

MINUTES

Vestry Meeting –Wednesday, August 9, 2017 - 7:00 PM

Present: Fr. Richard, Nancy Waugh, John Grant, Susan Howland, Rose Reith, Lynn Garland, Tamsin Lucey, Diane Nichols, Bill Pieczynski, Peg Nelson

Absent with regrets: Mary Bridget Burns

Open at 7:10 p.m. with prayer.

Bible Study – Matthew 14:22-33.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the July vestry meeting, as amended, emailed July 26, 2017.

Christian Formation Project - Fr. Richard

For the purpose of Christian education for parishioners and visitors, Fr. Richard has proposed that we occasionally change the worship routine. Perhaps once a month or once a quarter or during a penitential season or during the stewardship program, we would begin the service with a hymn, opening sentences, the Collect and the Gospel, and then have break out groups to, for example, discuss the Bible, participate in a hymn sing or children's activities, or conduct a question and answer session. We would re-gather for prayers, the Eucharist, and a final hymn. Possibilities include doing several break out groups on one Sunday or splitting up break out groups by doing one break out group each time. The vestry likes the idea so we are to bring our thoughts and suggestions to the September vestry meeting when we will have had more time to consider this concept. Perhaps we will need to organize a small steering committee to help Fr. Richard with the details.

Replacing the retired Book of Common Prayer – John Grant

Rose and John retired about 25 copies of the Book of Common Prayer. We will ask Chris to order 25 copies of the pew edition at \$22 a piece. John will write a Tidings article explaining the opportunity for parishioners to purchase and dedicate a book. Expenses beyond those gifts can be posted to Christian Formation or Capital Expense or the Reserve fund. A motion to order the 25 books at \$22 per book was made, seconded, and approved.

Upcoming events:

Vacation Bible School – Bethlehem Lutheran and New Hope donated their materials because they have canceled their VBS this year. We have about 40 people signed up, including crew leaders.

Karen Bodamer, at Bethlehem Lutheran, suggested that the pumpkin carving take place at the Southbridge Fall Festival to be held on the Southbridge Common on Saturday September 23, 2017. Those interested can help BLC in organizing, obtaining pumpkins, setting up, or helping that day at the event.

Because there is no good date in October, this year we will not have a fall cook out.

The community garden grant was for 2 years and will probably not be funded for next year. Those who participated feel that the town needs to get the water barrels filled.

Building Committee – Tamsin

Brian Canty will be here for VBS to tidy up.

Kitchen work will begin in September. The plumber has a medical problem that prevents him from doing early prep work. We are going ahead with a granite countertop.

United Way Day of Caring – September 15, 2017 – They will contact Tamsin during the week of 8/14 to do a site visit. They will not be sorting for the coat closet.

Ray Beaupre has finished rails on the ramp. The Clerk will send him a note of thanks.

Our license agreement with The Bread Box Company has been running month to month since March. The agreement needs to be amended to reflect the correct hours that Tamsin is using the kitchen.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as emailed on August 6, 2017.

As a possibility for renting the undercroft, Tamsin suggested that we contact Jasmine Riveras, YOU, Inc., regarding their work with children and a healthy foods program.

Following up on last month's discussion about participation at church events, Rose queried about the need for a parish survey to learn about parish members' interests. Although the last survey was conducted about 5 years ago, the makeup of the congregation has not changed significantly.

Other business:

Chris Bolte review – Fr Richard, Nancy, Tamsin and Susan are scheduled to do the review on August 22, 2017.

Mutual Ministry Review – Nancy sent the position description to Pam Mott. The parish will be invited to join the vestry for the review, perhaps on November 5 or November 19. We are leaning toward doing it after church on 11/19 because we would also have a stewardship brunch that Sunday.

Meditation garden – Lynn is waiting for design drawings.

Closing prayer –Prayer for the Parish

Motion to close the meeting at 9:05 p.m. seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Nelson, Clerk

Next Vestry meeting September 13, 2017 7:00PM