

Approved Minutes
St. Andrew's Vestry Meeting
December 20, 2022

Rector, Wardens and Vestry present: John Ward, Christine Benken, Terry Marsh,
Suzannah Rohman, Sara Sandberg, Seth Stewart, Rachel Zoller

Via zoom: Lili Pugh, Jim Swan, Edie Vaughan

Excused: Priscilla Glendinning, Sally Pearce

Treasurer present: Mark Freese

Suzannah opened the meeting at 4:30

Opening Prayer/Reflection- Edie Vaughan reflected on a quote from the novel *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout. "Our job, maybe even our duty is to bear the burden of the mystery with as much grace as we can." Edie noted: What we need to do; not to understand it, but be with it, think about it.

Seth Stewart will give the opening prayer/reflection at our next meeting.

We moved, seconded and voted to approve the November 15, 2022 minutes. The motion was passed by all.

Property Committee – Christine Benken, Jim Swan

Christine reported that the work on the memorial garden has begun.

Christine will contact Colby and Gale to request electronic monitoring of the propane tanks. Recently the tanks ran out of propane before the delivery.

The gutter for above the stain glass window will be installed by LeafFilter. Andy Donaldson will make the aluminum wedges.

The granite post is still being repaired.

The undercroft flooring will be installed in January.

The lighting will include trough lights. The inside of the troughs will be painted white before the installation. The invoice for the lights is \$18,000.

Suzannah noted that the finance committee has earmarked up to a \$75,000 capital allowance on a yearly basis, but the amount does not carry over if it is not spent. The capital improvements are paid from the investment savings. The operational costs of salaries and maintenance are paid by pledges.

We then talked about the memorial garden work, which is on the paths and the bridge.

Suzannah will explain to parishioners the difference between loved one's remains that are interred in the columbarium and remains (ashes) scattered in the memorial garden. The remains are retained in the columbarium and the remains are returned to the earth if scattered in the memorial garden.

Thank you Christine and all the property committee.

Treasurer's Report- Mark Freese

Mark handed out and reviewed the Statement of Activities January through November, 2022. Mark noted that pledges are running slightly behind. The draft budget for 2023 has a projected deficit of \$30,816. There followed a review of the draft budget. Mark asked us to email him with thoughts about the draft budget. Mark was thanked for the important work of treasurer.

Covid protocol- No changes. We will continue to follow the CDC protocol.

Stewardship-John Ward

John reported that the church has received 86 pledges totaling \$225,000. This represents the highest average in the history of the parish, \$2,660 at the time tabulated. The parish stepped up. A handful more pledges are expected also.

Candidacy for Ben Cooke to be ordained- We are sponsoring Ben, and also will provide feedback during this process. The vestry must vote to support his candidacy. Ben has finished his academic studies. He is doing his internship at St. Margaret's in Belfast, and is continuing to do per diem work as a chaplain in Portland at a hospital.. His supervisor is Barbara Briggs in Belfast.

Outreach- John Ward

John reported that Marc Zoorab's tuition is paid in entirety. We should be very proud. It is done! Marc's father will be here in June and Suzannah will invite him to give the sermon.

The Vestry moved, seconded and voted to go into executive session for a budget discussion. We later moved, seconded and voted to end the executive session.

Expressions of Gratitude-To the Finance Committee for the important budget work.

Edie will send a note of thanks to Ann and Kelly. They do all the work of picking up the Christmas flowers and decorating the church for Christmas.. Kelly also empties the trash and takes the recycling.

Adjournment- 6:21 PM

Respectfully submitted, Terry Marsh