

## VESTRY MEETING April 14, 2026

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

**Absent:** Alice Bennett, Glenn Murrelle

**Treasurer:** Bruce Carpenter

**Chairperson:** Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

**Opening Prayer** – Easter Devotions

**Agenda:** Motion to accept the agenda made by Cn. Melinda, seconded by Diane. Additions: Betsy requested an eBlast summary of Vestry meetings, Diane requested Quarterly Donation & Gather 26. Motion carries with these additions.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bruce needed to leave early so discussed at this time. Motion to accept the March Treasurer's Report made by Linda, seconded by Jeff. Motion carries.

### **Highlights:**

We all know how poorly the market has done this year. As a result, our DIT accounts took a decline. Hopefully the market will improve.

Personal Discretionary Contributions (line item 4554) are significantly down. We had changed our vendor for our church envelopes and there is not a designated envelope for the discretionary fund. We can't change that for this year but may consider adding an envelope with the bulletin designated for this fund.

### **Old Business:**

- St. John declined to participate in an audit swap with Trinity Towanda. Therefore, arrangements will be made for us to swap audit teams. Our Audit Committee to be determined.
- We need to obtain quotes for parlor flooring before St. Mary's Guild can decide on their contribution to this endeavor.
- A request has been received to change out the Parish Hall carpet. At this time, it is not on our to do list but will consider this being done in the future.

### **Junior Warden's Report:**

- We need a new water pump in the kitchen. Will get a quote for this.
- Recently, the Sacristy Stairwell and the Sacristy Exterior Door were unlocked and open. Motion was detected in the stairwell and the police investigated. This is not the first time doors have been found unlocked. It is decided we need deadbolts on these doors.
- The Parlor Door does not always latch until the door is slammed. The slamming activates the alarm on the office door. Until we can figure out a permanent fix this

door will be labeled “Emergency Exit Only”. Cn. Melinda suggested that we consult “Lock Doc” to see what solution they would recommend.

- The ceiling in the Sunday School area has been repaired.
- Electrical Grounding has been completed.
- The Parking Lot lights are being looked at for an automatic on/off feature.
- Discussion on lighting issues, bulbs out.
- Margaret would like to order a product for securing electrical cords for the fans for summer worship. Vestry agrees.

#### **Senior Warden’s Report:**

- Four windows have been identified that have a hole to the outdoors and one window “Jesus and the Temple” is cracked. Request we have Willet Hauser inspect our windows and give recommendations for repair. A significant amount of time has passed since our windows were repaired.
- Four Counting Teams are established and begin April 19th. Linda and Margaret will do the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.
- We are blessed to have 5 Mowing Teams.
- The **Parish Park Fair** is set for Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. We held an organizational meeting recently. Ten vendors plan to be there. Vestry will contribute a “Lottery Basket”.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the March 2026 meeting minutes was made by Margaret, seconded by Jeff. One correction: Under new business, St. Mary’s Guild will pick out the flooring for the parlor. Motion carries with the correction.

#### **New Business:**

- The **Tribute Quartet Concert** is on schedule for Friday, April 17, 2026. Linda Murrelle has distributed flyers advertising the concert and arranged for ads in the local newspapers for April 11<sup>th</sup> and radio ads the week of the concert. Cn. Melinda created an “event” and a push notification on Facebook at a cost of \$25.
- **The Bridge** is hosting an open house called “Serve and Learn” on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Belinda Klovekorn at SJLC, serves on the Board, and volunteered SJLC and Redeemer to provide and serve refreshments from 1-3 PM at the Furniture Warehouse in Waverly. Belinda says “thank you for being so awesome that I was comfortable enough to volunteer us!” Volunteers needed to make cookies and to spend a pleasant two hours helping our community. Will put this information in the eBlast.
- **Vacation Bible School** is scheduled for July 12-16 at VUPC.
- **Quarterly Donation:** After reviewing options, Vestry has decided the second quarter donation will go to The Future Farmers of America at Athens Area High School.
- **Gather 26:** This will be held on Saturday, May 16 in Camp Hill, PA. Anyone from our parish may attend (registration is open) and would be subsidized by the parish.
- **Vestry Meeting Minutes:** The minutes are put on our website; for time sensitive information check the weekly Eblast.

## Rector's Report:

- The waning days of Lent and Holy Week were especially intense this year. With one more service than has been typical these last nine years, the Altar Guild did a fantastic and labor-intensive job to prepare the church for worship. We are indebted to them.
- The last six sessions of our **Bible Study** was held on Monday in Holy Week. The study was well attended and evaluations are positive. More people read the book "The Last Supper" by Wil Willamon, then attended the class. At least two people have asked to borrow the DVD.
- **Holy Week** services were well attended: Palm Sunday weekend 46, Good Friday 12 at Stations of the Cross, 26 at the 7:00 PM service, Easter Vigil 40, and Easter Sunday 90. The three Williams children were baptized (Emma, Noah and Max) as was Landon Bradley at the Easter Vigil.
- I expected **Pastoral Care** to be busier than normal as I had planned to take communion to our shut-ins. However, God/the universe had other plans. I attended the bedside of the dying husband of a clergy colleague in Johnson City, I spent several days with Sid Ranck as he was dying and was privileged to be there when he took his last breath, and I was with Jerry and Janice Patton (bringing them communion) on Good Friday. Sid died March 31<sup>st</sup> and his Memorial Service and reception was held here on Easter Tuesday. Jerry died on Saturday, April 11. The earliest Lowery-Urban can accommodate his funeral is Monday, April 20. This will inconvenience Strong Women/Strong Bones as well as TOPS. Both are aware that funerals are a priority.
- **6-2-6-1 retreat** is still in planning stages & tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- My "weekends" in April and May are taken up with church-related events (Diocesan and Lutheran) and a hoped-for break after Easter isn't happening; therefore, my hoped for **Altar Guild Retreat** needs to be offered later on in the year, perhaps in September.
- I visit other parishes in the northeastern region of the Diocese once a month April through October (fourth Sunday). The leadership of both congregations decided we would worship together on those dates. So, for **Fourth Sundays outside of "summer worship"** (April, May, September, October) we have agreed to have a joint-worship service rotating between St. John and Redeemer. **We will keep the service time of the host parish.** April 26<sup>th</sup> will be at Redeemer. The eBlast will have the schedule.
- **Joint Summer Worship** begins June 14<sup>th</sup> and the last joint summer service will be September 6<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day weekend) for a total of 13 weeks. The first seven weeks will be at St. John and the final six weeks will be at Redeemer (Aug 2-Sept 6). Where the extra service would be was determined by which worship space has air conditioning. **Start time for summer worship is 10:00 AM.**
- **Epiphany School Outdoor Stations of the Cross:** I would like to suggest to our Scout Troop and members of both our parishes to volunteer to spruce up the trail. This would involve picking up fallen sticks, removing saplings, and raking the path. Part of my hope would be that the school would repair the stations as they are showing significant signs of wear.

- A monthly \$400 grocery donation came from the Guthrie Discretionary Account.
- **Time off:** I'm planning on a light workload week May 11-14. Also, I plan to take some time off in mid-September.
- **Time away:**
  - Clergy Conference Camp Hill, PA April 20-23.
  - May 4 Province III gathering in Martinsburg, WV. This will necessitate my absence from worship May 3. My plan is to preside at worship at 5:15 PM May 2 and at 9:00 AM May 3 at St. John and then drive to Martinsburg. **There will be no Sunday service at Redeemer on May 3.**
  - Diocesan Staff Retreat May 19-20.

### **Adjourn**

*Motion to adjourn made by Mitzi, seconded by Jeff. Motion carries – 7:39 PM*

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Siebecker  
Clerk of Vestry