor Melinda and Bruce will be attending
- Candidates for Vestry previously discussed
- The Bequest from the Stanley D. Conklin Charitable Trust has been received. This will be announced at the pulpit, in the eblast, and at the Annual Meeting. How best to use this endowment to be determined. We do have an immediate need - the Boiler System and the AC Units. A formal letter of announcement will be sent out to parishioners by Pastor Melinda prior to the Annual Meeting
- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 28th immediately following the 11:00 am service and will include a potluck. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. A Certificate of Appreciation/Gift will be presented to Linda Murrelle for her outstanding leadership and commitment as Senior Warden as her term expires
- No information on the potential Eagle Scout Project at this time

New Business:

- Planning Shrove Tuesday (pancake supper) for Tuesday, February 13th with St. John's
- Ash Wednesday is February 14th. Imposition of Ashes will be at 12 noon at Redeemer and in the evening at St. John's
- Betsy clarified dates for the next Trifold
- Super Bowl Sunday is February 11th. The Sunday School group will be selling soup (no sandwiches this year)
- Bible Study during Lent will be Psalms. Details will be announced. Will either be a 4-6 week program studying 4 psalms *Looking for Jesus* or a 10 week academic program
- The Cath Lab will be sponsoring the February Community Supper with a "Heart Healthy Meal" provided. Will include blood pressure checks

Compline

Adjourn: Motion made by Diane. Second by Pastor Melinda – 7:56 pm

Next meeting is Tuesday February 13, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Siebecker
Clerk of Vestry

