

St. Andrew's On-Line Vestry Meeting June 16, 2021

Senior Warden Anne McCausland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present: Anne McCausland, Senior Warden, Clarke Kidder, Junior Warden, Kerrie Diers, Treasurer, Rev. Reed Loy, Betty Whinn out-going Chaplain, Betsy Wilder in-coming Chaplain, Peter Daley, Lucy Crichton, Steve Largy, Diane Les Becquets, Audrey Knight Lisa Brown, Judy White and Pam Manus, Clerk.

Senior Warden Anne McCausland thanked out-going Chaplain Betty Whinn for the faithful, thoughtful and Christ-filled presence she has brought to us this past year through scripture and prayer. Anne then welcomed Betsy Wilder to the role of Chaplain and thanked her for her willingness to serve.

Opening Prayer and Reflection: Chaplain Betsy Wilder offered a prayer asking God to fill us, guide us, teach us, hear us and accompany us as we go about the tasks before us. Betty Whinn then read a passage from the Gospels, Luke 10: 38-42.

- **38** As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. **39** She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. **40** But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

- **41** "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, **42** but few things are needed—or indeed only one.[a] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

After quiet reflection a lively discussion followed. We are distracted by so much but there are times when we should try to pay attention to one important thing. We need to ask for help when we need it. There are times when someone has to pay attention to the details but they shouldn't come at the expense of missing the main point or the larger picture. Listening to Jesus was the center of the evening and tasks could be put aside. The culture of the times was discussed and the reason Jesus was there, who had invited him? Do we invite Jesus into our lives to fix things or do we want to listen to him? All good points to ponder.

Consent Agenda: Anne McCausland asked for a motion to receive the financial report for the file and the committee reports as presented. Audrey Knight moved this and Betty Whinn seconded it. This was passed unanimously.

Minutes from the May Meeting: Anne McCausland asked if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes from the May meeting, taken by Audrey Knight. Betsy Wilder moved to accept the minutes from the May Vestry meeting, Lisa Brown seconded this and it passed with 11 yeas and 2 abstentions.

Old Business:

- **Capital Campaign:** Senior Warden Anne McCausland then led the vestry into the two part discussion concerning what we've heard about the Capital Campaign during the listening sessions with the congregation and where we are going to go with the Capital Campaign. Rev. Loy talked about the voluminous feed back on the 4 areas of the Capital Campaign that we were focusing on. Betsy Wilder added that we should be aware that the majority of parishioners were passionate about how they feel about things and how they want to participate. They truly want to be part of the decisions making. They would like to have more information specific to actual plans and cost. Most agreed that we have focused on the 4 main areas needed; Signage, Accessibility, Windows and Organ. The discussion that followed included perspective on what we heard. We heard positive statements from the parish about the work we have done and anxiety about the changes that might be done. We took some time sharing what we felt might be a way forward. Reed offered some theological thoughts on our reasons to move forward. What way or which way forward brings us closer to the kingdom of God. Reed offered that the Diocese is in the discernment phase of a Capital Campaign and are taking a longer time to move forward. The feeling is that with information and plans the parish would feel included. The last time we did something "big", the money was initially taken from the endowments and caused anxiety, but it was able to be returned through a Capital Campaign. Clarke Kidder reminded us that with a vision and a specific plan, people could get excited. We then talked about having a team or a person to delve into the 4 areas and come up with specific plans and costs that would be our foundation to move forward. Parishioner Melissa Trafton, whose professional life is in Art History and Museum Curation, has expressed an interest in helping with plans and costs. We discussed the windows, the organ, the signage and our worship space and we need to be respectful and protect the spirit of this parish. Diane stated that she feels we

need the detailed cost audits, detailed vision and concrete plans. It was brought up that we haven't even been back in the church proper yet. People need time to reconnect and have face to face conversations. We would be throwing out a lot of information and asking questions that might feel overwhelming to some. We should be the leaders that we can be. Perhaps we need to take a few months to get this work done and then we can step forward and speak of the vision. We listened and this is what we've come up with. Then we could have a plenary of the whole parish and could be ready to move ahead. We discussed the need to communicate what we are doing on a weekly basis. The parish needs to realize that they are important and we hear their voices. Betsy will take this on. Lucy underscored the need to have a vision statement or a "name" for this campaign. Reed will contact Melissa Trafton asking her to head a team of her choosing. We then worked on a proposal to commission a building study team. After many drafts we put a motion up stating To commission a building study team to draft a proposal to include the financial estimates and descriptions and drawings for our worship experience. We then refined this and felt that Reed would ask Melissa Trafton to head this team. Diane Les Becquets moved to commission a Campaign Projects Team to provide the Vestry with a report on: worship accessibility, stained glass windows, the organ, and signage. This report will include descriptions, drawings, and financial information/estimates. Betsy Wilder seconded this. We then had the opportunity to share our thoughts again. The motion was called and it passed with 12 yeas and 1 nay. We see a way forward and at the same time we are not rushing into things blindly. Betsy Wilder will speak on Sunday to bring the congregation up to date information.

New Business:

- Energy Efficiency Grant Application: Rev. Loy has moved ahead with completing the Energy Efficient Grant application. We are requesting \$29,390 from the Diocese to be used for re-insulating the church . We are planning on using \$15,000.00 from our money market account. Some discussion followed about the insulation and the use of the money from the Diocese's Funds and the \$15,000.00 in the money market account. Kerrie Diers moved to support the Energy Efficiency Grant Application submission and utilize the \$15,000.00 in our money market account towards this insulation project if the Grant is awarded. Lisa Brown seconded this. This passed unanimously.

Upcoming special celebrations/events/dates:

July 11th, Parish Picnic at the Church (10 a.m. worship, then games and picnic - rain date July 18th)

July 19-23, Make Your Mark Art Camp

Reed Away: June 16-26, Aug. 16-22, Aug. 24-29

Blood Drive June 23

Indoor Worship Resumes September 5th.

Next Vestry meetings: No July meeting, August 18th.

We had not scheduled a July meeting. A brief discussion followed on the need for a July check in meeting to go over whatever the Campaign Projects Team might have to report. It was agreed to meet on July 21 for approximately 1 hour. Single agenda meeting. No other business will be addressed, but it is felt that it was a meeting we need to have. All agreed. We will meet on Zoom.

Thank You Notes: Betty Whinn will send a thank you note to Rob Knight for his careful mowing of the large field and areas in back of the Church.

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Betsy Wilder closed the meeting with a prayer.

Kerri Diers moved to adjourn at 9 p.m., Peter Daley seconded and this passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Pam Manus, Clerk

Addendum

Adapted Worship Team Report, June 2021

The Rev. Reed Loy

Members: Peter Daley, Randy Galinat, John Gfroerer, Anne McCausland, Binney Wells, Susan Armstrong, the Rev. Reed Loy

Randy Galinat, John Gfroerer and the Rev. Reed Loy have been preparing the proposed equipment list for our hybrid indoor worship. With Pam McDonald's Funeral planned for August 29th, we are now working to have our new equipment set up sooner than originally intended. Our hope is to finalize the equipment list in late June, submit for a diocesan grant, and then purchase the equipment in time for a mid-August test run. We are thankful to Alan MacRae of St. John's Dunbarton for his technical assistance, and sharing his own equipment with us, allowing us to test the proposed equipment without making any rentals or purchases.

Our prospective plan will have 4 cameras (two of which we already have) across the balcony, with a central switcher that feeds into the Zoom "meeting". This will give folks online a more dynamic, shepherded experience of worship. We are also looking at upgrading the microphone setup, since the current arrangement works fine at the lectern and pulpit, but is unreliable for our wireless and other hardwired microphone locations. The Digital Acolyte would be positioned in the balcony during worship (as Randy already has been during our "from the nave" Zoom services).

We are continuing to evaluate our building use protocols. Joyfully, Alcoholics Anonymous has returned to the building, along with the Lions and other users. Indoor groups are now allowed if masked and 4 feet distanced, up to the capacity of the room at that distancing. The nave and great hall can now accommodate 50 persons each.

Building & Grounds Ministry Report for May - June 2021

Activity: This month we continue to complete projects and make progress on those that are ongoing:

General Projects Open:

- The tree on the front left of the church building will be removed at some time later this summer.
- Repairs to the outside of the Sheep Run wall and window surrounds on the MG side of the Great Hall will be addressed this summer.
- Painting of the Great Hall MG side will be completed this summer as well.
- Steeple platform repair - leak repaired; railing replacement remaining - work should be completed by Fall.
- Insulation - To be replaced. Looking for quotes. Work on hold until we apply for and hopefully receive a Diocesan grant.

Completed:

- A project sign-up list was published.
- Blue jean Sunday held May 16. Volunteers worked to return furnishings to the Nave and spruce up the grounds for summer in preparation for holding live services.
- Clapboards on Great Hall driveway side. Chris Wardell has replaced clapboards and repainted.
- Diseased tree at right side of parking lot was removed with by Jeff Dearborn using a crane.
- Electrical - R+T Electric completed track lighting in balcony and internet wiring in the Nave.
- Internet - Wireless node added to the classroom area to address signal issues and to provide a signal in the back parking lot for summer services.

Thanks go to several people: Ed Fairfield, George Schell, Eric Riggs and members of the B&G Ministry for volunteering their time and skills over the past months.

Memorial Garden Ministry Report April - May 2021

Summary of May 2021 Memorial Garden Ministry Activities for Vestry Consent Agenda

- Routine monthly meeting held.
- Planting day held. Pots with newly purchased plants, wintered-over plants, and plants grown from seedlings planted in the garden and in the new stone plantar.
- Memorial Garden members participated in the May 16th St. Andrew's property outdoor clean-up. The garden was already in good shape from several members having cleaned it up prior to an earlier memorial service held in the garden.
- A detailed Spring/Summer Memorial Garden activity schedule was developed with tasks, deadlines, and members responsible.
- Signage for Memorial Garden was ordered following approval at May Vestry meeting.
- A summer watering schedule for the potted plants has been developed with members responsible for supplementing the sprinkler system.
- Weekly drop-in weeding sessions have been instituted for Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. All welcome to attend.

July 2021 Grant Application St. Andrew's, Hopkinton Supplemental Responses Page

Description: Briefly describe your project, its positive impact on the environment, and any cost savings you hope to realize after its completion.

Our focus is improving the insulation of the building envelope. As identified in our Energy Audit, this is the logical first step in our efficiency upgrade. When taken together, the proposed envelope upgrades have a Greenhouse Gas reduction of 17.6 tons annually. This represents a 21% reduction on our total annual emissions of 82.6 tons (CO2 only, per audit). The combined cost would be \$44,390, estimated annual collar savings \$5,061, and estimated payback period 8.8 years. From a so-called minimum service life of 25 years on this improvement, the investment gain would be \$82,135 at current energy prices, or 4.3% annually.

We request \$29,390 from the Diocese, to be combined with \$15,000 of parish money, to fully fund the project.

Understanding that you are likely reviewing multiple worthy proposals, we also note that the next logical “stepdown” amount for our project would be \$34,523 (leaving out the lowest impact “2002 Upper Floor” envelope improvements), making for a stepped-down request of \$19,523 in Diocesan Grant funds.

Discernment: Share the spiritual discernment leading to the development of this project.

After a group of stewardship-minded parishioners spent time in conversation about “greening” our physical plant, Linden Rayton pushed for acting on the diocesan invitation to secure and use an Energy Audit Grant. The primary stated focus was on reducing our carbon footprint, with conscious reference to the Paris Goals. It has become clear that in order to literally save the lives of our fellow humans and fellow species, personal and institutional investment in climate change prevention is needed. While understanding that the greatest global gains can be achieved through governmental responses, we are called to witness and drive those changes as the Church of Christ, seeking harmony of participation with the Holy Trinity known in all the Earth and Creation.

Paul Carey and rector Reed Loy further pursued the Audit Grant application, and late in 2020 the Vestry approved an application, which the Diocese granted. The Audit from SEEDS was completed in the first half of 2021. The Audit consciously responded to the primary goal of GHG reduction, alongside analysis of projected ROI.

Funding: What is the anticipated budget for this project in its entirety? Have work estimates been received? Does your grant need to be distributed all at once, or in several payments over time? What other funding sources have you identified to support this project?

Estimated budget, \$44,390. Estimates pending. Block granting would be most useful for funding one integrated achievement of the contract work. We have committed \$15,000 from previously-raised building improvement funds to partner with Diocesan funds, in order to fund the full project.

Resources: In addition to a grant, are there other resources (human resources, gifts in kind, etc.) that you have solicited for this project? Provide examples if possible.

We have also had building walkthroughs by Jim Garvin and parishioner Ben Wilson, the former and present Directors and State historic Preservation Officers of NH Division of Historical Resources, respectively. They have added historic preservation input on material and technique choices.

Permissions and Permits: What official approvals are required to proceed, or have been obtained already?

Permits would be obtained in conjunction with hiring of contractors. No extraordinary permissions will be required (we have not limiting historical status designations, for instance).

Goals: Describe any specific steps already taken to make your vision a reality and how this grant can help your congregation meet its project goals.

Toward reduction of our carbon footprint, we have previously changed over our lighting to LEDs, and had upgraded (with what was then an upgrade) to high efficiency natural gas furnaces in both the 2000's addition, and in the historic nave. With many giant maples on the property, we seek to maximize their longevity and ecosystem services with active tending. And we are working through this grant to integrate efficiency upgrades into our current, ongoing renovations of our primary worship building (we're responding to the nave ceiling beginning to collapse in mid-2020).

This grant will help us maximize the present improvements, and with the envelope brought up to best-case scenario improved conditions, we can look next at mechanical improvements.

Here are the TLC activities for the month of May:

† Coordinated goodie baskets with the Choir for Patricia Kegel sending her care and best wishes for a speedy recovery from her surgery

† Continued TLC support and caring for Lucy Crichton

† Printed and mailed TLC monthly cards to recipients

† Printed and mailed congratulations cards to our college and high school graduates

† Bi-Monthly meeting with Reed

Attached is the current TLC Membership list. There were no 80+ Birthdays this month.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Carey (on behalf of TLC Chairs Binney Wells and Nancy Clark)

Friendly Kitchen Report for June Vestry Meeting

Reported by Pam Manus and Debbie Monroe

The Friendly Kitchen did not open it's dining room for inside eating on May1st as planned. They have some flow plans to revamp so that the numbers of people inside at one time meets the NH State COVID restrictions, which are loosing up on a weekly basis. We might be serving food inside in July. Thanks to the Faithful Five we are able to continue providing the meals to those who are food insecure.

Family Promise Report for June Vestry Meeting

Reported by Pam Manus

Family Promise is in flux. The Parsonage in Henniker is going to be sold and FP is to be out by August 1st. At present there is a mom and her 5 children ages 1-13 with a possibility of 2 more families to be accepted. FP has employed a person to be the overnight resource person while the family(s) use the Parsonage. This is to ease the stress of 1-3 families sharing a large house. This person is available in the evenings and sleeps there. As families come and go, we found that there needed to be someone to monitor the social environment so that the expectations/guidelines of Family Promise were clear and followed. Our next host week will be this August 15-22. We will know more about our responsibilities as July plays out. At this point in time although we have permission to house the families at our site, but if others who were signed up in August can't open up for the families the solution might be a that the camp in Henniker could be used. The staff is working on a number of options at present. I will keep the Vestry up to date as plans are formalized.