

## Vestry April Minutes 4/16/2023, 12:05 PM

Present: Mother Barbara, Jennie Cummings, Freyja Rasmussen-Johns, Steve DeGolier, Michael Wise, Marilyn Cleland, Pat Brown, Lori Judkins  
Guests: Susan King (Clerk), Rick Johns (Treasurer), Kris Borre (presentation)

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Mother Barbara.

### March Minutes

There was one change in the section about offering AED demos – it was not Jo (Plenger Schulz) but Jocelyn (Prall) who would offer the demos with Peg Newby. A motion to approve the minutes with that correction was made by Jennie and seconded by Marilyn. Minutes approved.

### Proposal for Garden Creation from NIU STEAM Afterschool Program

Kris Borre presented a proposal from the NIU STEAM program for a garden education experience for the program students. The children would design and build a butterfly garden, and might also assist with the St. Paul's Green Team vegetable garden.

The directors of the program include Stephanie Dietrich, the Director of the Barb City STEAM Team, Kelly Furr, Educator, Food and Nutrition, Natural Science Education, and Lindsay Van Geem, STEM Educator. There are 8-10 children in the Middle School program from Huntley and Clinton Rosette schools, and 10 high school students in the Summer Camp program.

The Middle School Program is meeting now on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 PM from April 18<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>. They would take this time to develop the plan for the butterfly garden, meeting usually at NIU, but also sometimes at St. Paul's. The adults would always accompany them, and Kris would also be present to supervise. They would build the garden next fall when they meet from August through October. They would plan on devising raised beds, and have equipment available to do that. The size of the garden proposed might be the area of our Conference Room.

The High School Program would work in the garden one week in June or July and also help prepare the produce harvested and help with delivery to the food pantries. They would be learning about gardening and food insecurity. Again, the adults would accompany them and Kris and other Garden Team people would be in attendance.

The program is asking to use St. Paul's for a parent night to celebrate the children's success at some point.

The program is funded, but is looking for a place to store equipment – hand tools, wheelbarrows, a tiller – they could possibly store this equipment in the shed if some of the Lobster Boil equipment could be moved to the Rectory garage.

The NIU STEAM program website is <https://niusteam.niu.edu/about/> for further information. Jennie asked that we be given contact info for the adults supervising.

A motion was made by Pat and seconded by Freyja to participate in the program. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's report**

- Money was taken out of the Endowment Fund earlier at the advice of Edward Jones people because of the stock market volatility. There are sufficient funds at this time.
- The Endowment Fund met and agreed to approve the distribution of up to 9% of the Fund.
- Mary Short has made a donation to purchase dark brown Scott's mulch for the rose garden. She needs more help to weed and trim the rose bushes, and Marilyn offered. We will ask Mary to come to the April 29<sup>th</sup> clean up event to show how to care for the rose garden.
- There have been donations to treat the spire spruce, although so far, it is not looking good.
- The Network Solutions charge was removed, and hope we have stopped the Adobe Pro charges.
- Signatures have been recorded at Heartland Bank.
- The Elan Visa card is not actually in the safe, although no suspicious charges have appeared. Rick is planning to report the card as lost and get a new card.
- Expenses have been normal for the year so far, although a new microwave was needed and purchased from Lowes.
- The small amount of Apache Stock still lingers, and Jennie offered to see if she could get it sold.

Pat motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Steve, and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

### **Building and Grounds**

The annual clean up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. NIU is not sponsoring students this year. Rhys will get more mulch from the DeKalb mulch pile, and Jane DeGolier will supervise cleaning the refrigerator. The tables from the Lobster Boil in the shed could be moved to the Rectory garage.

### **Rector Report**

Mother Barbara was asked to continue on the Anti-Racism Committee at the Diocese, but felt it would be too much until she has moved.

We haven't been able to find a supply priest while she is away on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Bishop's office prefers that a Morning Prayer service be utilized rather than simply a Liturgy of the Word. Michael offered to plan the April 30<sup>th</sup> Morning Prayer, although he would not be able to lead it as he will be out of town. The Lectionary passages for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter could be used. There also is a site to find free sermons if someone could deliver it. Michael will forward the Morning Prayer to Susan to prepare a bulletin.

Mother Barbara explained that Susan is taking on more tasks that Lorraine had been doing and proposed increasing her expected hours from 20 hours a week, to 22 hours a week, keeping a 9:00 AM-2:30 PM schedule Tuesday through Friday, also adding 3 hours a month to clerk for the Vestry Meetings. Steve motioned to accept, seconded by Jennie, and the increase in hours was approved.

### **Grace Place**

There are three Wednesdays left in this year's Grace Place program. There was a situation a few weeks ago between two of the attendees and the members who were conducting the service portion of the evening. There was considerable discussion about what can be acceptable. Mother Barbara said she would talk to Fr. Scott, who will be leading the remaining meetings.

Michael proposed getting the other churches that support Grace Place to be more involved, and perhaps Grace Place could be promoted at Welcome Week. Marilyn also offered that it might be good to ask the Diocese if they could help find students who are at NIU from Episcopal parishes and reach out to them. Mother Barbara said she would follow up on that.

The Grace Place Board will be meeting soon and issues should be discussed about the future of Grace Place.

### **Service Times for the Summer**

Mother Barbara has spoken to Vince, who would agree to coming to a 9:30 AM service over the summer, but would be unhappy if the 8:00 AM disappeared permanently. Having one service might make finding supply priests easier. A motion was made by Freyja, seconded by Steve, to propose starting a one service at 9:30 A.M. schedule on Mother's Day, May 14<sup>th</sup>, to continue through August. The motion carried.

**Other**

The Ulman Foundation 4K for Cancer Riders are scheduled to arrive on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and leave the 24<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be prepared by Peg, Donna and Jo for Friday, but only a simple breakfast would be needed as they like to leave quite early on Saturday. The water heater downstairs should be replaced by then as they will be overnighing in the St. Timothy Center.

There will be a meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> to determine the plans for the parish Lobster Boil.

**Next Meetings**

The next Vestry Meeting will be scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> after the 9:30 AM service.

Jennie motioned to close the meeting at 1:35 PM, seconded by Marilyn. Motion carried.

An Executive Meeting was to continue after the regular meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan King  
Clerk

## Vestry Agenda

April 16, 2023

Opening Prayer

Approval March Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Endowment Committee

Buildings and Grounds Report-Jennie

Rector's Report

- Conversations with the Anti-Racism Committee about increased participation
- Pastoral visits and conversations, communion visits
- Prep and planning for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday
- Special services during Holy Week
- Preparation for and participation in Good Friday/Taize service
- Conversations regarding the garden
- Spiritual direction meetings
- Weekly staff meetings
- Plan to be on vacation from April 23-May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Items for discussion:

- Grace Place
- 4K for Cancer cross-country biker's overnight/Ulman Foundation  
Need plans for dinner and breakfast for them
- Parish-only Lobster party-date?
- Combined services at 9:30 AM for the summer? Beginning and ending?
- Next Vestry meeting, May 21<sup>st</sup>

Grant writing proposal regarding the garden expansion.

Closing prayer & adjourn

Executive Session with Barbara and Rick. Answer to Bishop's Question.

### Building Grounds Report

April 29 Spring Clean up date set. \*NIU Cares Day not an option this year.

Shed- staining

Gravel fill by sidewalks

Flashing east side repaired

Doors #5 & North- bids requested & refused. Rhys addressing the issues.

Free City Mulch collected & spread around church perimeter plantings.

Mulch for for north and west side roses- dark brown

Go Green Team; & Building & Grounds met to discuss white clover trials.

HVAC 4/13/23 Check for church and rectory done.

Furnace 4 thermostats reviewed & set per DeK Mechanical's suggestions. Basement set at 65.  
3 Basement Dehumidifiers set at 55%.  
Installing tankless water heater (\$200) and possible electrician needs. \*Ulman Bikers Group  
6/23/23 overnight.

Furnace filters to be inspected monthly. Are they gray or black?

Playground moved to north of sidewalk due to garden expansion.

Microwave replaced

Tech- New printer installed; directories to be printed

### **Treasurer's Report April 16, 2023**

As of April 15, our Heartland Bank checking account balance stood at \$113,180.85. The Endowment committee had a meeting on March 28, where we discussed church finances. They voted to approve using up to 9% of the fund's value for our expenses in 2023. I hope we can minimize this as much as is possible.

We spent \$19,527 from our General fund in March, and we took in \$11,823 from pledges and regular contributions. So far in 2023 we have spent 24.9% of our annual budget, and we have taken in 51.2% of our expected revenue. Note that the high percentage of revenue is largely due to the \$100,000 from the Endowment Fund last month. We are 25% of the way through the year.

The Rector's Discretionary Fund has \$858 in it. We took in \$1820 and spent \$2045 from our revolving pass through, and building funds in March. Most of the expenditures was for the furnace room duct work.

We have \$200 in the Garden Fund, plus another \$500 for rose care and \$325 for care of the spire spruce.

As of March 31, the Endowment fund was valued at \$1,878,775.24. The Capital Fund at Edward Jones was \$52,139.11; we transferred \$10,000 to this account in early March. Our Apache stock was worth \$264.04 on February 22.

We seem to have succeeded in extracting ourselves from an unauthorized automatic renewal at Network Solutions. We might have succeeded at cancelling our unneeded Abode Acrobat service, but that remains unverified. These automatic renewals are often difficult to stop.

We visited Heartland Bank, and we now have Jennie, Freyja, Pat, and myself as authorized signers of checks. As a reminder, checks over \$50 need 2 signatures.

Clay Lancaste has been officially hired at \$15/hour to run the streaming ministry.

Our Elan Visa card seems to have gone missing. I am sure it is in someone's wallet; there are no obvious unauthorized purchases on it as of today. Please check to see if you have it, because otherwise I am going to have to cancel it and get a new one in the next couple of days.

Respectfully submitted, Rick Johns, Treasurer