

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

VESTRY MINUTES October 9, 2024

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- Mother Judith, Lynn Garland, Nancy Waugh, Eileen DeMings, Cat Reith-Lowery, Susan Howland, Jean Frost, via Zoom – Ryan Bousquet, Robin Yates, John Grant

Regrets – Dave Monroe

HOLY EUCHARIST

OPENING BUSINESS

- Acceptance of Minutes: September 11, 2024 Jean Frost - **A motion was made to accept the minutes from September 11, 2024, it was seconded, and carried.**
- Treasurer's Report: Nancy Waugh **A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report, it was seconded, and carried.**

PRIEST'S REPORT

- Pastoral Care Check-in
- Update: Confirmation There are 6 people being confirmed and each has a mentor. They will meet on 10/14 to set up expectations, and then will meet monthly with their mentors.
- Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at the Federated Church in Sturbridge on Tuesday, November 26th.
- What have we done well? - The third Sunday gatherings have been done well and found worthwhile. Those will continue, and there are facilitators lined up for each month. Several people appreciated the extra time Mother Judith took to explain the Gospel passage. Having the Spanish language sign made for Food Share. Food Share has been going smoothly. There have been a few tiny issues that have been addressed easily.
- What could we have done better? - nothing mentioned
- Mother Judith asked the vestry if they would be willing to offer financial assistance for anyone interested in attending EfM, (the cost is \$350 per year and about \$100 for books). It is a 4-year (school year) program. The diocese offers up to \$175 in scholarship aid for qualified applicants. All Vestry members were in favor. We will see how many parishioners are interested before deciding how much assistance we can offer to each participant.

FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

Lynn mentioned that Mother Judith is at her last Holy Trinity Vestry Meeting tonight.

- Directory update is now completed and available on our website. Printed copies may be requested from the Parish Administrative Assistant.
- Review of Food Share's second month: \$445 dollars came in on the second Sunday loose plate offering, including \$125 from Big Y for the shopping bag donations.
- Cleaning out storage areas: Susan and Lynn went through items in the upstairs office space – the items that need new homes are in the Parish Hall.

- Update on discussion with Bethlehem's Closet: Lynn spoke with Andrea Trifone, who runs that ministry at BLC, and Andrea would like to wait until Pastor Dan returns for the walk-through of the downstairs space with Pastor Dan.

NEW BUSINESS

- Lynn Garland is the new parish coordinator for Holy Trinity UTO
- Cat Reith-Lowery's Girl Scout Troop will be participating in the Samaritans Purse program again. Cat received an email, forwarded from our church office, indicating that the Holland Federated Church is interested in doing the same program and was interested in coordinating with whoever is doing it here.
- Do we want to have a "Watch Party" for the new bishop's installation? Saturday Nov 2nd. Streaming of the event starts at 9:30 am with the roll call of all Episcopal dioceses, the service starts at 11 am. It was suggested that a link be sent out for people to watch at home. Everyone thought that was a good idea. Susan will take care of that.
- Judy Reich is discontinuing her card ministry: do we want this to continue? Is there someone in the parish that is interested in taking over, or several people working together? A notice will be put in with the announcements and we will see if there are any interested parties.
- FYI Staff reviews will take place in November when Pastor Dan returns.
- In anticipation of our elections coming up at our annual meeting in January, how do we invite discernment about others who may feel called to stand for election. Making announcements during the service. John Grant and Cat Reith-Lowery are eligible to stand for re-election.
- Survey participation check-in The Episcopal Church has committed a lot of money to getting the survey done. Rose Reith is willing to sit with her iPad and computer for people to use during coffee hour. A few people have already done the survey. We need at least 10 to get \$200 back. A link to the survey has been sent out to the email list. (a list very similar to the list that was used for the CAT survey – mostly parish members)
- Beginning discussion of our projected financial support of Pastor Dan for 2025 -to be done at the end of our meeting.
- Tamsin Lucey sent a list of things she would like to know if the church would like to keep:
 - The Fridge currently in the kitchen annex.
 - Mop, bucket, broom, dustpan and brush etc. currently in the tall cupboard in the kitchen annex
 - The non-skid floor mats that go in front of the stove in the kitchen.
 - An electric kettle.
 - The black folding seat/step stool currently in the kitchen.
 - Folding single step, step stools – one in the kitchen annex – one in the kitchen.
 - Electrical strip – for use with the socket on the undercroft side of the pass-through counter

The Vestry would like to keep all of those, would also like to keep the rolling cart.

MINISTRY REPORTS (as appropriate)

- Communications: Susan Howland, Cat Reith-Lowry, John Grant – people that have events going on, get the info to Chris McTigue, in ready to go form, or to Susan, to go into bulletin and E-news announcements
- Building Committee: Jean Frost - Tamsin Lucey sent a report via email, One of the items in the report dealt with the non-functioning radiator in the undercroft. Tasse's has let us know that there are no parts available for the radiator so it cannot be repaired. The options are to disable the

steam input to the radiator and leave the radiator. If the other radiator continues to be able to provide enough heat for the Undercroft space with Food Share in there 3 days a week, we will not need to remove the broken radiator. If more heat is needed the radiator will need to be removed and baseboard heating will be installed. Jean Frost asked the Vestry for approval for Tasse's to cap the steam input to the undercroft's non-working radiator so it will not leak. Susan Howland found the estimates from April 12th of this year for doing that work. Disabling the steam input (removing some parts, but not the entire radiator), was about \$2000. To remove both radiators and install new heating was a little over \$9000. **A motion was made to have Tasse's disable the steam going into the non-functioning radiator. It was seconded, and carried.**

- Collaboration Team: Cat Reith-Lowry, Dave Monroe – no report
- Endowment Committee: Susan Howland – no report
- Landscaping Committee: Lynn Garland, Dave Monroe – no report
- Family Worship/Faith Formation: Eileen DeMings – no report
- Youth Program: Dave Monroe and Ryan Bousquet – There was a good meeting with Eileen DeMings and Ryan Bousquet from Holy Trinity and Heather Miranda from Bethlehem Lutheran on mechanics and logistics on October 3rd. They may change the name of the group to Teen Group, instead of Youth Group to minimize confusion as to the age group involved.
- Daughters of the King: Robin Yates – no report
- Stewardship: Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland - they need a volunteer to speak during the service this Sunday, Jean Frost volunteered to do that.
- Hospitality: Lynn Garland - no report

Mother Judith left for the evening 8:30 pm

- Beginning discussion of our projected financial support of Pastor Dan for 2025. Susan presented the information she and Nancy shared with the treasurer and President of the BLC Council. They used information they could find about the Synod's expectations for salary for Pastor Dan to come up with figures for our 2025 budget. There was some discussion. No decisions were made.

CLOSING PRAYER: Robin

ADJOURN