

VESTRY MEETING March 12, 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

Absent: none

Treasurer: Bruce Carpenter

Chairperson: Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

Lectio Divina: The Parable of the Talents

Agenda: Motion to accept the draft agenda made by Alice, seconded by Jeff. Motion carries. Add to new business – Narcan Training.

Minutes: Motion to accept the February 13, 2024 minutes made by Bruce, seconded by Jeff. Motion carries.

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

Highlights:

- Bruce reported he is cautiously optimistic regarding our finances.
- The Conklin bequest has been deposited with \$50,000 going into the Capital Fund Savings and \$901,507.20 going into the DIT (designated #348 Conklin). Truist manages our DIT accounts and the check has cleared the bank. A distribution is to be received at the end of the month. Technically we should not be receiving a distribution at this time. Do not know the amount we will receive but we can put it back. *Table until April meeting.*

Senior Warden's Report:

- No new information at this time.

Junior Warden's Report:

- The Code Enforcement Officer has asked that we trim the shrubs at the corner of Wilbur Ave. and Hayden St. as the shrubs were blocking the corner sidewalk. This has been taken care of.
- We have received two responses from contractors concerning the HVAC project. Jeff has walked thru with Jeff Paul and Van Patton. They have each spent about two hours looking at and discussing our requirements. They each had similar ideas with some differences.
 - Air Conditioning: Both contractors agree that we must replace the air conditioner and air handler for the lower parish hall. Both contractors agree that we should not replace the air conditioner or the air handler for

the office area as that unit was installed in 2009 and the unit is still being manufactured; this unit also takes the new 410 refrigerant. We will, however, have to replace the coil in the air handler.

- Hot Water Heater: Both contractors agree that replacing the present 60 gallon electric hot water heater with an on demand hot water heater is a good decision. Patton would like to replace using a gas fired unit and Paul would like to replace using an electric fired unit. Both contractors indicated that the new on demand unit is much more reliable and efficient than those manufactured just a few years ago. We will be moving the water heater to a more accessible area.
- Circulator Pump: Both contractors agree that the circulator pump must be replaced as the present unit is failing.
- Boilers: Both contractors agree that our boilers need to be replaced and that they have both replaced almost all of this type of boiler that had been previously installed. Paul would like to replace using two stainless steel boilers and use our present venting system. Patton would like to replace using two cast iron boilers of a similar BTU rating, between 750 BTU and 800 BTU as our third boiler was installed to support the residual hot water system that we no longer use. Venting seemed to be an issue with both contractors. To use our old chimney we would have to install a stainless steel liner at a cost of 35 thousand to 40 thousand. The government mandated in 2015 that all new heating systems may not be fired by a standing pilot light, so our new boilers will be ignited by an electronic system. We will also have a control system between the two boilers.
- Miscellaneous: Jeff has asked that all circulator pump on/off switches be moved to a common area for ease of use. We would like all unnecessary piping to be removed. Both contractors agree that they can repair the fan coil in the atrium.
- Warranties would be for ten years; should last 40-50 years.
- The flushers on the urinals need to be looked at; will ask John Paul to do this.
- The light cover in the kitchen needs replacement.

Rector's Report:

- Many of our parishioners are in need of support (prayer and otherwise). *For further information contact Pastor Melinda.*
- Holy week is coming up and it will be a busy time at both churches. The Saturday service will be the Easter Vigil and only one service will be held that Saturday at St. John.
- Both Pastor Scott and Pastor Melinda will be attending renewal of ordination vows and blessing of the Chrism. Pastor Melinda will be attending the Episcopal version at Nativity Cathedral in Bethlehem on March 21st and Pastor Scott will be attending the Lutheran version on March 26th at the Lutheran Center in Allentown.
- The Diocese held an Absalom Jones celebration at St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. There was a morning workshop, a lovely luncheon and a worship service in the afternoon. This celebration was part of the Diocese's anti-racism

efforts. Linda Murrelle accompanied Pastor Melinda to Wilkes-Barre and she says she was glad she went to the event.

- Our Convocation, Convocation 1, will be meeting with the Bishop on April 9th at 3:00 pm at Christ Church Towanda. The purpose of the meeting is to speak with the Bishop regarding the proposed merger between Central Pennsylvania and Bethlehem Diocese. This meeting is open to anyone.
- Under Linda Murrelle's direction, the Undercroft is being cleared out. People working on clearing out what we no longer need are making remarkable progress. The more daunting project appears to be the Sunday School area. Thank you to the wonderful elf who cleared out the ceiling debris so the Sunday School team could get into their area.
- Linda Murrelle and Alice Bennett have been working on cleaning up the kitchen and especially the pantry area. Linda has strong opinions on what should be allowed to be stored and used and by whom. We have a lot of groups who routinely use the kitchen and many seem to have no knowledge of how others might be using this resource. It makes sense to have a "Kitchen Coordinator" who can work with the various groups, coordinate the ordering of supplies, and ensure the potential for everything in its place, and a place for everything. Linda Murrelle would be a good choice for this role.
- Aqua Water was here this weekend. We had a water main leak in the street on Park Avenue. A large hole was dug up near where we place our trash cans for trash pick up. Aqua workers made sure we had water, that it was properly chlorinated, and had water pressure. They discovered that the water pipe leading into the church is lead. To mitigate the hazard from the lead, they gifted us a Brita filter. *This was discussed by Vestry. Jeff will check the pipes. Is this a concern? Testing for lead to be done.*
- The Stained Glass Window Celebration is on Sunday, April 14th. Invitations are being sent out. Plans underway for the Open House, showcasing the windows, refreshments, and the concert.

Assistant Rector's Report:

- The next Family Service is scheduled for March 20th.
- Bible Study has been going on Mondays starting at 6:30 in the nursery at SJLC. After 15 minutes of group discussion, the 22 people separated into three smaller groups to encourage more discussion. We gather again in the nursery for the last 15 minutes of class.
- The last youth meeting was held on March 3rd and the next meeting is scheduled for March 17th.
- During Lent have Stations of the Cross at Redeemer after our noontime service.
- Anticipate walking the Stations of the Cross at Epiphany School on Good Friday as is the tradition.
- Holy Week starts March 24th and Easter is on March 31st. Redeemer will have Good Friday service. SJLC will have Maundy Thursday service and Easter Vigil. All services will be held at 7:00 pm.
- Community Supper will be on Maundy Thursday this month.
- A Sayre resident was provided a voucher through The Bridge.

- Home visits with communion were scheduled for the season of Lent.
- Pastor Scott attended the local Clergy Ministerium meeting at the hospital cafeteria on 3/6/24.
- Pastor Scott continues to volunteer as an on-call chaplain at the hospital.
- As the Transitional Pastor in Horseheads, Pastor Scott has been working with Pastor Jonathan Deibler and Canon Megan Castellan. One option they are looking at is creating either a 2- or 3-point parish.

Sunday School Report:

- none

Youth Report:

- none

St. Mary's Guild Report:

- none

Old Business:

- Five volunteers needed to be available to answer questions at the Stained Glass Windows Celebration on April 14th
- Cleaning out of the Undercroft is progressing.

New Business:

- Linda Murrelle is appointed "Kitchen Coordinator"
- Plan to co-sponsor Narcan Training with SJLC for a Saturday in April.

Compline

Adjourn: Motion made by Bruce, Seconded by Jeff – 8:20 pm

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Siebecker
Clerk of Vestry

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