

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2023

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]

opening prayer Mother Judith

Present: Mother Judith, Nancy Waugh, John Grant, Jean Frost, Robin Yates, Lynn Garland, Eileen DeMings, Susan Howland

Regrets: Lorraine Brumskine, Lana Pieczynski, Cat Reith-Lowery

OPENING BUSINESS

Acceptance of Minutes September 13, 2023, Jean Frost - **A motion was made to accept the minutes, it was seconded and carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Waugh - A written summary was sent out with the monthly financial statements. Nancy received no questions. **A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report, it was seconded and carried.**

PRIEST'S REPORT

Pastoral Care Check-in

What have we done well? Teen sandwich-making went well last Saturday. Cards for the military are being made. Very good ecumenical program with The Chosen. Prayer Partner (cards) is really nice practice.

What could we have done better? – nothing noted

Mutual Ministry Review has not been done this year. Mother Judith suggests we build that into our November meeting – whether we add extra time or just absorb it into the regular meeting will be decided at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution: Designate an organization to receive the Free Will Offering from the Blue Shades Clarinet concert on December 10th _ after some discussion it was decided to give the free will offering to Roselda's kitchen if it is still running. Mother Judith will contact Sabina, the minister at the First Methodist Church in Southbridge for more information.

Who will be the point-person coordinating preparations [publicity, funding, reception]? Lynn Garland will be the point person; Karron Lacey has agreed to organize the reception afterwards.

Resolution: Support for Girl Scout Project for Samaritan's Purse 2023 **A motion was made to support this project, it was seconded and carried.**

Acceptance: 2023 Staff Reviews **A motion was made to accept the Staff Reviews, it was seconded, and carried.**

Update: Parish Liaison in Response to Refugee Resettlement in Sturbridge: Susan Page Howland – Susan is in contact with Mary Carpenter, so she can let the parish know if there is a pressing need.

Planning: 2023 Stewardship Campaign & Ingathering: Ingathering on 19th, Trish O'Brien-Briere will give a Stewardship talk this Sunday. Nancy is still looking for more volunteers to speak.

Update: Planning: International Dinner: November 11th – no report

Planning: What shall we do with the office Brother printer that is no longer needed? It is more than 5 years old; it may be of use to someone. Mother Judith will speak with Sabine and see if they could use it at their Wi-Fi café.

Planning: How shall we invite potential Vestry members and inform the congregation about what is involved? One person who was approached suggested having some information put out to the congregation about what is involved in being on the vestry. The next vestry will choose the next priest. Vestry members can share what is life giving about being on the Vestry.

Update: Diocesan Convention Business Josh and John are registered and will carpool.

Update: Preparations for New Ministry

Plans for Parish Meeting on October 15, 2023: Presentation by Lana Pieczynski

Update: Schedule for Zoom meetings with other Vestries & clergy - Nancy reported that all the churches prefer Wednesday the 18th at 7 pm on Zoom. Susan will send out an all-parish MailChimp as a reminder about Sunday's presentation and the Zoom meeting regarding new models of ministry. The heading will be **Exploring New Ministry Models Zoom 10/18 7 pm.** in order to highlight that particular information.

Susan will be the host, John co-host, Lynn will be the facilitator. The questions will be attached to the MailChimp. Susan can post the questions in Chat and a link to the website where the questions can also be found.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Finance – Susan Howland – there will be a meeting of the Finance Committee on Oct 17th, she has heard from most ministry groups re: budget needs. The committee will begin work on the 2024 budget and look at potential salary increases for staff.

Communications – Susan Howland - has started working with Chris on working with our website, Mother Judith sent out an email with serving ministers and weeks announcements last Thursday, that will become a weekly email.

Praying Hands Ministry – Susan Howland - no report

Technology – John Grant – the search for microphones continues.

Building Committee – Tamsin Lucey – Nancy reported that she received a \$836 bill from Alternative Telecom (fire alarm company) It was discovered that the testing of our alarm system was not done, their oversight, but will be performed within a week. The report from that testing is required as part of the annual Building Inspection.

Cooking for Life – Tamsin Lucey no report

Landscaping Committee – Lynn Garland - gardens look lovely, Dave Monroe is the designer, Lynn has been tending the garden.

Family Worship/Faith Formation – Eileen DeMings – On Saturday Oct 21 there will be a youth (K-5th grade) Faith Formation event with Bethlehem Lutheran Church, the older youth will make sandwiches for the Sunday trip to Cathedral in the Night, a ministry of First Lutheran church in Northampton. Family Worship Sundays continue, there are plans for Advent and we will be planning an Advent Evening with Bethlehem Lutheran.

Daughters of the King - Robin Yates, Lorraine Brumskine – things are going well, a lot of people are working on the cards. The Zoom Discernment class is going well. Renewal of Vows will take place on All Saints Sunday.

Stewardship – Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland – covered earlier

Hospitality – Cat Reith-Lowery - Lynn reports things seem to be running smoothly.

HOLY EUCHARIST

ADJOURNMENT 9 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Frost, clerk