**Minutes**

Vestry Meeting – Wednesday, January 9, 2019

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

Fr. Richard opened the meeting with prayer and Bible Study, Luke 3: 15-17; 21-22, at 7:10 p.m.

Business

**A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the December 2018 vestry meeting minutes, as corrected.**

**A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the December 2018 Treasurer’s report.**

Susan reviewed how to read the budget vs. actual report. Whether we should keep Tithely will be put onto another agenda for discussion. Susan confirmed that we all know how to handle reimbursements, and reminded us that, as per the Reimbursement Policy, all reimbursement requests must be submitted within 60 days of the expense.

**A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the 2019 budget.** There was a large increase in the insurance premium, more than expected. Pledges for 2019 were impressive. Late pledges for 2019 will be put into the expense line called Reserve.

# Rector’s Items

* Pastor Kirsten and Fr. Richard will do pulpit exchange in middle to late February.
* Lay Leader Licenses were sent into the diocese.
* Bible study will be held at BethlehemLutheran Church for the next few months because of parking restrictions on Hamilton Street. At 6:30 on January 16, we will begin a study of the Book of Romans.

Review of Last Month’s Events 7:55 PM

* It was suggested that the Epiphany Service and brunch be shortened. A few suggestions to solve that situation are that we use 2 or more chalices and patens, that we sing Christmas carols at another time, and that, if the service is in the morning, we begin at 9 A.M. or allow 30 minutes for singing before the service starts. The timing of this service will be tweaked.

Upcoming Events

* The Annual Meeting will be held on January 27, with a snow date of February 3. Nancy and Rose have agreed to stay on the vestry for another term.
* Lana will check with Anita about doing Souperbowl Sunday on February 3.
* On March 5, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., we will have our Mardi Gras Dinner. Either Susan or Tamsin will pick up the sausages from Sterns. Susan will make the pancake mix. A sign-up sheet will be put out for people to bring orange juice and syrup. As a craft activity, the vestry agreed to Lynn’s suggestion to make an alleluia banner. Since we do not say the word alleluia during Lent, we would write the word on a long scroll, lock it into a box, and bring the scroll out of the box on Easter Sunday. The key for the lock box will be baked into one of the cupcakes that Tamsin has agreed to make for the dinner. Lynn will see about finding a box, and Diane might be able to provide 6’x18’ paper for the banner.
* Parish Leadership Day on March 2 at the Log Cabin in Holyoke will be announced to the congregation in the event there is an interest in its focus this year—Stewardship and Prayer.
* An announcement will be made to the congregation regarding potential delegates for the Diocesan Convention on October 26 and 27. Lynn has agreed to attend as the vestry delegate with Nancy as her alternate. We still need names for non-vestry delegate and alternate to be included on the Annual Meeting ballot.

# Building & Grounds

* We are ready to have the building reinspection done.
* Mark Morin has the screens for windows downstairs and will put them in when convenient.
* Brian is finishing painting in the kitchen and annex and then moving on to classrooms.
* Brian has put a block under the ramp to prevent sinking.
* Tamsin would like to put together a committee of visionaries to develop a 5-10 year building master plan to deal with, among other projects, windows in parish hall, flat roof, steps, front half of parish roof. Susan will put the repair estimates that we have on the website. The question is how to fund these repairs in light of our shrinking reserve. The discussion was tabled and will be put on the retreat agenda.

# Prayer Garden

* Lynn Garland explained that the Prayer Garden Committee will not be able to produce a brochure to promote giving to this project. She asks if money can come from available funds such as the Legacy Fund, Memorial Fund, possibly the Mission Fund, or the Building Fund. Cat will be asked to put together a written budget to explain the $800 planned expenditure.

# Social Justice

* Lynn volunteered to field Diocesan social just issues. She will provide Chris with information to include in an all-parish email, and there will be a post to FaceBook. Those with an interest in a particular issue may take action as they wish.

As yet the Parrettie Committee does not have a replacement for Peg.

Closing prayer – Prayer for the Parish

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

# Next Vestry Meeting February 13, 2019 @ 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Nelson, Clerk