

## **St. Andrew's Vestry Meeting September 16, 2020**

The Vestry Zoom on line meeting was called to order by Senior Warden Anne McCausland at 7:05 p.m.

**Those present were:** Rev. Reed Loy, Clarke Kidder, Junior Warden, Kerrie Diers, Treasurer, Betty Whinn, Chaplain, Tom Burack, Peter Daley, Audrey Knight, Lucy Crichton, Steve Largy, Brian Tucker, Betsy Wilder, and Pam Manus, Clerk

**Unable to attend:** Diane Les Becquets

**Invited Guests:** Fred Briccetti and Music Director Dr. Susan Armstrong

### **Opening Prayer and Reflection:**

Chaplain Betty Whinn led us in prayer and then offered a reading from Exodus 18: 17-23 centering on Moses and what was expected of him, the burden of the work load. After time for reflection many shared their thoughts. The discussion included delegating and then trusting others. Recognizing when it's too much, accepting the responsibility of the trust placed in you. Trusting God to be there, to shoulder the burden with us. We have been given the freedom to choose. With prayer and faith we as the Vestry move forward doing the work of the parish.

### **Consent Agenda:**

- Anne McCausland asked for a motion to approve the the consent agenda consisting of the Financial Report for file, and the Building and Grounds report. Thank you to Treasurer Kerrie Diers for clarity and transparency of the finances and to Building and Grounds for the work they have done. Audrey Knight so moved, Betsy Wilder seconded and it was unanimously approved.

### **Minutes of August Vestry Meeting:**

- Anne McCausland then asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the August Vestry meeting. Lucy Crichton made the motion and Peter Daley seconded this. Pam Manus, Clerk, stated that there was one point about gutters for over the youth room door that was discussed in the presentation of the Building and Grounds report that had been left out of the minutes. After brief discussion the minutes were accepted as written

with one abstention. The Clerk will report put the point about the gutters into these minutes as an addendum.

### **Old Business:**

- Returning to the Buildings & Grounds motion to exceed their budget for new repair needs: Clarke Kidder briefly discussed the tree removal from the front lawn of the Church. Jeff Dearborne will remove the tree and the wood will go to the Sean Powers Wood Pile at the town Dump. Clarke stated that the cost would not exceed \$1,500.00. While the B&G budget would support this he felt that a motion to exceed this would be beneficial.
- Clarke also addressed the sill rot under the Youth Room windows going to the outside door. The only estimate at present was from Mr. Knowlton for \$3,800 - \$4,400.00 depending on what might be found under the boards. There are two other people who have been asked for an estimate, but they haven't gotten back to the committee. The people who do this type of work are backed up, so may not have the time or manpower until next spring (winter being no time to do outside repairs). Clark along with the support of Eric Riggs our Sexton, have a plan to temporarily and "button up" the area effected for this winter. His recommendation is to have the tree removed, do the necessary work to protect the rotted sill/door area and plan that repair for the spring of 2021.
- After brief discussion, Steve Largy moved that we approve the amount of \$1,500.00 for the tree removal acknowledging that this amount might be over the B&G budget. This motion was seconded by Peter Daley and it passed unanimously.
- Update on Nave Ceiling: Plaster fell from an area in the Nave. No damage to anything below, although some small amount of plaster dust did land on the edge of the organ pipes. A plasterer did come and evaluate the area/ceiling and said there was no significant damage. He did point out some "spider cracks" in other areas that need to be addressed. The paint peeling off the ceiling is not a concern and just needs sanding and painting.
- RenewalWorks - Next Steps: Rev. Reed Loy reported that in the Bishop's meeting with the Clergy it has been acknowledged that so many "normal things" have been tossed up in the air. The normal is not

the same. Adapting is a fluid notion and we are learning how to adapt with grace. This dovetails nicely into what we at St. Andrew's are doing and hoping to do as we move onto discussion and deliberation of the Next Steps as outlined in the report of our RenewWorks team. Reed asked Betsy Wilder to share her email to him recounting her spiritual journey that started with joining the RenewalWorks team and has blossomed and grown with each step she has taken with the team. Betsy felt that there is a lot to be done, but we can do it together, growing spiritually together.

- Starting along this spiritual path seems a huge leap. Naming this growth as a journey seems important. Much discussion centered our own spiritual growth. It will take time to realized when in our lives our spiritual journey cuts in. We shared thoughts about this.

*A vibrant life - spiritual/scripture centered*

*Socializing the learning - Christ's teachings. Seeing it in ourselves and it in others.*

*Looking through a lens that centers around the Spirit and scriptures*

*Claiming the language of Spiritual Journey. Start with small groups i.e. Vestry*

*Loud and Proud. We need to use the language proudly.*

*Be an authentic witness*

*Be a living document*

After sharing all this it was agreed that at our next meeting we will do the work of the parish for 1/2 hour and spend the next 1 1/2 hours divided into small groups to work on the very important Next Steps.

### **New Business:**

- *New Worship Team*: The New Worship Team members are Anne McCausland, Clarke Kidder, Susan Armstrong, Binney Wells, Peter Daley, Randy Galinat, John Gfroerer, Eric Riggs and Rev. Reed Loy. They are working together to envision what growth will look like, what the possibilities are for worship. They have developed a list of items and process to work with and further develop, as St. Andrew's works towards reopening our building for worship and events. (see addendum). This list is detailed and identifies procedures to meet the State's requirements during these COVID times and the Diocese of NH's guidelines to re-open our physical church. They have addressed

possible ways to gather maintaining physical distance, cleanliness and safety measures. Small steps first.

- October 4th - Zoom service from the Memorial Garden lifting up creation.
- Use our theology - grow in communion
- Following the State's requirements and reflecting the Diocese guidelines, hoping that we will be able to worship Advent in our church building.
- Phases - using technology to aid us not replace us.
- Working on a hybrid model of service to reach more parishioners.
- Dynamic communion and unity for all - no bystanders.

*Organ Committee Report:* Guests Fred Briccetti and Susan Armstrong joined us to give the report and recommendations of the Organ Committee. (the complete report can be found in the files in church office). This report outlined the history of the organs in St. Andrew's along with their pros and cons. They have a consultant's report outlining steps to either keep our organs or replace them, with suggestions on different types of organs to look at. It detailed the committee's tour of an organ restorer/builder's plant in Vermont. The three types of organs were explained with their pros and cons. Possible sale of our organs was addressed.

The report ended with these conclusions:

- Current organs are limiting musical life in the church.
- Replacing one, or both, is feasible.
- A "vintage" reconditioned pipe organ would likely serve the needs of the congregation best, be the longest lasting solution and be most cost effective.
- Cost would currently be approximately \$100,000.00 installed.
- CRITICAL:
  - Any changes should be part of a Vestry-led process to evaluate the musical and capital needs of the congregation
  - If a capital campaign is contemplated, replacing the parish organs should be a component, but not the sole, project funded by the campaign.
  - By-in from congregation will be crucial.

The committee also acknowledged the fact that no action could be the answer for now. It would take anywhere from \$3,000 -\$6,000 to care for and clean our present organs. But they also stated that the positives for

replacement of our organ(s) are many, including the enhanced capabilities, increasing the breath and depth of the music for us all. The work done by this committee was in-depth, complete and well thought out. The Vestry thanked Fred and Susan and sent it's heartfelt gratitude to the rest of the committee for all the time and effort given to this project.

*Love Your Neighbor:* With the 6 months of seclusion and social distancing we all have experienced, we realize that many parishioners may be feeling disengaged. The Vestry members will be reaching out to many who we have missed seeing. A phone call to say hello, how's your spirit doing etc is an excellent way to let people know they are thought of and cared about. Each Vestry member will make 3 or 4 calls within the next few weeks.

Upcoming special celebrations/events/dates:

- Blood Drive - September 23
- Friendly Kitchen - September 22
- Family Promise - October 11-18

Thank you Cards: Thank you cards will be sent to the Building and Grounds committee and the Organ committee. Our Sexton and our Office Manager should also be thanked for holding down the fort.

Next Vestry Meetings: October 21st, November 18th, December 16th.

**Closing Prayer:** Chaplain Betty Whinn offered the closing prayer. Kerrie Diers moved to adjourn the meeting, Betty Whinn seconded this and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Pam Manus, Clerk

## **Addendum**

Vestry Meeting September 16, 2020

Building and Grounds: added statement to August 2020 meeting: The need for gutters was asked by Betty Whinn. Clarke Kidder responded that they were not on the agenda for now, but certainly were an item for consideration.

Consent Agenda: The financial report will be on file in the church's office.

### Building & Grounds report for August - September 2020

#### Activity:

- We have completed many open tasks to date. These items have been on our to do or budgeted list for action in 2020:
  - Repair sill & window surrounds sheep run wall - Eric
  - Supports for retaining pond fence - Peter Daley
  - Replace dirt w/stone right of Youth Room door (improved drainage) - Stritts
  - Tree Trimming around church - Matt Puza
  - Cable maple behind carriage house - Matt Puza
  - Boiled linseed oil on big bell wheel (last in 2009) - George Sharpe
  - Paint on porch railing - Martha & Ed Fairfield
  - Bottom trim boards on carriage house are rotting due to lack of flashing - Eric
  - Fix broken/cracked tiles in Parish House - Eric
  - Memorial Garden fretwork & gate - George Sharpe
  - Add data jacks for Reed's and Susan's offices - Clarke
  - Repair top of right vestment closet in sacristy - Eric
  - Clean out carriage shed - Betty & Jim Whinn

### **Issues being addressed:**

- Section of plaster falling from the ceiling over the organ.
  - Insurance has been contacted and we await the report from the adjuster.
  - We are proceeding to entertain quotes from plasterers.
  - Once we have a better picture, we will proceed to recommend a course of action.
  - The organ will need to be inspected.
  - The area has been cleaned and moveable items removed.
  - The Nave is currently closed.
- Sill rot under Youth Room windows. During inspection, Eric found extensive rot caused by water damage under the Youth Room windows extending back towards the door. We are entertaining estimates for repair. Repairs should be made this fall if possible
- Extensive rot to the maple tree at the north east edge of our property along the street. Jeff Dearborn has been contacted and has agreed to remove the tree this fall.
- Outside lights on timers. A request was made by Lyndon to reset timers to minimize light pollution. Ed Fairfield will reset.
- Green Audit. We have heard nothing from Eversource. Also, the Diocesan grant (approved) but must be spent soon. Paul Carey will head up this project.
- Fall cleanup - plans are underway to schedule and hold this event - Lots of leaves!

### **Highlights of the past month with the Memorial Garden Committee include:**

Continued discussion with Perry Brothers (engraving of the long-awaited stone planter)

- Researched MG archives for project of sharing history with St. Andrew's parishioners

- Completed and mailed all outstanding thank you notes to acknowledge gifts made to the MG Endowment Fund in response to the mailed announcement
- Maintained the Garden (watered, weeded, pruned, replanted pots)
- Refined a nearly final budget for 2021
- Discussed potential projects for further exploration during winter months, among them: a celebration with a teaching component; signage; a plein air event (auction potential); local outreach in the form of landscaping help in conjunction with an already scheduled "habitat for humanity" type of effort
- Selected officers and clerk for 2021: Rebecca Briccetti and Binney Wells, Co-Chairs; Betsy Wilder, Finance Officer; Audrey Knight, Clerk.
- Followed up with Frank Grano re timing and effectiveness of 2<sup>nd</sup> treatment for magnolia

Complete Organ Committee Report: This report will be found in the church's office.