

St. Andrew's Vestry Meeting
August 19, 2020

Senior Warden, Anne McCausland called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Those present were Rev. Reed Loy, Clarke Kidder, Junior Warden, Kerrie Diers, Treasurer, Betty Whinn, Chaplain, Audrey Knight, Lucy Crichton, Peter Daley, Tom Burack, Betsy Wilder, Steve Largy, Diane Les Becquets and Pam Manus, Clerk. Unable to attend: Brian Tucker.

Remembering Brent Loy: Anne McCausland told Rev. Reed Loy that the Vestry was making a donation to the College of Life Sciences in his father's, Brent Loy, name.

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Betty Whinn opened with a prayer of gratitude and thanksgiving. Prayed for Brent Loy, Rev. Reed Loy's father, may he rest in peace. Betty then asked us to join her in a prayer of renewal for our church offered by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Lord Jesus, you speak to us today, as you spoke to holy men and women who have gone before us. In every age and in our own time, you call to us and say:

Renew My Church. Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us, and so enable us:

to hear you clearly

to listen to each other attentively

to imagine our future boldly

to discern your direction wisely

to persevere in your holy will courageously

to stay together in charity

to surrender our own plans readily

to embrace the greater good

to hand on your gifts to future generations.

May we remain in the holy company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles and all the saints. May their example and presence inspire us with patient confidence in the work of your grace.

We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

We then offered our reflections and shared thoughts on renewal and sustenance. We remembered that we have our own saints at St. Andrew's who are no longer with us, but their legacy is present. Requests in the prayer are beyond what we might be able to do, but with love, prayer and hope we can move forward. Also this is what it takes to work in harmony. Being holy in a humble way, to give us courage to be better and reach higher. Some of the requests in the prayer are echoing the ways we have pledged to communicate with each other. We closed with a moment of silence. We are working in harmony, together.

Senior Warden Anne McCausland stated that Building and Grounds requested an item be added to New Business.

Consent Agenda: Senior Warden Anne McCausland asked if there were any questions about the July Financials or the committee reports: There being none the July financials are accepted for the file. Anne moved that the consent agenda be accepted as presented, Tom Burack seconded this and the agenda was accepted unanimously.

The minutes from the June Vestry Meeting: Anne McCausland asked for a motion to accept the June Vestry Meeting minutes. Diane Les Becquets moved to accept the minutes, Peter Daley seconded this and it was passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Adopting the Updated Safe Church Policy: Having discussed this policy at our June meeting, and there being no further discussion Peter Daley made a motion to accept this policy, Audrey Knight seconded this and it passed unanimously.

Affirming Vestry Conversation Norms: Having discussed this topic at our June meeting and there being no further discussion, Betsy Wilder moved to accept these norms. Steve Largy seconded and it passed unanimously.

New Business:

Receiving the Report of the RenewalWorks Team: (attached)

The RenewalWorks team consisted of Steve Botana-gumbs (Facilitator), Rebecca Briccetti, Lucy Crichton, Vickie Haines, George Schell, Betsy Wilder and Rev. Reed Loy. Reed asked Betsy and Lucy to lead the overview of the work and then address the section titled Next Steps. The Spiritual Life Survey done last fall provided a look at St. Andrew's spiritual development as a whole. The majority of those responding were in the first 2 stages, exploring and growing, of their spiritual life. Spiritual growth was an area that many in the survey felt they were not actively moving forward with. Many responders have been parishioners for 10 years or more. The team reported that although it was a lot of work it was exciting and affirming. They started looking at areas to focus on for new ways to engage and invigorate the parish's spiritual life. Also ways to support individual spiritual journeys. They looked for ways to focus on being inclusive. The Renewal Works program focuses on the wording "spiritual growth". It is a spiritual journey and there is a need for education, opportunity and sharing. The team went over the RenewalWorks suggestions. The team worked on language to encourage spiritual growth. They chose language that would be more in tune with St. Andrew's parishioners (see page 4 of the report), They looked for language that would be inviting and inclusive to meet the needs of our parishioners looking to learn about and grow in their faith. The report concluded with a summary, best practices and next steps.

Next Steps for Worship: We went into the Next Steps area of the RenewalWorks Committee report. We looked at each section, looking for clarity and insight. We need to take a leadership role in opening ourselves to share this spiritual journey. Claiming our practices. Many shared their thoughts on how they view our growth or lack of. They shared thoughts of daily prayer, reading scripture and how scripture is received and perceived. Also way of encouraging people to read the Bible and support a plan to bring scripture alive. We discussed the area named The Rule of Life. The word rule sounds too strict, too negative. We talked about Laity as ministry in the world. After much discussion it was decided that each Vestry member would take the next few weeks to go over the report and address the Next Steps area, jotting down their thoughts so that we can share these at our next meeting. A work group seems the way to bring these thoughts together and bring forward some concrete suggestions for

the future. Hopefully at that time we can plan ways to operationalize these steps in bringing opportunities for growth, both individual and parish wide to St. Andrew's parishioners. Making this an invitation to come on this journey. The Clerk will send out a sheet with as many of these suggestions, thoughts and shared ideas as possible along with a copy of the report with special attention given to pages 4 and 7-11. From this we can bring all together and find action items that are clear. As far as charting the next steps we need to remember our parishioners are not able to be together at present so our work on a plan to move forward should keep that in mind. The survey gave us, in general, a view of where our parish is now. Our work begins to bring focus on our future. What should or could be offered?

A discussion on "what would it look like if" produced thoughts about Welcome Sunday.

What would Welcome Sunday look like if:

We embodied renewal on Welcome Sunday?

Tried to meet "in person," perhaps in our back fields?

In person plus Zoom for those that felt uncomfortable?

How would we support Zoom if we are outside?

Is there enough time to plan?

Is there enough time for the parish to respond to an invitation?

Wait until we see how the return to school goes?

Go with "the virus will determine the time line"?

Are we as a parish ready to gather in a physical way?

Believing that there isn't enough time to have a good plan in place for coming together outdoors or indoors, Welcome Sunday or later - even with the support of Zoom, many suggestions were made to help make it an inclusive, spiritual and energetic regathering. But the thought of coming together in our nave, opened the questions of not only when, but how. Again many offered suggestions, but all felt that forming a work group composed of a few vestry members, our staff and a few parishioners would be the best way to develop a realistic plan. Reed will make calls to gather this group. Hopefully they would be able to bring plans to our September meeting, but they should not feel rushed. We all need to be flexible and the plans clear.

Use of Our Buildings:

The Vestry decided that for the present, small groups (10 people or less) could use our building. They should follow the rules of masks and social distancing. The group should use the request form found on our web site.

This allows for our Sexton to plan and others to understand who else is in the building. For the time being large groups, such as AA, will not be using our space.

Loose Plate: We have been using links to non-profit organizations as a means to distribute what we would have collected in our Sunday loose plate collection. Our goal of developing a relationship with a group(s) chosen is unfortunately on the back burner, but still in our plans. It was suggested that we adopt the NH Food Bank for the next two months as many in NH are food insecure especially in these times. NH Food Bank is the main distributor for the food banks across our state. The Family Promise organization was also discussed as they are in need of funds to support families in costly ways since the opportunity of churches/temples housing these families during the COVID times is not available. It was unanimously agreed that NH Food Bank will be supported in September and October, then Family Promise in November and December. They will be written up in our EBlast with either a link to the organization or directions for a check to be written to St. Andrew's with either Loose Plate NH Food Bank or Loose Plate Family Promise written in the memo line.

Building and Grounds Report: Clarke Kidder reported that two items have come up that need Vestry approval. The first is that the maple tree in the corner of our property needs to be taken down now. The cost will not exceed \$1,500.00. Clarke has already lined up the person who will do this for us. The second area is that our Sexton has pointed out rot around the sill of the Youth Room Door. Fixing this should be around \$2,500.00 but Clarke has not received an estimate at this point. This needs to be done before the winter. After brief discussion Clarke has our approval to move forward with the tree removal and will bring the estimate to replace rotted boards around the Youth Room Door to the September meeting for Vestry approval and vote on the over budget expenses.

Vestry Meeting Notices: Pam Manus thanked Jim Whinn for helping to clarify the way in which we inform the parish of Vestry meetings. At present the meetings are on the church calendar for the year and mentioned in the minutes of previous meetings. If there are special or changed dates this is communicated through the EBlast. To make the notice of Vestry meetings more timely and the agenda transparent Pam will now put the date of the Vestry meeting in the EBlast at the beginning of the month and the agenda will be put into the EBlast the week before the

meeting. This will give the heads of committees, guilds and ministries the reminder that their reports are due with the Vestry liaison (Parish Life - Peter Daley or Community Outreach - Tom Burack) that week before the meeting so they can be included in the agenda. This also offers a parishioner the opportunity to contact the Vestry if they feel the need to have a topic addressed.

Confirmation: Lucy Crichton reminded us that this is the year for Confirmation. She can be contacted for any information. It will be publicized.

Thank you Notes: Notes will be sent to Justine Nims-Largy for her vital support to the 4:30 p.m. Sunday Family Worship. Also a note to Kim Wertz for “holding down the fort” as we navigate the “new” day to day running of the church offices.

Up-Coming events:

Welcome Sunday - September 13th
Blood Drive - September 23rd

Next Vestry meetings:

September 16th, October 21 and November 18.

Closing Prayer: Betty Whinn offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Pam Manus, Clerk

Consent agenda

Building and Grounds

Memorial Garden Committee:

This past month, following all COVID protocols, the Memorial Garden Committee

- Completed a mailing of the garden renovation announcement cards to the 90+ members of St. Andrew's.
- Seeing there appeared to be no document on file in the church office stating the intent of an endowment for the Memorial Garden, drafted one and shared it with the Officer's Committee.
- Continued to write and send thank you notes to acknowledge gifts made to the MG Endowment Fund in response to the mailed announcement.
- Shared news of the Memorial Committee and Garden with parishioners through the church's e-blast.
- Watered, weeded, pruned and otherwise maintained the Garden.

As you might expect, that last item in August calls for gardener stamina of a different order of magnitude than it does in April! That said, it IS very rewarding.

Inreach Report

St. Nickolas Cookies

Sadly - Liz Carey reports that there will not be a St. Nickolas Cookie celebration this year. She is putting together cards to send.

Welcome Sunday.

Details to be discussed at Vestry meeting centered around

Halloween Treats

The handing out of Halloween treats will be on hold until we hear from the town. If town plans allow the Halloween tradition, our doors will still be closed and any participants handing out candy would be outside only.

Coffee mugs

Discussion will be centered on health issues as we dispose of the coffee mugs. How we do it and where we take them are topics of discussion now.

Community OutReach Report

Family Promise

With the new system of giving gift cards and doing 5 nights of meals we were able to successfully meet the needs of our 2 families who are staying at a campsite in Henniker. During our July 19-26 host week the families picked up the meals from coolers on our Parish house porch and used the gift cards to purchase items that they needed during that week. The families will still be at the campsite through the end of October, so for our early October hosting week, we will repeat our combination of gift cards and meals.

Friendly Kitchen

Our June and July turns for serving dinner at the Friendly Kitchen were a hit. The kitchen is giving out meals in to-go boxes, so our meals have been planned with consideration of food and size of servings in mind. We have served 65 and 67 meals respectively and have only needed 3 or 4 volunteers to put the meals together. The Friendly Kitchen staff and board members hand out the meals at the front door. This system works nicely.

RenewalWorks Committee Report

This report is attached to these minutes as a separate addendum.