

Approved Minutes
St. Andrew's Vestry Meeting
March 15, 2022

Wardens and Vestry present: John Ward, Christine Benken, Priscilla Glendinning, Terry Marsh, Sally Pearce, Lili Pugh, Sara Sandberg, Seth Stewart, Jim Swan, Edie Vaughan, Rachel Zoller

Treasurer present: Mark Freese

Rector present: Suzannah Rohman

Suzannah opened the meeting at 4:30.

Opening Prayer/Reflection- Priscilla shared her reflections about friendship. This is the first of the meditations that one vestry member will share at the start of the meeting. Lili will share her thoughts on April 19. Priscilla suggested the foyer dinners are a way to build friendships in the congregation and that we might consider starting foyer dinners again.

Reports and Action items

- a. Minutes from February 15, 2022 – approved
- b. Property Committee – Christine Benken
 - i. Interior painting- We moved, seconded and voted to approve the interior painting, rather than the exterior painting, contingent upon receiving a written description from David Seabold of the proposed work. The document should include the brand name of the paint. Christine noted that the work will take about two weeks and his crew will move the pews. The interior painting will not be scheduled for holy week.
 - ii. Granite fence post and lantern repair- We will submit a claim to The Church Insurance Company. The quote for the granite is \$1,500-\$2,000. We have not received a quote for the electrical work.
 - iii. New carpet-still waiting.
 - iv. The floor in the undercroft needs attention
 - v. Memorial garden-waiting for the drawing.
 - vi. Lighting in the church sanctuary. Maxine of the lighting company in Portland will meet with Jim and Suzannah on Thursday at 3:30. All are welcome to come to this meeting. Jim will look for any records about the current lighting.
 - vii. Renewal by Anderson of the windows will begin on March 28. This project should be coordinated with Ann.
- c. Treasurer's Report- Mark Freese

The state of the church remains strong. Mark reviewed the financial

statements. The line item for the compensation for health insurance for the organist and choir director is zero because it has not been paid yet. We are ahead on revenue because of unrestricted gifts.

Old Business

The 'owl' device for hybrid remote and in person meetings is working very well. We are not sure we will need to purchase a second 'owl'. Suzannah is in communication with The Maine Community Foundation about using the grant money for other technology needs, for example a sound system or cameras. Suzannah will ask for approval to use the remaining funds for technology needs to support worship and meetings in the church.

The Borland Hill Farm Foundation has awarded a grant to Veggies to Table with the stipulation that they provide flowers for St Andrews on a weekly basis. Possibly the intent is for the altar flowers. We will request just a small bouquet.

Christian Formation – Sherrie Holbrook, the Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator, is doing a great job. The intergenerational gathering on Sunday afternoon March 6th was a wonderful group, with seven young children and two teenagers. Future plans include a pot-luck meal at the Sunday afternoon gatherings.

Reopening – Suzannah said the CDC is providing a new metric. We can know if Lincoln Country is a red, yellow or green risk level. We are not approaching anything like normal. The positive transmission rate is 9.6. We talked about types of masks, parishioners getting used to zoom, and attendance. One idea is to start with having the choir sing, masked. We are entering an endemic phase of the pandemic and the metric is a scientific tool that we can use to make decisions about masking and singing. The ten o'clock service could designate no singing in the atrium and communion could be brought to the atrium. The church could use the metric and singing masked would be permitted for a code yellow.

Suzannah noted that Ben Cooke will begin the Clinical Pastoral Education program soon and therefore the 9:15 zoom service may need to end. This New Zealand prayer book service is lovely and could be led by lay leaders. Suzannah noted that we will need to let go of a seminarian-led 9:15 Sunday zoom service and also the zoom service of 7:00 AM morning prayer. She fully supports having lots of people leading worship and prayer. Therefore these services could continue, but with lay leaders.

We moved, seconded and voted to approve the following motion: Starting on Palm Sunday singing masked will be permitted, except in the atrium, if the CDC risk level is a yellow or green. The motion was passed by all.

New Business

John asked when we will be able to open the undercroft to outside groups. Currently the Alcoholics Anonymous group is meeting with masks. Suzannah noted that groups that support critical aspects of people's lives and be life giving for the community are given preference over other requests for using the church for meetings. She said the church does not charge. St Andrews decides if a request is appropriate. Seth will work on a meeting room policy. It was noted that the Benedictine group and the Knitting group have not yet returned to in person meetings. We moved, seconded and voted the following motion: St. Andrews will offer the undercroft to outside groups with the approval of the church administration. All participants must wear masks at all times in the church building. The scheduling would be first come, first served. The motion was passed by all.

Suzannah postponed the discussion about Vestry Norms until next month's meeting (guidelines for the discussion were sent in an email on March 13, 2022). Please email Suzannah with your thoughts.

Time of Vestry meetings - The new 4:30 time is good for everyone. Rachel thanked us as it helps with her work schedule. We talked about prospective vestry members and the need to have meetings at a time when people can attend. The meeting time can be adjusted, and that 'we will work it out, because we want you to run'.

Vestry Manual - Lili and Seth have made a list and are working on a new document. The Diocese of Maine has resources on their website too. Thanks to Lili and Seth.

Outreach - John will ask Steve Ward to gather the Outreach Committee. The committee will reconfigure the gift priorities and suggest to the Vestry where outreach should be going in this period after covid. There may be people who want to join the Outreach Committee. We talked about what is outreach and the hope for volunteer opportunities with the grant recipients. Seth asked if the Outreach Committee has a mission statement.

Finance Committee - John announced that Lili Pugh and Bill Judd have offered to join the Finance Committee. We moved, seconded and voted on the following motion: The Vestry appoints both Lili Pugh and Bill Judd to a three-year term on the Finance Committee. The motion was passed by all.

Camp Bishopswood scholarships - We hope to form a scholarship fund for members of St. Andrews. We should have a policy to decide how scholarship funds are distributed. The guidelines would not include proof of financial need. Sara, Jim and Sally will form a subcommittee on scholarships for Camp Bishopswood.

Expressions of Gratitude- to Martha Dodge for her engagement with the Property Committee.

Adjournment- 6:34 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Marsh