

## **VESTRY MEETING April 8, 2025**

**Present:** Rev. Cn Melinda Artman, Alice Bennett, Bruce Carpenter, Margaret Cole, Doreen Marshall, Mitzi Mohn, Glenn Murrelle, Linda Murrelle, Diane Siebecker

**Absent:** none

**Treasurer:** Bruce Carpenter

**Chairperson:** Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

**Lectio Devina:** Mark 6:7-13

**Agenda:** Motion to accept the agenda made by Linda, seconded by Bruce. Addition to new business: Betsy's requests for Sunday School. Motion carries with this addition.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the March 11, 2025 minutes made by Linda, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to accept the March 11, 2025 treasurer's report made by Diane, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.

**Highlights:**

- Receipts: We continue to lag behind the last two years; particularly due to pledges.
- Expenses: Operating expenses are right on target. We paid Jeff Paul the final installment for the AC upstairs (\$8,100) and paid the first half of the new security system (\$12,500). The first quarter donation went to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Northern Tier.
- Net Operating Income: We had a surplus for the month (thanks to the DIT distribution) and the YTD deficit was cut from \$15,316 to \$8,206.
- Diane would like a reminder in the e blast that the first Sunday of the month donation (extra cash/change) is designated for The Bridge.

**Senior Warden's Report:**

- Margaret provided an update on the Parish Park Fair. Plans are progressing nicely. Linda reminded Vestry that we provide a Gift Basket for the Raffle with \$10 of Lottery Tickets or Cash from each member.
- Youth Group is meeting regularly.

**Junior Warden's Report:**

- Alice notes that the Community Supper Savings is substantial. The balance is over \$7,000. Suggested donating an amount or obtaining gift cards to provide some relief to a local agency in need, in other words "pay it forward". Vestry was asked to think about this.
- A written report for Building and Grounds provided by Jeff Watson. The Jr. Warden room clean-up is now 90% complete with only two 5-gallon pails to be

disposed of. The room is now divided into sections for electrical, plumbing, and tools.

The sink in the sacristy is still not draining well. As discussed previously, I believe that the dry well is most likely caved in or is full. I have contacted Jeff Paul to run their drain cleaning equipment through the line going into the floor in the boy scout room where the pipe is located. They also have a bore scope that will determine if the dry well has caved in. This work will be done within the next two weeks.

I made repairs to a few minor items in the lower parish hall.

### **Rector's Report:**

- Andrew, Axle & Violet Lewis will be baptized on Pentecost (June 8).
- The contract with Bishop Brother's to redo our parking lot has been signed.
- Sentry Alarms has been authorized to upgrade our security system. The work will begin in a few weeks.
- Bible Study is offered in two sessions on Thursdays – one in the morning and one in the evening. These are well attended with 20+ people attending.
- Two youths are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. We have had an intense period of preparation with all the youth during Lent.
- I attended a week-long national meeting with 69 Diocesan Transition Ministers. What I learned: an increasing number of dioceses have parishes partnering with ELCA congregations. What isn't new: there are more parishes in search of clergy that there are clergy looking for a new call.
- I attended a two-day workshop with NEPA Synod on being supportive leadership to congregations' participation in the 6-2-6-1 initiative (6 congregations, 2 pastors, 6 worship leaders, 1 deacon). It is hoped that I bring ecumenical partners (e.g. Episcopalians) into these partnerships in NEPA.
- Holy Week is being prepared for. I plan to take Easter Monday off as "comp time".
- My educational focus for the congregations will almost immediately shift to supporting Vacation Bible School.
- You will find that during "good weather" I will be absent at least one Sunday a month visiting other parishes in the northern part of the Diocese.
- One of the committees I serve on at the Diocesan level is "Mission Resources Committee". This committee reviews grant applications made by our parishes to support new ministry efforts that serve the greater community. Christ Church Towanda submitted a grant request to support Grace Connection – an ecumenical ministry much like the Valley's "The Bridge". The request was for \$10,000. This request was not granted. As The Bridge is experiencing, the need for assistance only continues to grow. For this reason, I am nominating Grace Connection for consideration for our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter donation.
- From the discretionary fund – a family of four was given \$100 worth of Aldi's Gift Cards. The gift cards were purchased late last year.

**New Business:**

- The Sunday School (Betsy) requests a quilt be hung in the upper stairwell. Margaret will talk with Betsy as to where best to hang the quilt for optimal visibility. Also, they would like a corkboard placed in the parish hall. It would need to be a large size. Margaret will get details from Betsy. Sunday School has funds for this expected purchase.
- Vestry has decided our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter donation will be given to Grace Connection (Towanda) in the amount of \$250 and any additional monies received and designated for this worthy organization. Diane requests this information be put in the e blast.

We adjourned with saying of the Lord's Prayer – 7:28 pm

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Siebecker  
Clerk of Vestry