

St. Andrew's Vestry Minutes January 10, 2023

Members Present: Fr. Jeff Packard, Julie Breuninger, Carolyn Donaldson, Barb Downs, Tom Hall, Paul Hochreiter, Michele Marini, Kitty Mussett, Amy Pritchett, Sandy Schwartz, Fran Stevenson
Members Absent: Sharon Rovanseck, JudithAnn Rule
Officers Present: Julie Kwasnica
Guests:
Clerk: Beth Jones
Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

I. Opening Prayer - Fr. Jeff

II. Minutes

Motion: Fran Stevenson; 2nd Amy Pritchett – Second draft, accepted the minutes of the December vestry meeting as distributed. Motion carried with no abstention or dissension.

III. Reports

A. Rector's Report - see Attachment I 1) Confirmation class has 10 members already; expecting more. 2) We are doing well with attendance at services. 3) Discussion about getting those people in church to then go to the coffee hour. 4) Annual meeting is on 1/29 in the Church; livestream on FB. 5) Kathy Hickner's position - working on a new hire.

B. Assistant Rector's Report – none

C. Wardens

Senior Warden: 45 people attended the Epiphany dinner; transitioned to the Church after dinner

- Junior Warden: see Attachment II. 1) Ad Hoc committee still planning for vestry retreat on Feb. 18. 2) Suggestion that a Google drive be implemented for all vestry reports; everyone should have received one in their email.

D. Treasurer - distributed electronically prior to meeting.

- 1) \$150,000 endowment was received
- 2) Parish Life committee advance, specified for funerals - \$500.00
- 3) \$1125 donation was received and it covered the repair on the steps at Trinity House
- 4) Income/expense report ~\$2200.00 deficit, not as high as predicted
- 5) As of 1/1/23, \$362540 in pledges with 121 pledges, avg. 2996.00/pledge. Pledges keep coming usually until March. Total budget for 2023 - \$425000.
- 6) Discussion about procedures for paying recurring bills; audit necessary.
- 7) Parishioner's Ministry report distributed.

E. Committees and other ministries

- Committee: Ad hoc committee for budget: increase revenue, reduce expenses,
- Committee: Parish Life - pancake supper is on Feb. 21. Vestry is invited to help out.
- Altoona Convocation on Jan. 14 at St. Luke's. Regional churches getting together to discuss attendance.

- Friday film - “Prince of Egypt” on Jan. 13.

IV. Discussion: Fr. Jeff asked of those leaving their positions: what do you wish you knew before you came onto the vestry.

- 1) Vestry members would like to know what the committees do, especially if they are invited to be on them. Could committees be more transparent?
- 2) Other discussion: how to welcome newcomers to the Church. Inviting but not overbearing. Lots of discussion on this.
- 3) Kitty, Michele and JudithAnn will be leaving the vestry. Sandy Schwartz will continue for another term. Sarah Klinetob Lowe will finish Sharon Rovanseck’s term, who stepped down.

V. Unfinished Business:

Retreat date is set as Feb. 18. Several members will be absent. Check with the incoming new members.

VI. New Business

1. Topic 1: Paying for the retreat on Feb. 18., Take \$700.00 out of general endowment.
 - **Motion: Tom Hall, 2nd Michele Marini to take \$700 from general endowment. Motion passed without absention or dissension.**
 - Topic 2: Commission of wardens and vestry members. Propose: Members show up at their preferred service on Sunday and they will be commissioned then.
2. Topic 3: Tom Hall is working on a retreat agenda; please send him any ideas.

Meeting adjourned, 8:40 pm
Minutes submitted by Beth Jones

Attachment I

Rector's Report to the Vestry

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

1. Pastoral: 2 home/hospital Communion; 1 Funeral (led by Ted); 1 Baptism pending (March); 1 Wedding pending (July)
2. Average Sunday Attendance: 2022 final = 120; 2023 after 2 Sundays = 94
3. We will recognize "Scout Sunday" on February 5. I will confer the God and Me award to Theo Newton that day.
4. Taize service, 12/7, 14 & 21
5. Did service at The Village at Penn State, 12/21
6. Participated in Daughters of the King Advent program, 12/21
7. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day—total of 252 attending all these services
8. I took a week of vacation after Christmas. Ted covered the one service on January 1.
9. Epiphany dinner and Evening Prayer, 1/6
10. I led the ad hoc committee on budget on a tour of the building Sunday as they look into different ways to utilize our building and possibly monetize it. 1/8
11. Adult Confirmation Class: So far I have 10 people signed up for this class that will run on Thursday evenings starting on January 19. I expect that there will be more. We continue to have a remarkable number of new visitors attend our services. We had first time visitors, multiple ones, at all three services this past Sunday, 1/8. I am working with Marisa Ferger to get a newcomers' luncheon planned soon. We really need to seize the moment with all of the newcomers we have. Our bishop won't be here until spring of 2024, but I didn't want to wait because we have so many new people who were interested in the class.
12. Vestry Clerk: As we noted last month, Kevin Lowe is having to step down as our clerk. He's done a terrific job and will be hard to replace. But Beth Jones has been willing to step into the task. And it turned out that Kevin, who was planning on being with us at the

January meeting, could not attend in the end. So, Beth will be doing minutes. Welcome Beth!

13. Annual Meeting: My plan is to convene the annual parish meeting after the 10:00 service on January 29. We will meet inside the church following a brief break, long enough for us to set up a table and allow people to get a snack and a drink. The meeting will be live streamed on Facebook. Those at home who have a question or comment can type it into the comments of the live stream. Tom Hall will be monitoring those comments for me during the meeting. Also, if needed, people can call Tom's cell phone if they wish to speak at length. The election will be by acclamation.
14. I am planning on taking a week off in February as Continuing Education. I plan to read, think, and plan, for this year and for our pending strategic planning process
15. Director of Youth Ministries: As you know, Kathy Hickner is leaving this position as her family is moving to Michigan. Her husband Mike is starting a position at Michigan State this semester. Kathy has agreed to continue working until the end of May. I want to be clear with the vestry that unless you tell me otherwise, I am currently seeking to fill her position at the same number of hours per week (10). We did not adjust or eliminate this
16. position in the current budget. So, that is how I am proceeding.
17. Ongoing: Diocesan Disciplinary Review Board; bimonthly Clergy Council Meetings with the bishop; bimonthly local ecumenical/interfaith leaders' meetings; monthly spiritual direction; serving on Arts Festival board of directors; writing an occasional column for CDT
18. Upcoming: Convocation Meeting in Altoona, 1/14 (rescheduled from last week); Adult Confirmation Class starts 1/19; Community Café Trivia Night, 2/3; Youth Fundraiser Contra Dancing, 2/4; Scout Sunday, 2/5; Evensong, 2/5; Vestry Retreat, 2/18

Attachment II

Junior Warden Report

Submitted by Thomas Hall

January 5, 2023

1. The Ad Hoc Committee met in December and again on Jan. 5. We hope to have the bulk of our work complete by the Vestry Retreat Feb. 18. We are optimistic we will have solid suggestions for immediate consideration as well as fertile ideas for consideration at the retreat. As one of our team says, “Silver Shot not Silver Bullets.”
2. I need help organizing a special hmm hmm for some of our fellow hmm hmm hmm’s. If you are intrigued, please call or txt me at 814-207-1212. Thank you!
3. The Annual Meeting is January 29 after the 10 o’clock. It would be great if we could all attend and maybe even sit together?

4. Why do you suppose we, and most other “institutions,” are seeing different attendance patterns post-pandemic? Could it be muscle memory? Did our church-going muscles atrophy during the pandemic? Am I the only one that finds myself making an effort to fulfill an obligation that used to be routine. What can we do to welcome folks back, to help them overcome entropy and bump-start their public expression of faith?

///end