

VESTRY MEETING October 14, 2025

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

Absent: Doreen Marshall, Linda Murrelle

Treasurer: Bruce Carpenter

Chairperson: Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

Opening Prayer

Agenda: Motion to accept the agenda made by Margaret, seconded by Diane. Motion carries.

Minutes: Motion to accept the September 9, 2025 minutes made by Bruce, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2025 made by Alice, seconded by Glenn. Diane asked about St. Mary's Guild Savings account – this account had been deleted. St. Mary's Guild only have a Checking account. The Vestry Quarterly Donation was put under 5559 Outreach Expense – Misc and will be moved to 5519 Vestry Quarterly Donation. Motion carries with these changes.

Highlights:

- Disposition of Bixby Trust Windfall – with the death of Mr. Bartoo the agreement stipulates that the remaining holdings be rolled into the charitable portion of the original Bixby trust. Based on market value, approximately \$50,000 will be the annual distribution. *Alice made a motion, seconded by Margaret that we apply \$16,000 towards the annual budget and the remainder to be applied to the Capital Project Fund. Motion carries.* In addition, Altar Guild will receive approximately \$7,500 annually (was \$900) – specified for the altar.

Senior Warden's Report:

- Fall outdoor clean-up date is Saturday, October 25th at 8:00 AM
- Youth Group and interested adults will be going to Miller's farm in Columbia Crossroads for a Corn Maze on October 25. We will depart the church parking lot after the 5:15 PM service.
- Coffee Time will be before worship on the third Sunday of the month for October (Amy) and November (Glenda). For December, we will plan on Coffee Time after worship as we will be decorating the church for the Advent Season and will include pizza.

Junior Warden's/Building & Grounds Chair Report:

- Alice has received a request to have the main exterior door refinished. It appears that all the exterior doors need to be done and will need to be a summertime project. If anyone has a contact that does this type of work, please let the office know. Will have a notice put in the eblast also.
- Community Suppers are going well. Pastor Melinda is donating a High Chair.
- Jeff Watson has provided this report – all of the radiators in the church have been cleaned and the filters have been replaced. A few minor repairs were also made. The boilers and furnace have had the maintenance completed and are ready for the upcoming heating season.

Rector's Report: The Rummage Sale has been cancelled due to unavailability of volunteers to assist with the sale. I am hosting a service Thanksgiving evening at St. John's.

Bixby Trust

One of the heirs to the Bixby Trust has died, and in accordance with the terms of the will, that individual's portion is redistributed to the other heirs. This is good news and our distribution from the Bixby Trust more than doubles *annually*. Additionally, the altar guild receives a generous increase in annual income. The Bixby Trust funds are meant for the care and maintenance of the church. We anticipate receiving at least \$30,000 more each year. Bruce will have more to say about this. Our initial thoughts are that these funds should be reserved for capital improvements. We have a number of projects that may benefit from these funds.

Sunday School

I had a delightful meeting with Bonnie and Betsy, ranging from table and chairs, to curriculum, to participation in worship. They do have a concern (that I share) that one-time events force them to move their decorations or take down their set up. We might think of ways to ensure that impacts of things like rummage sales have minimal impact for them. I will be ordering for them a sampling of a proposed curriculum.

Sound System

We have now had three experts come and look at our old and inadequate sound system. We hope to have three bids to consider. At least one of the experts is actually a sound engineer. I have been advised by a diocesan colleague that we apply for a grant equal to half the cost of the system. The two bids we've received so far are expensive. We wait with anticipation for the third. I have included the form for the grant with the Vestry materials.

By-Laws

Starting in 2017, our diocese required all parishes to have the same by-laws. These by-laws became part of the diocese's canons. Effective January 1, with the Diocese of the Susquehanna, we can keep these by-laws or craft our own. I have included our former by-laws and the relevant diocesan by-laws. Neither work perfectly for us. I recommend

a small group of us craft new by-laws for adoption in December. They would become operational in January, just in time for our annual meeting.

Other information:

- I am presiding at two graveside services, one for Edith “Louise” Baker on Friday, October 10 and the other for Carolyn May Rumph Geiger on Tuesday October 14. Both women had a long-ago association with Redeemer although I can find no record of them in our parish registers.
- I trained acolytes as part of a youth group meeting. Two of them served for the first time on 10/5 and we had record attendance. It was glorious.
- I am “training” the altar guild on October 24.
- I need to be out of town Oct 21-23...the first two days to receive coaching on parish partnerships and the 23rd is a meeting with Bishop Audrey Scanlon in Harrisburg.
- Nina has knee replacement surgery October 29 and I expect to be working from home in the initial stages of her recovery.
- Hazel will cover the Saturday service for me on November 1.
- My last outside the parish visitation will be November 8.

Other Reports:

Sunday School - underway

Youth Group - underway

St. Mary’s Guild - began their schedule

Old Business:

- New AV equipment – 3 bids received and discussed. Bids received from AV Sound & Electronics, OnCor Technologies, and Larry W. Hoey. *Glenn made a motion to go with OnCor Technologies, Margaret seconded the motion. Motion carries. Bruce made a motion to apply for a Mission Resources Grant for funding through the Diocese, Glenn seconded the motion. Motion carries.*
- We had a conversation with SJLC on October 12, 2025 regarding year-round joint worship. A working group was decided - Diane suggested we have 2 more members, one from each congregation. See addendum for questions & responses.
- An Organ/Harp Holiday Concert is scheduled for December 14, 2025 at 3:00 PM.
- The Tribute Quartet contract is signed. This concert is scheduled for April 17, 2026.
- Diocese Convention is October 17-18. Margaret will be attending.

New Business:

- Creation of and adoption of by-laws for 2026. Alice and Margaret volunteered to prepare with Pastor Melinda. This will be presented at the January Annual Meeting.
- The Bridge’s Sleepout will be the day after Thanksgiving starting at 3:00 PM and continue until 3:00 PM Saturday. This is a 24-hour fundraiser. We plan to participate again this year with a one-hour time slot. Youth and adults are all

invited. Our fourth quarter donation will be for The Bridge of the Penn York Valley Churches.

- Priorities for our “Capital Improvement” list for 2026:
 - First quarter:
 - New flooring in the parlor
 - LED lights lower level
 - Second quarter:
 - Paint parish hall
 - Upgrade/remodel kitchen
 - New Sound System - timeline depends on contractor
 - Refinish exterior doors – would be a summertime project

Adjourn with saying of the Lord’s Prayer – 8:17 PM

Motion to adjourn made by Alice, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Siebecker
Clerk of Vestry

ADDENDUM:

First conversation regarding worshipping with SJLC all year long. October 12, 2025

Question 1: What do you think are the reasons some are suggesting we worship all year together? Do you agree?

- We have a fuller Congregation (2x)
- Okay for Summer & 5th Sunday of the Month
- So we can consolidate resources
- So we can have one supply clergy when pastor is out of town
- Music could be richer/maybe have a choir again
- Our activities can be combined
- So we can attract newcomers
- We’d have greater strength
- It would be easier on the pastor

Question 2: What concerns do you have if we were to make this change? What should we consider carefully before we make this decision?

- How do we communicate where we worship when? How do we make sure everyone who needs to know, knows?
- We’ll lose members
- Redeemer is too difficult to access
- There are mobility issues at Redeemer - both parking and walking
- Loss of rituals & traditions

- Loss of identity
- Loss of SJLC members
- Start one to two times per month at first
- It's hard to see at Redeemer
- This change will be confusing for members
- There are still two buildings to maintain - heat/electric bills to pay
- What will the time be?
- How will we attract new members
- The 5:15 service will have to move into the Church (because there will be too many people for the parlor to hold.)

Question 3: What benefits can you envision if we were to ultimately worship together all year?

- See comments under question 1
- More voices
- Appealing to newcomers
- More activities (2x)
- Bigger Bible studies; choir
- Get to know one another better
- More spiritual growth
- Larger everything
- More time & new ideas with the other congregation
- Connection with one another
- None

Question 4: How does this idea pose any sort of threat to our identity and our ability to thrive as a congregation?

- Loss of members
- Happy & grateful to be together
- How to keep Lutheran and Episcopal faith & liturgies alive and be combined
- Fear of change - Would we be willing to share our traditions?
- Individuals are different so reactions will be different
- Lifelong Episcopalian and Lutherans won't like it

Folks willing to be on a working group to sort through the issues/concerns:

- Katie Zeller, Mary Rhodes, Lousie Morningstar, Sheila Slawta

Suggestion: Vestry & Council should meet together at least quarterly at a time OTHER THAN normal meeting time.

Positives to the idea: 10:00 a.m. start time. Negatives to the idea: different liturgies, inability to hear at Redeemer, Jesus is on the cross at Redeemer: Jesus is NOT on the cross.