

APPROVED

**Vestry Meeting Minutes
Vestry Retreat Notes
May 11, 2022**

Present: Mother Judith Lee, Lynn Garland, Susan Howland, Nancy Waugh, Lorraine Brumskine, Eileen DeMings, Jean Frost, John Grant, Lana Pieczynski, Robin Yates, Peg Nelson.

Robin opened the meeting at 5:30 P.M. with a prayer followed by dinner. Teams of two or three people focused their conversations on two questions: What do you value most about Holy Trinity? What is one thing you would change about the Holy Trinity Church community?

BUSINESS:

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the April 13, 2022 vestry meeting minutes, as amended.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the April 2022 Treasurer's reports. Previously, Nancy had emailed a copy of the audit report done by Steve Hasbrouck for the vestry to review. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the audit report.**

Mother Judith reviewed the preparations for Bishop Fisher's visit on Sunday, May 15. Friday evening's dinner will include instruction about the Holy Eucharist, baptism rehearsal, and rehearsal of the Gospel play. Saturday morning will include a tour of the sacristy and chancel, and instruction on prayer and the meaning of Holy Communion, and practice in how to receive communion. The Bishop, choir and Family Worship members will arrive at the church at 8:45 A.M. on Sunday. Acolytes will vest. Four of our children will receive their First Instructed Holy Communion, Bethany Marie Reith-Lowery will be baptized, and the youth will present a dramatic reading of the Gospel. Susan Grant has organized a coffee hour to follow the service, and Bishop Fisher will meet with the Vestry.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Daughters of the King – Lorraine Brumskine has received a few pictures from Julia showing that the barrels have arrived. More pictures will be coming.

The Building Committee report was received by email.

The vestry will work on the Covenant for Mutual Ministry during the June meeting.

After a brief break, we shared our thoughts on our priorities in four ministry areas and discussed the resources needed to accomplish those priorities.

Worship

Priorities and point persons are:

- Increase Altar Guild membership. – Nancy Waugh

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. [Isaiah 43:19]*

- Continue to add diversity to our service through different types of music. – Mother Judith, Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Lorraine Brumskine
- Continue to involve our youth and children in leading worship on one Sunday each month, on average, scheduled by event. – Eileen DeMings
- Reinstate ecumenical services. Holy Trinity will volunteer to host a Thanksgiving service this year. – Mother Judith

Resources needed:

- Research for music in partnership with Anne.
- More members on the Altar Guild.

Faith Formation

Priorities and point persons are: Mother Judith, Eileen DeMings, Lynn, Garland, Lana Pieczynski,

- Establish a highly structured adult education program for the fall of 2022. This could be a short ecumenical program to be held every other week or perhaps for four weeks, either in person or online but not hybrid. A faith-based social studies program could also be ecumenical if we can find the appropriate focus.
- Youth and children's faith formation will involve a pre-confirmation class for the 2022-2023 program year with a set curriculum for 13 year olds and up. We will develop a separate Family Worship curriculum for children ages 4-12.
- Reconstitute a VBS program, possibly ecumenical, possibly in the summer of 2022.

Resources needed: Eileen feels that we have a good support system at this time.

Pastoral Care/Fellowship

Priorities and point persons are: Mother Judith, Lynn Garland, Susan Howland

- Coffee hour seems to be the #1 priority. – Lynn Garland
- The Pastoral Care Committee will meet monthly. – Susan Howland. Mother Judith will meet with the team quarterly.
- Each month the vestry will share whatever pastoral care needs that have come to their attention. – Lynn Garland
- Following the Covid lockdown we must be intentional about reweaving the fabric of the congregation. Perhaps a one-time or seasonal outing with the entire congregation will help achieve this. We will plan one off-site event for this summer and one for the winter (January/February2023). – Eileen DeMings
- Lorraine would like to organize another International Dinner to be held in November 2022, which could be ecumenical. – Lorraine Brumskine

Resources needed: We have what we need.

Outreach/Community Partnerships

Priorities and point persons are:

- Continue to host the Winter Coat Closet. – Lynn Garland

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- Foster ecumenical partnerships. – Mother Judith, Jean Frost
- Continue community outreach, perhaps in cooperation with Bethlehem Lutheran Church and other local churches. Activities that have been held over the years were given as examples (VBS, cookouts on Hamilton Street with a craft table, to-go craft cart with youth at local fairs, community gardens, coat closet, Ukraine collection, faith-based youth plays, Project Bread). Another option mentioned was participating in community clean-ups.
 - Re-establish our ecumenical partnerships to learn how we can share ministries.
 - Put on a play that will be open to the community. – Cat Reith-Lowery
 - Continue to support the Liberia project. – Lorraine Brumskine
 - Support collections for Ukraine. – Tamsin Lucey
 - Cooking for Life program in partnership with St. Luke’s Guesthouse. – Tamsin Lucey
- We will use this year to learn about current needs in Southbridge so that we can plan events or projects for next year.

Resources needed:

- Communications and publicity
- Helpers

Following a short break, the vestry reviewed and reaffirmed our priorities.

The meeting closed with Compline at 9 P.M.

Next Vestry Meeting June 8, 2022 @ 7 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Peg Nelson, Clerk

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