

VESTRY MEETING February 13, 2024

Present: Rev. Cn Melinda Artman, Alice Bennett, Bruce Carpenter, Margaret Cole, Rev. Scott Harvey, Mitzi Mohn, Glenn Murrelle, Betsy Schumacher, Diane Siebecker, Jeff Watson. *We welcome new members of Vestry: Mitzi Mohn and Glenn Murrelle.*

Absent: none

Treasurer: Bruce Carpenter

Chairperson: Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

Opening Prayer

Agenda: Motion to accept the draft agenda made by Bruce, seconded by Jeff. Motion carries.

Election of Officers:

Senior Warden: Alice Bennett

Junior Warden: Jeff Watson

Treasurer: Bruce Carpenter

Clerk/Secretary: Diane Siebecker

Appointment of Diocesan Convention Delegate/Convocation 1 rep: Linda Murrelle

Approved by Vestry. *Alice humbly accepts her new role for the short term.*

Minutes: Motion to accept the January 9, 2024 minutes made by Bruce, seconded by Jeff. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the January Treasurer's Report made by Margaret, seconded by Jeff. Motion carries.

Highlights:

- Operating Expenses exceeded Operating Income but it is very early in the year.
- The Bequest received is not reflected in the report.

Senior Warden's Report:

- Plans to clean the headstone of Dr. Stanley D. Conklin.

Junior Warden's Report:

- The door closer to the lower parish hall has been repaired. The ¼" screws holding the closer in place have been replaced using 5/16" machine bolts.
- The lights over the sink in the ladies restroom have been repaired.
- The air handler in the boiler room, which provides heat and AC to the lower parish hall, has been repaired by replacing a relay in the unit. The air handler

showed considerable deterioration when it was opened up. The bad switch was shown.

- A meeting was held to determine what steps should be taken to address the issues with our HVAC system. Currently both AC systems are not functional and our heating system requires constant attention. Attendees of the meeting were our Pastor, Senior and Junior Wardens, and our Treasurer. A letter seeking bids to replace our current HVAC system will be sent to 5-6 contractors.

The parameters of the replacement system are as follows:

- One air conditioning system to cool approximately 2050 square feet along with the associated air handler.
- A second air conditioning system to cool approximately 1560 square feet along with the associated air handler.
- Two gas fired boilers with a combined 950 to 1 million BTU. Boilers must be of cast iron construction and have NO digital controls.
- A ¾ HP main circulator pump.
- An electric on demand hot water heater.
- One new fan coil to replace a failed unit.
- Any interested contractor may contact Geraldine Evans, Parish Administrator, by calling (570) 888-2270 or email parishadmin@redeemersayre.org to make an appointment to view our facility.
- The project is scheduled to start at the conclusion of heating season.

Rector's Report:

- January was a full month, primarily with work for the Diocese. Within our own parish, notable events included the deaths of Helen Tracy (just after Christmas) and working with her daughter to plan a funeral as well as providing pastoral care to Amy Murrelle and her mom Shirley Spears. We had Shirley's funeral here on January 29th. We continue to hold in prayer (and stay in contact with) the families of Baby Bob Cole and Allison Carpenter. As for Pastor Melinda, illness also characterized the start of the year, including COVID and the GI bug.
- Attorney Chris Jones managed the legal process to appoint new trustees for the Kresge Trust, pro bono. Emily Garrity and Doreen Marshall are now the trustees. We are indebted to Chris.
- Starting next month, I'd like to begin Vestry meetings with a type of Bible Study called Lectio Divina (LD). I have a couple of reasons for suggesting this: LD is a collective spiritual discipline that is easily shared, and LD requires active listening. Sharing Bible Study in this manner helps build community and trust, and when conflict inevitably occurs, provides a skill set that allows the conflict to be constructive. While I don't anticipate conflict, we do have some impactful decisions to make this year. The LD process takes 10 to 15 minutes at most.
- I also recommend that some or all of us read *Financially Stable Congregations* by James Elred, Jr. Ph.D. Given that we have been blessed with manna from heaven, how do we use this gift to maximize our well-being? Perhaps this book can help us with our decisions.

- I have ordered five copies of the Vestry Handbook. One of these will be a reference book available in the office. New members (Mitzi and Glenn) will receive a copy as well as one for Diane.
- Pastor Scott's Letter of Agreement concludes at the end of this year. He has begun the search process in accordance with ELCA policy. He hopes for a July 1st starting date at his next call. This begs the question of whether we can fill his position. The answer is dependent on whether and how the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Bethlehem decide to move forward together. By itself, the Diocese of Bethlehem cannot financially sustain the Canon Missioner model. We will know in about June the recommendations of the Discernment Committee, to include how Diocesan staff (including me) will be deployed. We will have absolute clarity in October, after our Conventions meet. At present, our Diocese employs two Canon Missioners (one in the North – Pastor Melinda; and one in the South).
- Living into the Diocesan goal of stable and vital congregations means participation in Convocation 1 (the four churches in Bradford County and the three churches in Susquehanna County). Our Convocation is just getting started and our participation is vital. As the Senior Warden, Linda has attended the Convocation meetings. Although the request is a member of Vestry attends these meetings, I recommend that Linda continue to represent us. If there is a member of Vestry who would like to be involved, there is nothing that limits laity participation to just one.
- Information on Black History Month is included in our eBlast.

Assistant Rector's Report:

- The next Family Service is scheduled for February 21st.
- Bible Study will be starting February 19th (6:30-8:00 pm) at St. John in the nursery in their North Wing. Will be discussing the book *Finding Jesus in the Psalms, A Lenten Journey* by Barb Roose.
- Attended the Lutheran Bishop Conference on 2/6/24 and 2/7/24.
- The last two youth meetings were cancelled due to only one youth attending.
- Ash Wednesday is February 14th. There will be a noontime service at Redeemer and a 7:00 pm service at St. John.
- Anticipating walking the Stations of the Cross at Epiphany School on Good Friday as is the tradition.
- Wednesday services during Lent will be held in the Chapel. Stations of the Cross will follow.
- Holy Week starts March 24th and Easter is on March 31st. Services will be divided with St. John.

Sunday School Report:

- Our soup sale was successful.
- The contribution pots on Super Bowl Sunday netted \$99.00 for San Francisco and \$39.00 for Kansas City. The proceeds will be donated.
- Miles of Pennies: Betsy will discuss with St. Mary's Guild.

- Mite Boxes will be available starting Ash Wednesday.

Youth Report:

- Continued low attendance.

St. Mary's Guild Report: (Diane provided)

- The Spring Rummage Sale is April 19th and 20th. Please hold on bringing your items to the church until the undercroft is cleaned out.

Old Business:

- The previously discussed Eagle Scout Project (landscaping) is not happening.
- An Eagle Scout project was presented by letter: Andrew Quattrini from Troop 4019 is planning to create cancer kits for the Nancy Quattrini Fund using donations of collected items. Would like to place a donation box in the church and the box will be labeled with requested items. Vestry approves Andrew's request.
- Noted John Johnson has stepped down as Boy Scout Troop Leader; the new leader is Pete Quattrini.
- **Resolution of the Vestry:** Church of the Redeemer has been blessed with a Bequest from the Stanley D. Conklin Charitable Trust in the amount of \$951,507.20. Pastor Melinda made a motion to deposit \$50,000 of this money into the Capital Account to be earmarked towards replacement of our HVAC system and deposit the remaining \$901,507.20 into a DIT (Diocesan Investment Trust Fund) with the Diocese of Bethlehem. Jeff seconded the motion. Motion carries.

New Business:

- The 2023 Parochial Report was reviewed. Alice made a motion to accept the report. Jeff seconded the motion. Motion carries.
- Linda Murrelle is in charge of coordinating cleaning out of the undercroft. Objectives include discarding items no longer used and to organize the entire area.
- A quote was received and presented to Vestry from White's Clock and Carillon Northeast, Inc. for the complete restoration of the tower clocks. The total investment for the project is \$33,163.00. No action taken by Vestry.
- Discussion held on how best to honor Dr. Conklin for his Bequest.
- **The Stained Glass Window Celebration** will be held Sunday, April 14, 2024. *Tribute Quartet*, a Gospel Group from Tennessee will be performing. Linda Murrelle is chairing this event.
- **The Parish Park Fair** will be held Saturday, June 1st, 2024.
- A Thank You card was received from Linda Murrelle.

Prayer: Presented by Pastor Melinda from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer.

Adjourn: Motion made by Diane, seconded by Jeff – 8:55 pm

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Siebecker, Clerk of Vestry