

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2022

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]

Present Lynn Garland, Nancy Waugh, Robin Yates, Lorraine Brumskine, Lana Pieczynski, Susan Howland, Jean Frost, Cat Reith-Lowery, Eileen DeMings

Regrets: John Grant, Mother Judith

OPENING PRAYER: Jean Frost

OPENING BUSINESS

Acceptance of Minutes: October 12, 2022 – Jean Frost A motion made to accept minutes from the October Vestry meeting, it was seconded and carried.

Treasurer’s Report: October – Nancy Waugh

Resolution: To accept a memorial gift in memory of Mary Hicks, and ask the Endowment Committee to recommend how it will be designated. A Motion was made to accept the \$10,000 memorial gift from Mary Hick’s sister, it was seconded, and carried. Susan, as head of endowment committee, and after communication with 2/3 of the endowment Committee and the Executive Committee, spoke about uses for the memorial money – 1. New altar vestments, 2. fund the cost for Postulant to the Diaconate (which is 1/3 of the total cost, the Postulant is responsible for 1/3 and the Diocese funds 1/3) 3. Remainder to be placed into the Legacy Fund, which is within our endowment fund and there are regulations about its use. A motion made to distribute the money as recommended by the Endowment Comm, it was seconded, and carried. A motion made to accept the Treasurer’s report, it was seconded and carried.

Update: UTO Ingathering – Susan Howland reported that the United Thank Offering from Holy Trinity was \$1,42.69. This was our largest UTO contribution.

Debriefing: What have we done well? – The service last Sunday went very well, many of the kids went up to sit on stairs in front of the altar together, the Teens raised \$200 for Cancer Research selling cider, hot chocolate and baked goods, Mary Hicks’ funeral went very well, the Stewardship Breakfast went well. Mother Judith was very surprised that we celebrated her birthday. Landscaping around the church is going well. We have done quite a bit that we can be thankful for, and we need to keep at it. What could we have done better? There were no responses to this question.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution: Appointment of Licensed Liturgical Ministers for 2023 seconded and carried

- Maida L. Brumskine: Eucharistic Minister- inactive, Preacher (Requirements have been completed and application is in process)
- Joseph Di Salvatore: Eucharistic Minister -inactive
- Jean O. Frost: Worship Leader, Eucharistic Minister
- Lynn Garland: Eucharistic Visitor
- Laura Gervais: Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic visitor - inactive
- Norman Kalber: Worship Leader - inactive
- Tamsin Lucey: Worship Leader, Eucharistic Minister

Josh Spooner: Worship Leader, Eucharistic Minister

A motion was made to renew the license of each of the above volunteers, it was seconded and carried.

Resolution: Building committee Proposal for protective fencing on the side of the building – Proposal from building comm was approved, a motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Resolution: Accept Lynn Garland’s gift designated for a new bench in front of the church – A motion was made to accept \$500 gift to purchase a bench to replace the present one. It was seconded and carried. The balance of the gift, after purchasing the bench, may be used for the operating budget.

Resolution: Authorize Cat Reith-Lowery to send Hospitality Survey and oversee results – postponed – more work needs to be done

2023 Vestry Meeting Schedule: Proposed change to 1st Wednesdays, beginning in January

Vestry Openings: January 2023

2 3-year Terms – Robin Yates and Eileen DeMings are eligible to stand for re-election and both are willing.

1 2-year term – Cat Reith-Lowery is eligible to stand for election and she is willing.

Officers – 1-year terms - all eligible for re-election and willing.

Date for Annual Parish Meeting: January 29, 2023

De-Briefing: Stewardship Breakfast 15 pledges came in on Sunday, Finance Comm will meet after more pledge cards come in to work on a proposed budget for 2023. Eileen asked about the possibility of a digital pledge card – there was interest in working on that for next year.

De-briefing: Teens Fundraiser – raised \$200, lots of participation, good energy from the teens, there were 6 teens that took part. We need to support the Teens in ways that do not take away from their ownership of the projects they choose to do.

Update: Food collection for Food Share – Lynn spoke with Rose about restarting this Ministry and Rose is willing, Eileen recommended getting the Teens to work together with Rose, so she has help and support. Lynn will speak with Rose and have Rose call Eileen.

Update: Building Committee Proposal for the girls’ bathroom in the classroom wing – Susan reported that committee has not yet met to make a formal decision and get an estimate. The proposal will be to cap the toilets, shut water off and remove the partitions.

Update: Support for Girl Scout Troop Operation Christmas Child - So far \$90 has been donated from Holy Trinity. The Federated Church in Sturbridge will be donating product to be put into the boxes. The shipping fee is \$10 per box so as of now the girls plan to send out 9 boxes. They got the shoe boxes from the organizing company in Mass. The shoe boxes will be put together between November 13-20, then blessed at HTC on the 20th and delivered to be shipped out on the 20th or 21st.

Update: Community Thanksgiving Service – Tuesday November 22, Lynn has agreed to head up the reception afterwards. She may ask for help.

Update: Blue Shades Clarinets Concert – December 11: \$600 in funding has been promised and \$300 of that has been received. (Or at least was available for pick-up as of Wednesday November 9th.)

Update: Greening of the Church: December 18th Lynn requested sturdier bobeches to catch the wax dripping off the candles. Nancy Waugh indicated she would look into that.
(Advent Lessons & Carols w/Communion & Children's Chapel)

MINISTRY REPORTS

- Priest's Report
 - Meetings and Ministry: September & October 2022
 - o Deanery Clericus Meeting – September 7 & October 12
 - o Creation Season Bible Study with Bethlehem Lutheran – September 7 & 21; October 5 & 26
 - o HTC Reading Group Organizing Committee – September 8
 - o HTC Reading Group Discussion – September 28 & October 27
 - o Licensing Agreement Review: Jessica Cahill & Tamsin Lucey –October 28
 - o Practicing Our Faith Discussion – September 1 & 15; October 6 & 13
 - o Funeral: The Rev. Deacon Mary Hicks – October 16
 - o Calling Hours: Maria Dirlam – October 26
 - o St. Luke's Guesthouse Anniversary Dinner – October 20
 - o Clergy Planning Meeting: Community Thanksgiving Service –October 19
 - o Pastoral Visits: 16 Private Holy Communion: 3

- 2022 Diocesan Convention: Delegates Susan Howland & Cat Reith-Lowery – Report from Susan - Susan and Cat enjoyed the experience of being delegates to our Diocesan Convention. They were joined at their table by the delegates from Trinity Church in Milford where Mother Judith had served for a time. Doug Fisher gave a wonderful Bishop's Address, and it is available online.

- Communications – Susan Howland made many changes to the website because there is a lot going on. She has been working with Eileen DeMings on the Advent wreath making event. Susan sent out emails for the Teen's fundraiser. She has been working with Chris McTigue getting her familiar with the databases – master parish list, Gmail list, evite, MailChimp - Chris now knows how to log into all of those, adding and subtracting names; Chris Briere sent many pre and post landscaping photos and Susan asked what the Landscaping Committee would like done with those photos. The Landscaping Committee has done a lot of work on the landscaping, so it was decided to post the pictures on the website. Susan created a Landscaping Committee tab under Parish Ministries and will put a slide show there.

- Building Committee – Tamsin Lucy -a written report was submitted. A motion was made to accept the repair proposal for the cracked plaster on the wall in the undercroft. The upstairs kitchenette needs to be cleaned by the first week in Dec – Robin Yates has offered to do that.

- Cooking for Life – Tamsin Lucey – no report
- Landscaping Committee – Lynn Garland – addressed already
- Family Worship/Faith Formation – Eileen DeMings – The Faith Formation Steering Committee met last week to discuss and plan for each season and opportunities for each level. For the adults that are not able to attend the Practicing our Faith class going on now there may be an intensive Practicing Our Faith offered in January. For the Advent Wreath making, an evite went out to get numbers of wreaths that will be needed. There may be an Advent bag like the one in Lent. On Dec 18 the 9:30 am service will be Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion; Christmas Eve service will be a family friendly service but there will not be a pageant. That may occur at Epiphany. The Pancake Supper will take place this year and there are plans for a Lenten series dinner and discussion with Bethlehem Lutheran Church.
- Daughters of the King- Lorraine Brumskine, Robin Yates - Official packing of the items to be shipped will take place next week. Lorraine noted that books of any kind are also welcomed.
- Stewardship – Lynn Garland, Nancy Waugh – addressed earlier
- Praying Hands Ministry – Susan Howland – There are lots of shawls being made. Cat asked if there are plans to gather at a time other than during coffee hour for fellowship and knitting. Susan and Cat will work out a time together.
- Nancy did order poinsettias for Christmas
- Motion to adjourn 9:00 pm

CLOSING PRAYER – Lynn Garland

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Frost, clerk