Approved Minutes

St. Andrew’s Vestry Meeting

October 22, 2024

Vestry present: Tanya Albert, Martha Elliott, Laurie Grey, Kirk Holbrook, Kelley Kash, Terry Marsh, Ruth Piper, Alex Pugh, Sara Sandberg, Jim Swan.

Rector excused: Suzannah Rohman

Vestry member excused: Laura Blanchard

Treasurer present: Mark Freese

Sara opened the meeting at 5:00.

Opening Prayer/Reflection - Tanya read a passage from the book *New Morning Mercies.* Terry will give the opening prayer/reflection at our next meeting.

We moved, seconded and voted to approve the September 24, 2024 minutes. The motion was passed by all.

Treasurer’s Report - Mark Freese shared the document ‘Statement of Activities’ and we briefly reviewed it. We received a refund for part of the cost of the copier. The Rectors Sabbatical Fund grant was received. Mark said that a first draft next years budget will be ready by next month. We thanked Mark for his great work as our treasurer.

Property Committee – Jim said that the work day was excellent, with ten volunteers getting our grounds ready for winter. Jim then talked about the problems of bowing, leaning and shifting of the granite posts; the fence on Glidden Street. They were installed without footing directly into the dirt. He wants to raise awareness that this will need to be addressed. The committee plans to contact the original contractor and also get recommendations and estimates for repair or replacement. The particle board underneath the (now removed) carpet in the atrium and library is moldy and should be removed. We moved, seconded and voted to approve the change order #58984 for a cost of $2,350.00 to remove the particle board. The motion was passed by all.

Vestry Discernment - Kelley led us in a good conversation about strategic planning; our next step to begin to implement the goals identified in the Parish Needs Discernment Committees meetings over the summer. Kelley noted that this is a fluid process, with some hoped for goals like accessibility coming later but we can start now. We talked about variety in music and fellowship as places to focus on now. We decided to begin with Fellowship. Laurie and Ruth volunteered to lead and will report to the Vestry next month.

Earthkeepers - Sara said they are working on the Territorial Acknowledgement Statement. There is $120.00 in the account and new clynck bags are available.

Stewardship - Jim reported that the committee members will each speak on the next four Sundays. The wonderful committee members are Laura Blanchard, Rita McKinney, Jim Swan and John Ward.

Wednesday Eucharist - The lunch following the service on October 2 was beautiful with 14 people participating. A lunch is planned for November 6. Please volunteer to be a driver to bring parishioners who need a ride.

Audit Committee - Kelley noted that the audit is an annual requirement. Ed Ross participated in a meeting of the diocese about audits and will give us recommendations.

Haiti Fund - Kelley shared this information: “Kelley met with Frazier Meade to get clarification on the St. Andrew’s Haiti Fund and relationship with the Lincoln County Ecumenical Committee for Haiti (LCECFH). He explained that the Haiti Fund is an outreach element of St. Andrew’s that has dealt specifically with St. Andrew’s partner parish in Haiti since 1998 Funds primarily came from proceeds from Haiti art shows in the to benefit a partner priest, who has a parish and school in Figaro.  Whereas the LCECFH appeared informally in 2010 after the big earthquake in Haiti to run the first fund raising dinner to help Gros Morne cope with the aftermath of the earthquake. The proceeds of the dinner went to an interfaith group in Gros Morne. The dinner’s organizers gathered every year up to 2020 to organize a fund-raising dinner with proceeds to the same interfaith group in Gros Morne. When COVID effectively stopped those dinners, the group turned to Go Fund Me annual appeals.  Some of those donations were sent to St. Andrew’s and transferred to the LCECFH. The LCECH is not a registered nonprofit.

The current balance in the Haiti Fund is $4,850.  In recent years, due to several factors, the Haiti art sales have decreased significantly, as well as activity with our partner parish, although Frazier maintains a relationship with the priest.  Getting funds to Haiti has become more challenging, too.  Frazier would like to continue to maintain the Haiti Fund for the purpose of assisting our partner parish, as was the intent of the program when first established. If no one takes over the mission after him, he would like the balance transferred to Figaro parish, if possible.” Therefore, Kelley said his recommendation is for no changes at this time. We were grateful for the information and the beautiful and long relationship our church has with Figaro.

Donation of Art - Sara shared that George and Anna Shaw will donate a framed watercolor of St Andrew’s Church by Bob Vaughan. We moved, seconded and voted to enthusiastically approve this gift. The motion was passed by all.

Expressions of Gratitude - to Richard Monkman for organizing the work day. Thank you Richard and all the crew! To Ann and Kelley for hosting the Vestry retreat; thank you!

 Upcoming Meeting - Tuesday November 25, 2024 at 5:00 PM

Adjournment- 6:15 PM Respectfully Submitted by Terry