

St. Andrew's Vestry Meeting
April 21, 2021

Senior Warden, Anne McCausland, called the Zoom on-line meeting to order at 7 p.m. Those present were: Rev. Reed Loy, Anne McCausland, Senior Warden, Clarke Kidder, Junior Warden, Kerrie Diers, Treasurer, Betty Whinn, Chaplain, Peter Daley, Audrey Knight, Lisa Brown, Betsy Wilder, Lucy Crichton, Judy White, Dianne Les Becquets, Steve Largy and Pam Manus, Clerk.

Guest: Bishop Rob Hirschfeld.

Parishioners joining for conversation with the Bishop were: *Jim Whinn, Liz and Bert Cooper, Judy Kidder, John McCausland, Ann Junkin, John Gfroerer and Shelli Gay*

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Betty Whinn opened the meeting with a prayer asking for guidance in our Liminal Season, strength, wisdom and patience as we discern our way along the Emmeaus Road. Clarke Kidder offered A reading from Ecclesiastes 3 : 1-15

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,

3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,

4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,

5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,

7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,

8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

9 What do workers gain from their toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity

in the human heart; yet^[a] no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. **12** I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. **13** That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. **14** I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

15 Whatever is has already been,
and what will be has been before;
and God will call the past to account.^[b]

After a few moments of reflection we shared our thoughts on this passage. Some of the thoughts offered were: that this is a guide for life, filling us with joy; recently it's been a time to mourn and a time to dance reminding us of the people joyful after the recent court decisions; and a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing which speaks to our recent history with the pandemic, our time to embrace hopefully is returning. We noted that there was a popular song in the mid 60's that uses these words to talk about the war. What has been, what is and what is to become reflects our situation as we move forward here at St. Andrew's. We can center ourselves on God, trusting, knowing that God knows the future, as we move forward in our liminal season. It's ok to speak up and it's ok to remain silent; no matter which you choose, with God guidance we're encouraged.

Senior Warden Anne McCausland then welcomed Bishop Rob Hirschfeld. Bishop Rob appreciated the time as we grounded ourselves in the word. He was thankful for our reflections. He truly enjoyed being with us on Easter. He reflected on the passage "Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account. He felt that standing in the Memorial Garden was a reflection of these words. He looked at the names on the pavers in the garden. There was a sense of "Witness" a form of witness for those he was confirming. Being With the past, witnessing the present and moving forward in faith. A kind of eternity, he felt he was celebrating communion with the past, present and preparing for the future. He was thankful for all that. He then shared his priorities for the dioceses. He felt that it was not a time to put out a 5 point plan, but to gather together, to achieve "witness". We need to shield our joy and come together with love. We are opening new communities not loosing communities. He was asked about balancing the needs of the world with our need for preserving/maintaining our space. Bishop Rob's answer was "to address the most faithful use of resources." How we hold this community of faith to it's Baptismal vows, preserving the space to go

out into the world can be our foundation for the future. He expressed this thought by likening our space (and its importance) to Penn Station in NYC. As people came off the train to go to their “everyday work”, they stepped into this wonderful open airy space, they looked around and their spirits soared, it was like the city cared for them - they felt like royalty. We do this with our homes and with St. Andrew’s. We lend dignity to life with attention to the physical space. We shouldn’t overdue it. He put forth this premise from a book he was reading. When we use a business model, look at finances, base our decisions on dwindling congregations and income, we might close the church. We have to look at and acknowledge the stress we are all experiencing. We need to be able to join together. How can we close the very space that brings us together to renew ourselves, to pray, to join in communion? The Vestries are tasked with the business of balancing the needs of the space, the sign of God in our community, and the support of our Baptismal vows. We are here to show God’s love to the world. The church is now working around the concept laity being the center of the church. This past year many laity have stepped forward, many are doing it for the first time, and many are openly speaking about Jesus. Bishop Rob has two meetings a week with the priests, something he cherishes. He has met with many new people coming into the church and is looking forward to being able to welcome them into the physical space. What will the new normal look like? We have enjoyed our small Zoom groups and the Zoom Sunday groups after services lead by Rev John McCausland. There are people who can’t deal with computer services and are disconnected, some who come because the service is on computer so they can connect. Some come because they physically couldn’t get to “church” and there are those who enjoyed both settings. We will need to be sensitive to the people who are looking forward to getting back into the physical church - hoping that the “old normal” will return. Sensitive to those who are unable to physically get to our space and keep them connected. Balance all that with the eagerness to move forward and utilize the up-dated systems we have used and are available. Bishop Rob thanked us for the opportunity to visit with us to discuss mutual issues of interest. He thanked us for all we do for the Diocese. We all agreed that it was a two way street, as we have the opportunity to utilize all that the Diocese has to offer us. Anne McCausland thanked Bishop Rob for his time and insights into the life of the Diocese, for taking time to be with us. Bishop Hirschfeld left the Zoom meeting as well as some of our guests.

We then continued on with the agenda at 7:58 p.m.

Senior Warden Anne McCausland brought the meeting together.

Consent Agenda: Anne McCausland asked for a motion to receive the Financial Report for the file. Lucy Crichton moved to accept the Financial Report for the file, Peter Daley seconded this, no discussion was offered and it passed unanimously.

Anne McCausland then asked for a motion to accept the Committee Reports received in the Consent agenda including Family Promise, Friendly Kitchen, Got Lunch, Formation Committee, Adapted Worship Committee, TLC, and Convocation. The committee reports were received

Minutes from the March Meeting: Peter Daley moved to accept the minutes from the March 2021 meeting, Betty Whinn seconded this. There were no objections, additions or corrections. This passed with 1 abstention.

Old Business:

- Vestry Book Study, How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going: Leading in a Liminal Season, Chapter 2: - Looking at the Capital Campaign through Beaumont's 3 "liminal leadership postures: Leading with presence. The heart of the Leader, (everyone who has a leadership role) should be a healthy energy, the heart of the leader has a lot to do with the level of energy that the parish has. It doesn't mean more energy, but a healthy energy of leadership. With our Capital Campaign moving forward this chapter is very relevant. Last month we shared words of attending and awareness. Quiet spirit words, we shared our thoughts and energy. We delved into the postures of judgement, cynicism and fear; and 3 spiritual shifts of knowing to unknowing, advocating to attending and then from striving to surrender. We can use these as a frame work for our discussion. The following are key words that struct us, words that resinated with us:
 - Awareness - where are we coming from? Looking into a setting rather than being at the center looking out at others.
 - Perspective - Looking at now, but envisioning what the future is.
 - Striving vs Surrender - let go and let God
 - Who's driving the boat - It's trusting, a bit like riding a bike with help from an elder, then realizing they had let go and you were doing this.

- Statistic and probability - being open willed and open minded.
- Expectations - we are elected leaders who “know where we’re going”, but do we really? What would be the most faithful use of our resources. We have time.
- Hard to get the points in this chapter...but maybe the point was to be confused.
- Letting go of “old ways”, trusting in Gods leadership.
- Trust - open mind, open heart, open will.
- Excitement - may lead us forward, but others may see it differently so be open to others. Separate ego from the decision, if I’m intent on my own point of view I can’t be open to another view.
- Trusting in others to make good decisions. Seek input. Getting to the balcony to see the dance floor below-looking from a different perspective.
- Look at the process - we didn’t ask for the hole in the ceiling ? A gift from God? We then had to do something, we were given an opportunity and the Pandemic has forced us to investigate new and better ways to communicate with each other.
- Jesus often talked this way he talked about using the opportunity of a setting to move toward God.
- Do we want change? Can we go back to normal, take time to recover before we race forward with a lot of change?
- We have heard words that are different, but those live along side of others that might be opposite. We can live with that and there will still be many things the same.
- We’ve had the luxury of time and discussion. We’ve had our turn. Now it’s time for our wider community to weigh in.
- We have the survey that will at least give us the thoughts of others in our parish. We will listen and will be inclusive, involving many voices. We will get the result of the survey in May and we will give feedback to the team. If needed we will ask them for another survey or gaining feedback, then in June we will finalize the content of the campaign and then write the case statement. We will have 2 June meetings one to receive the case statement and affirm it. Then give this to Bob Wilson who will do a feasibility study (might take 2 months) and bring that information back to us for discussion and action.
- At every stage we should stop and say why and what. It’s a process and one that should be thoughtful, leading us into spiritual reflection.
- Bob Wilson is comfortable with this time line, he understands that we may lead more time as we are a community not a business or 501-C3.

- Would it be valuable to meet in person maybe on a Saturday (maintaining a safe environment). (Peter will look into this)
- People who do not have computers or not on line will get paper ones.

Nave Up-date: Clarke Kidder gave a brief report on the Nave. The Nave is fixed and the congregation will feel at home. It's the same but better! We have up-dated lighting, the ceiling is repaired and the paint is fresh. There have been a few overruns, as the work was being done it uncovered some areas that needed repair. We are right on budget for what we knew. We are able to cover the overruns.

Pastoral Calls: Many reported that the calls were welcomed. Some people have expressed thanks but feel they don't have to have the calls. Some people have moved and others are very busy.

Loose Plate: We need to name an organization(s) for our May and June loose plate. We had discussed the Head to Head School in Haiti. Betty Whinn moved to name the Head to Head School to receive the loose plate offering. Peter Daley seconded this and it passed with 1 abstention due to conflict of interest.

Process for Fundraisers from Other Organizations: Pam Manus asked for ideas for a process or not when other organizations ask us to advertise their fund raisers. Please think about it and get back to her.

Upcoming special celebrations/events/dates:

- April 28: Blood Drive
- May 9-16 Family Promise hosting week
- May 11 at 7 p.m. Diocesan conversation on Reparations
- TBA Post-Easter "Come and See" Visit the renewed nave.

Thank you notes:

- Judy McPhail - Betty Whinn
- John Gfroerer - Betsy Wilder
- George Schell - Betsy Wilder
- Sam Waldo - Pam Manus

Next meetings:

May 19th, (?June 9th or 29th) June 16th, (no July meeting), August 18

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Betty Whinn closed our meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Pam Manus
Clerk

Addendum

Adapted Worship Team Report, April 2021
The Rev. Reed Loy

The Team will be meeting in late April to revise recommendations on in-person worship, with an eye to facilitating in-person gathering this summer and continuing into the autumn. This revision will include considerations of “hybrid” worship that continues to include online participants, and researching additional quotes on air filtration, as part of due diligence before finalizing their earlier, March recommendation to the Vestry.

Formation Committee Report
Submitted to: the Vestry
Submitted by: Diane Les Becquets
For: April meeting

Recent or ongoing activities:

- Many thanks to John Gfroerer for the church livefeed and for the video updates he provided on the work in the sanctuary. John has also put together a video on the artist Victoria Sager and her painting titled “Grace,” that she recently donated to the church and which will be on display in the near future in the nave.
- Thanks to Betsy Wilder for organizing “Dinner with St. Andrews’ Chefs.” The following is a recap that Betsy provided: “...after 10 weeks of cooking with chefs... What fun, friendship and new dinners to cook!! 25+ people signed up for weekly emails and 4 or 5 others requested the recipe featured in the eblast each week. In between, many emails back and forth about the recipes, and fun to read each cook's history. For me it filled a bleak time this winter of Covid hibernation, chilly weather, and when I was truly sick of cooking! The fun of all the new recipes and connections with parishioners was a bright light. We might think of another email adventure to make connections.

- Reed and Lucy Crichton are continuing to lead a group of 10, on racism and reparations, that follows the film and dialogue-based journey called “Sacred Ground,” provided through the Episcopal Church. The group has met three times, and will continue meeting over the next nine months at various meeting times. Lucy says the class is bringing the group to a deeper place and a deeper understanding of the structure of our culture. So far the group has been meeting over Zoom, but Lucy and Reed hope they will have the opportunity to walk a labyrinth together.

In the works:

- “Come and Pray” has been changed to “Come and See(k),” and had to be delayed. As soon as the work on the nave is complete, sign-up sheets will be made available to parishioners where they can sign up for individual or family time in the sanctuary.
- Plans are underway for a mid-summer outdoor service on the lawn, followed by a picnic and games and activities (i.e., badminton, volleyball, croquet, etc.). We will be asking the men’s group to provide the grilled food. Other details will be put in place and developed as we draw closer and know more about the pandemic situation and CDC guidelines.
- We are looking into a small group offering for the fall that will explore the lives of female saints. (Thank you, Pam Manus.)

The formation committee will be meeting again on Tuesday, May 11th (1 pm). We will continue to explore ways to bring parishioners together and deepen their relationship with each other and with Christ. Additional ideas are being discussed and will be revisited.

Friendly Kitchen April Vestry Report

The St. Andrew’s Friendly Kitchen crew is consistently serving 70 meals to guests who are food insecure. The Friendly Kitchen is planning on opening up for inside dining on May 3rd. Their plan is that meals be prepared as we have been doing putting to go boxes together and just handing them out from the kitchen line instead of outdoors. The guests will be brought in, pick up their meals and be seated by coordinators. At present we at St. Andrew’s are looking at different ways we can involve more volunteers in this new normal. Our April evening is April 27th and we will still be getting meals into to-go boxes and they will still be given out at the front door.

Family Promise April Vestry Report

St. Andrew’s week for Family Promise is May 9th (Mothers Day) - May 16th. The families are still living in the Henniker First Congregational parish house,

so we need to provide evening meals, gas cards and gift cards for that week. A SignUp Genius is being set up for opportunities to volunteer and a link to this will be published in the EBlast. At present there are three families, but with apartments opening it up and vouchers for these more available, our families are getting to move into places and spaces of their own more quickly than before. There has been a change in case managers recently so the new person is becoming acquainted with the families, her role, and all of the congregations involved. Spring is bringing new beginnings for all.

St. Andrew's has been awarded \$2050 from the Mission Resources Committee of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire! The funds will be sent to St. Andrew's soon, and Family Promise will be able to produce the documentary planned with John Gfroerer.

St. Andrew's was also able to help with one family's need for safe transportation, as the car they had couldn't pass inspection and no repairs would help. Rev. Loy was able to take a little over \$1,000.00 from the Rector's Discretionary Fund to make it possible for that family to obtain a safe, inspected car.

TLC report

- ~ March Monthly Cards sent
- ~ Baked and packaged 125 Hot Cross Buns for the Congregation
- ~ Delivered Hot Cross Buns and Palms to those could not pick up.
- ~ Baked and delivered two weeks of meals to June and Dave. Will continue with a third week into April
- ~ 80+ Birthday surprise for Betty Whinn. Unfortunately Fred Pilch was transferred from Havenwood for treatment. He has been receiving our Birthday cards and enjoying flowers sent to him by Debbie Monroe.

- ~ Easter Cards sent to our TLC recipients
- ~ Congratulation cards sent to those being confirmed
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Convocation Report

Central Convocation of the Diocese met via Zoom last week and reported out on various congregations approaches to worship and ministry amidst the pandemic. Also, Alanna van Antwerpen shared the NH diocese new digital ministry outreach effort to attempt to help develop a more intentional effort towards ministry and outreach.