

## VESTRY MEETING January 13, 2026

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

**Absent:** Bruce Carpenter, Doreen Marshall, Linda Murrelle

**Treasurer:** Bruce Carpenter

**Chairperson:** Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

### Opening Prayer

**Agenda:** Motion to accept the agenda made by Alice, seconded by Glenn. Diane requested adding Quarterly Donation to the agenda. Motion carries with addition.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the December 4, 2025 minutes made by Margaret, seconded by Alice. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to accept the December 2025 Treasurer's Report made by Alice, seconded by Mitzi. Motion carries. We ended the year strong.

- Additions to the report are Public Concert Series Income & Public Concert Expenses. Bruce suggested donating all concert profits to The Bridge or other local charitable organization.
- ***A resolution (motion) was made by Melinda, seconded by Alice, that all profits from the Concert Series be donated to a local charitable organization. Motion carries.***
- We earned \$75 in profits from the Harp & Organ Concert & will ask Jerry to send this to The Bridge.

### Senior Warden Report:

- Food for the upcoming Annual Meeting is being ordered.
- Roku for the smart TV is being purchased.
- A candle is being purchased for worship services to highlight one of the stained glass windows being spoken about during the service.
- Finding a live Christmas tree was difficult this year. ***It is proposed we purchase a large artificial tree for the church to use in future years. It may or may not be pre-lit & it can be decided later if ornaments will be hung. Glenn made a motion to purchase an artificial tree, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.*** Margaret will look into finding the perfect tree.

### Junior Warden/Building & Grounds Chair Report:

- Saturday services are being held in the church for the present time.
- The new Sound System is working well.
- It is brought to our attention that some of the pews are in need of refinishing. Also mentioned the possibility of obtaining pew cushions. Tabled at this time.

- Jeff Watson reports that Mountain Lake Electric is waiting for supplies for the LED light project. Supplies should be here next week & then we can implement a plan for installation. Some of our lights are not working so the sooner the better.
- The Community Supper on 12/30/2025 was not well attended but we were able to still serve the community & many people did take-out. Vestry served those in attendance.

**Rector's Report:** The focus in December tends to be all that leads up to Christmas. This December was no exception. Below are the highlights from my perspective.

- First and foremost, thank you very much for the Christmas gift certificate to Yanuzzi's. Your thoughtfulness and support are greatly appreciated.
- December was very cold and our building remained warm. Any issues we had (notably the Parlor) were thermostat issues, and reprogramming them kept our facility warm when we needed heat. The new boilers appear to be working well.
- We had at least two or three occasions of overnight snow fall. I am grateful to those volunteers who get up early and remove the snow and salt our sidewalk. It has been pointed out to me that sometimes the hospital maintenance crew takes care of our sidewalks. *Shall we send them a gift certificate to a local restaurant as thanks?*
- I was invited to be the "program" for St. Mary's Guild's Christmas Dinner. I provided an interactive worksheet on Pennsylvania Christmas traditions. This meeting had to be postponed from Dec. 2 to Dec. 16 due to a snow storm.
- On December 14th a Sunday afternoon, Ted Davenport gave an organ and harp concert. It was fairly well attended and residents of Sayre Health Care were also in attendance. The free will offering covered our expenses (we paid Ted) plus a little extra. My hope is that we are able to offer concerts, or at a minimum, coordinate a concert schedule with other area congregations.
- That same Sunday, SJLC had invited our congregation to a potluck after our 11:00 service. Margaret and our youth attended.
- Our new sound/AV system was in place by December 21<sup>st</sup>. It is wonderful and well received. Louise Morningstar reports that her daughter in London, England remarked on the better sound and was delighted to see her mom in the congregation. We are having some connectivity problems and our vendor is coming back to see if he can help resolve them. We may have to migrate our live feed from Facebook to YouTube.
- I was able to make pastoral visits and provide communion to four of our parishioners.
- We had most worshippers participate in greening of the church. It took about 40 minutes! We enjoyed breakfast pizza together and our reward was a job well done.
- Christmas Eve worship at both St. John and Redeemer met our expectations for our post-COVID new normal. A significant number of our members attended the earlier service at St. John. I am delighted that our parishioners are comfortable worshipping at St. John (and vice versa).

- We had a nice, if light, turnout for our Community Supper, with Vestry members serving and providing some tasty Christmas cookies. The festive Happy New Year's tiaras were a nice touch. Thanks to all who came out to help.
- My Christmas focus immediately changes to Annual Meeting focus. With regard to Vestry elections, Margaret and Bruce are completing their second terms. The change in by-laws will allow them to seek an additional term without taking a year off. Jeff Watson is willing to come back on Vestry. I had occasion to review once again the new Diocesan canons and realized that I overlooked or failed to comprehend that while the Vestry adopts new by-laws, Annual Meeting must ratify them (without change). The by-laws become effective as of the date of the Annual Meeting. After pronouncing a quorum, the adoption of the by-laws will be the first order of business.
- At our meeting I will provide details on Discretionary Fund expenditures for December and early January.
- I have received a request from Guthrie to use our parking lot. This would potentially be for Physical Therapy/Rehab patients. There will be a meeting with myself, Guthrie representatives, & Sayre Borough to discuss the feasibility. Several questions/concerns come to mind; is this a legal matter, will Guthrie employees park there, & will the parking lot be available for our use when needed? Is it possible that Guthrie employees would then provide snow removal & shoveling duties in exchange for the use of our parking lot?
- A concert by "Simple Gifts" is a possibility for 2026.
- The Discretionary Fund was used to provide a gift card for Aldi's as well as a rent payment.
- There are potentially seven Baptisms for this year.

#### Diocesan activity:

- The second week in December, I attended a Diocesan staff retreat for three days. My responsibilities as Transition Officer (helping parishes find clergy) have been reduced to cover just my 28 parishes, rather than extend to all the Diocese. This will reduce my workload significantly. The retreat went well and based on it; I decided to try to juggle Diocesan work with parish work for at least another year.
- I understood our original partnership with the Diocese to be one job with three partners. The new Diocese does not view it that way. Their view is that I have a part-time job with them, and that is their only concern. There seems to be understanding that I have other responsibilities that may take precedence over Diocesan wishes. The good news is that the Diocese will handle payroll for all three of the former partners. I still wish to pursue hiring an assistant and I will be asking Trinity Athens to partner with me in this position.

#### Old Business:

- An estimate of \$3,500 from "The Wood Doctor" has been obtained to refinish the front doors of the Church. The doors will need to be removed & plywood placed over the entrance. This project is approved by consensus. Anticipated to be completed over the summer

**New Business:**

- *Guthrie grounds crew has helped us out recently with snow shoveling & is much appreciated. Margaret made a motion, seconded by Diane, that we provide a \$100 Gift Card to them from a local restaurant with a note of thanks. Motion carries.*
- Diane provided the 2025 quarterly donation summary & a list of suggested charities for 2026. All encouraged to add to the list any needy organization in our community. We decided to send our First Quarter 2026 donation to Scouting America Troop 4019 designated to support our local Wreaths Across America organization.
- Regarding the Annual Meeting - Bruce Carpenter, Margaret Cole, & Jeff Watson are the nominees for Vestry.

**Adjourn with saying of The Lord's Prayer -**

*Motion to adjourn made by Alice, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries – 7:28 PM*

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Siebecker  
Clerk of Vestry