

Vestry May Minutes 5/21/2023, 10:45 AM

Present: Jennie Cummings, Freyja Rasmussen-Johns, Steve DeGolier, Michael Wise, Marilyn Cleland, Pat Brown, Lori Judkins
Guests: Susan King (Clerk), Rick Johns (Treasurer), Tom Skuzinski

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Michael Wise.

Rick offered an appreciation for Rhys Prall for all the work he did with the church grounds; Freyja offered an appreciation for Bill Cummings for the “fine job” he did in officiating at the service this morning.

April Minutes

There were no changes noted for the April minutes. Steve motioned to approve the minutes, with Pat seconding. Minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report

- Treasury is solvent, although we may take more from the Endowment Fund in July. Every three months more is spent due to property insurance quarterly payments.
- The spire spruce turned brown and died shortly after the mite treatment. The people who contributed money towards the treatment agreed that the donations for treatment could go to the Garden Fund.
- Thanks to Jennie for getting the Apache stock sold.
- We have a new Visa card and the old one has been cancelled.
- Mother Barbara will be paid full salary, pension and insurance through June, including \$500 for vacation not taken.
- There is a new microwave (thank you, Jennie!) and new vacuum cleaner upstairs.
- Trash pickup at the rectory will be cancelled – it was set up through LakeShore, not the City of DeKalb.
- A motion was made by Pat, seconded by Steve, to remunerate Pastor Bob Hansen \$200 plus mileage for the May 14th service that the Diocese gave us late notice to cancel as their imposed requirements had not been met.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made by Marilyn, seconded by Pat. The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Supply Clergy

Jennie has reached out to all supply clergy on the Episcopal list and the Lutheran lists. The Diocese insists that the Lutheran clergy submit to an interview, Safe Church Training, and a background check. We might also be able to reach out to clergy in the Milwaukee Diocese and possibly the Springfield Diocese if we've exhausted the Chicago people. Michael has organized a Morning Prayer for Sunday, May 28th with Bill Cummings as officiant. Perhaps we could also ask for someone from the community to come as a speaker if there is no clergy available for a Sunday.

Pastoral Assistance

Father Georges Jallouf from St. Peter's in Sycamore has offered to give pastoral assistance for emergencies. He will be on vacation until the end of June, however. It was questioned if Father Georges should be remunerated for assistance, but no decision made.

People do call for monetary assistance that we had been giving through the Rector's Discretionary Fund. So far, we have been directing them to other agencies such as the Family Service Agency and St. Vincent de Paul's Society. Jennie does not feel ready to take on determining who should receive assistance.

Rectory

Mother Barbara is scheduled to come on Wednesday, May 31st for a final walkthrough of the Rectory. A question was asked about the water softener, but that will be investigated. The cabinets will be replaced later on after more research.

Bible Study

While we have an invitation to a Zoom Bible Study led by a local pastor, Marilyn felt it would be desirable to have an option for an Episcopal led study.

Parish Partners Grant, Episcopal Charities

Tom Skuzinski talked about a grant opportunity for the Garden. If the garden is expanded, we could pay a graduate intern for 15 hours/week, and also have undergrad involvement. The total amount available as a grant is \$25,000, which would include equipment and seeds. This grant would be available in August.

Kris Borre has been active with a group studying sustainable food practices at NIU and can find interns. There also is a \$50,000 grant from Dannon available that could be applied for.

Pat mentioned that the DeKalb Community Foundation is also involved in gardens to combat food insecurity. Tom is on the board of the DeKalb Community Garden and there will be a planning meeting with the community to figure out demand. The Barb Food Mart would like to expand near St. Paul's as the Annie Glidden area is considered to be a food desert. Six churches and nine non-profits are involved in seeking solutions.

NIU Outreach

A list of churches is given to NIU students, but St. Paul's is NOT on that list, although St. Peter's is. This might explain why we have few students attending. St. Paul's is more "progressive" than St. Peter's, so we should get on the students' radar, perhaps by a podcast or a press release.

Nominating Committees

We need to start thinking about nominations for a Search Committee to look for a new rector as well as new vestry members. Jennie will need to step off the vestry at the end of her term as Senior Warden, according to the By-Laws, as will Freyja at the end of her term as Senior Warden. Two new vestry members will be needed, as well as 6-7 people for the Search Committee, preferably without overlapping membership.

Rector Search

We need to find an interim priest first before looking for a new rector. Remember that we are "on stage" for any priest who could turn into an interim for us. Peg is working on upgrading the sacristy to be more appealing. Susan offered that the Diocesan website lists 6 parishes with interims looking for a rector and 8 parishes looking for an interim, so we may not get much attention from the Diocese in a search. She also circulated a chart that showed that the Millennial age group church attendance since Covid has increased more than that of the generational groups named Gen X and Boomers.

Another option is to hire a Priest In Charge rather than a full time Rector, as a contract for a Priest in Charge can be flexible - month to month if desired.

There should be a brief survey sent to members with open ended questions – as in "What are you looking for?"

Fellowship and Outreach Plans

We are looking at showing more movies – one possibility is “*The Jesus Revolution*” which should become available to stream. We probably should resubscribe to the CVLI licensing to show movies that we would advertise to avoid copyright issues.

Other ideas are another poetry reading – Marilyn has been discussing that with the poetry group that staged the Ukrainian poetry benefit and there is interest. She will also reach out to the English and Art departments at NIU to offer St. Paul’s as a gallery. We could look at having an organ recital or other performances by reaching out to NIU’s Music department. Perhaps Hannah should be consulted first.

Jennie suggested outings to the Kishwaukee Symphony, too.

Grace Place

Pat asked what was happening with our association with Grace Place. The building on Normal Road was just sold and a search is on for a pastor. The Grace Place Board will be meeting to discuss the future of the program over the summer.

The **Buildings and Grounds** report is not ready yet.

Next Meetings

The next Vestry Meetings are scheduled for June 18th, July 16th, and August 20th, after the 9:30 AM service.

Jennie offered a prayer to close the meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan King
Clerk

May Vestry Agenda

Prayer Requests and Appreciations.

Prayer

April Minutes Approval

Treasurer Report

Go Green Garden Committee- Grant- Freyja

Nominating Committee for 2024 Vestry- discussion- Freyja

Search Committee names discussion- Freyja

Survey Questions discussion

Wardens' Reports

- Supply Clergy- Diocese of Chicago; ELCA Synod; Diocese of Milwaukee; Diocese Licensure; Discuss stipend; Courtesy stipend to Pastor Bob Hansen for May 21. Discuss May 28.
- Pastoral Emergencies- Father Georges Jallouf of Sycamore Sister Church, St. Peter's has graciously agreed to be on-call.
- Bible Study- Local ELCA pastor offers on-line Zoom class. Searching for additional options with Episcopal priest.
- Mother Barbara meeting with Wardens May 24 11:30 a.m.. May 31 Rectory Walk-thru 2:00 p.m.
- May 7 was Mother Barbara's last Sunday presiding. Andrea Mysen from the diocese read a letter from Bishop Paula Clark. Service included the ritual of passing-of-the-keys.
- Celebration-of-Ministry with gifts from the vestry were presented at coffee hour. Thank you to Lori J. for hosting.

Fellowship- Brainstorming for calendar events.

- Movies- Jesus Revolution.
- Poetry/Literature Event.
- Organ Recital.

B&Grounds Report

Prayer- Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all of our deliberations. Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process. Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us. Come Holy Spirit. Amen.

Future Agenda

Plan: What is the procedure when people call the church for help? In-house only? Protocol?

Family Service Agency? Discretionary Fund? Consult with Father Jallouf, Father Pruitt.

Plan: Pastoral Care/Counseling Needs. Develop a call list and pay procedure

Visiting Young People;

Licensed-Sunday School Partnership;

Parent-Child Quiet Room w/ Live-Streaming Service on TV.

Treasurer's Report May 21, 2023

As of May 19, our Heartland Bank checking account balance stood at \$97,974.99. I do not anticipate needing to take any money from the Endowment Fund for a few months.

We spent \$26,041 from our General fund in April, and we took in \$7,973 from pledges and regular contributions. The high spending was primarily due to the bill for property and workers' compensation insurance, which was about \$6,500. So far in 2023 we have spent 34.5% of our annual budget, and we have taken in 54.1% of our expected revenue. Note that the high percentage of revenue is largely due to the \$100,000 from the Endowment Fund in March. We are 33% of the way through the year.

The Rector's Discretionary Fund has \$700 in it. I don't know what to do with this money in the absence of a rector: I am assuming it will just sit there unused for a while. In April we also took in \$159 for the quarterly ECW charity (Barb Food Mart). I will write a check to the appropriate recipient when asked.

We have \$200 in the Garden Fund, plus another \$500 for rose care and \$425 for care of the spire spruce. The spire spruce is a sad tale: Davey Tree Service sprayed it for mites, and within a week it turned brown and died. It has since been removed. We did not pay Davey for their treatment. However, we also haven't pursued them for damages. I am not inclined to do so, but if anyone feels strongly about it, I will supply any needed records. I will contact the donors to see if they want their money back, and if not, what should be done with it.

As of March 31, the Endowment fund was valued at \$1,890,196.01. The Capital Fund at Edward Jones was \$52,321.19. A major thank-you goes out to Jennie Cummings for having sold off the little bit of Apache stock that we have owned for many years. We got \$241.54 for it. Since early 2020 its value has fluctuated between \$84 and \$331. Yay Jennie!

I want to inform the vestry of our separation agreement with Mthr. Barbara. We are paying her full salary, plus retirement and health insurance through June 30. In addition she is owed one Sunday's worth of vacation, for which we are paying her \$500. I will also honor any reimbursement requests from her.

We have a new Visa card, because the old one had gone missing. If you use any of our credit cards, please sign them out and return them as soon as possible with receipts.

We are now paying Mack Patrick \$125 per quarter for computer and website assistance. This seems to have already been very useful.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Johns, Treasurer

ECW May 20, 2023 Report

Present: Peg Newby, Kris Borre, Rebecca Smith, Pat Brown, Jo Plenger-Schultz, Mary Short

We met with Barb Food Mart's staff at their facility on Garden St. in DeKalb and received a tour of their small but well-utilized space. The history of BFM and the current procedures were shared. We asked lots of questions and were impressed with the efficiency of their operation. We shared information on our ECW, including the fact that we will be requesting hygiene and personal products from the congregation in addition to monetary donations. We hope to present our offerings to BFM in July, once a final tally of donations is done. Staff treated us to coffee and cookies while we chatted. This was a very beneficial outing at which we learned a lot about what is available and what is needed.

After our meeting, Peg, Pat, Jo, and Mary enjoyed lunch at The Junction.

Next meeting is Saturday, June 17th. Place to be determined. We will need to discuss who our next non-profit agency will be.

Submitted by Peg Newby