

## 20 June 2024 Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present: Jay McLeod, Jerry Coogan, Susan Feyrer, Jennifer Giles, Billy Kelly, Kathy Mathias, Fifi Mitchell, Claire Pace, Russ Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nancy Rollins

Absent: Nonie Reynders

**May Minutes** were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting

**Buildings and Grounds:** Russ Register relayed updates on Old Saint Andrews projects. An electrician has installed exit lights. The building passed the fire inspection. We still are waiting for a quote from a stone mason for repairs to the stone foundation walls.

On Gould Road, we are waiting for a quote for resealing the driveway and repainting the parking lines. There is no time frame for the work.

Nancy reported on the patio accessibility (walkways to the Memorial Garden and the patio from the parking area). Russ, Harvey, and Nancy met with Leonora Thomas and Chuck Saia from the Governor's Commission on Disability. They were impressed that St. Andrew's is prioritizing accessibility to all. Churches are not required by the ADA to do so.

It was determined that the most direct pathway would come from the side road past the swing set straight to the patio. They suggested creating two Handicapped parking spots near where the swing set is located. Of the materials considered, it was determined concrete is the best choice for a walkway. The path could also be lined with shrubs or flowers, which would assist someone who is visually impaired. This would make the pathway truly accessible to everyone. Nancy did not have a cost estimate. This would be a permanent solution for the pathway. While it is not the most "green" option that was considered, concrete seems to work the best for our purposes.

A question was asked about the mobile pull-up walkway surface option that was considered, Nancy explained that the weight of the walkway in terms of installing, and the issue of where to store it, ruled it out as a viable option.

The vestry voted to move forward. Russ will let Harvey know the preferred material for the walkway is concrete. We will ask a contractor for a design to be approved.

The repairs to the downstairs room ("Cave") will require the outside foundation to be excavated. Work will not begin until after the Fair.

There is nothing to report on the church bell.

There were no plumbing leaks found in the basement. A gas leak was detected and repaired in the ceiling. Harvey reports that the smell has improved, and the hope is that the gas repair may have solved the issue.

Claire spoke with Mary Eysenbach. She is ready to step away from all of her responsibilities for the upkeep of the grounds at St. Andrew's. Mary will provide a list of volunteers and their duties. She has coverage for watering and weeding through the end of August. There will be a

need for fall clean-up and pruning. Claire will give the list of needs to Russ so someone can be hired part-time to do ground maintenance. Mary is fine with allowing others to do the work. The vestry noted that Mary should be recognized for her years of service to St. Andrew's.

Jay was detained and so after his arrival, the vestry shared a prayer.

**Worship and Formation and Upcoming events:** Jay discussed the possibility of having Prayers for Healing and Anointing during a worship service. This would replace a full sermon. In two weeks, the readings align well for such a service. Jay will try to schedule one or two priests to assist with both services in two weeks.

Will Ogmundson will be away for a family funeral 23 June 2024.

Vestry members are encouraged to participate in helping Harvey and Rosie with the fair, 6 July 2024.

Phillips Brooks: There will be two groups visiting from Boston, 17-18 July, and 31 July-1 August. There are a few changes from last year, with the kayaking and swimming on Wednesday now taking place at Wadleigh State Park. There is also a tentative plan to hold the cookout on Thursday at Newbury Harbor if grills can be secured.

The Chosen showings and discussion with Kathleen Rusnak are continuing, with Jay filling in for Episodes 5 and 6.

Weekly Tuesday barbeques on the patio will begin in July. This will be a good opportunity for Georgea, our Voorhees intern, to meet church members in a smaller, informal setting. Depending on the numbers of people who participate, the barbeques could be carried into August.

Beach Cricket is happening at Rye Beach on Sunday, 14 July at 2 PM. Equipment and instruction will be provided.

Formation: Jared Goldfarb will be back in the US in the fall. Jay is hoping to schedule him for more sessions at St. Andrew's.

**Finance:** Mike submitted the treasurer's report itemizing St. Andrew's financial results and conditions as of 5/31/24.

Mike indicated there is not much new to report. Revenue numbers are up. The balance is off by \$.75. Mike is working to figure out the issue. Shelly may have to talk with an accountant to figure out the imbalance. Shelly is appreciating the switch to using QuickBooks.

A stewardship campaign will begin this fall. Jay noted that two people need to be selected to chair the effort. It is a year-long commitment and identification of appropriate candidates should be happening now. Jay asked the vestry to email him with ideas.

Mike would like to reinvigorate the Finance Committee. He asked that vestry members identify anyone whom they think would like to serve on the committee. He is seeking to have a good balance of committee members.

2025 Budget: With the program expansions in music and youth, Jay requested that the vestry consider whether there is a need for further staffing and possible budget implications moving forward. We have a need for a middle school program, as Nicole has expanded the youth choir to include 6th graders.

Claire read a letter to the vestry that she and Nancy are sending to Bishop Rob to ask for consideration of a Curate position at St. Andrew's. Curates are apprenticeships for newly ordained ministers. In the letter, Claire detailed St. Andrew's vibrant community and its many outreach programs. She described the talent and great leadership skills that Jay would provide as a mentor.

**Voorhees update:** Georgia Saffrey arrives in New London on Friday, 21 June. She will be introduced to the church community during the 8:00 and 10:00 services on Sunday, 23 June. She will be working at the Outing Club summer camp on Mondays and Tuesdays. Wednesdays are her days off (which coincides with Jay's). She will be meeting with Will Ogmundson on Thursdays as well as checking in with Kathy Mathias, in addition to other activities at the church. On Fridays she will meet with Betsy Dexter, who is serving as her mentor for her career interest in nursing. Betsy is setting up other opportunities for career development. Once Georgea settles in, church members will be encouraged to provide opportunities for various activities in the New London area.

**Other business:** Jerry suggested establishing an opportunity for the church community to have an open discussion with Jay. Jay noted that a stand alone meeting outside of Sunday might not draw enough interest. He proposed a "Stump the Rector" or "Questions for Jay" opportunity during worship to replace the sermon. The Wardens would invite congregants to fill out index cards with questions. Jay would have 2 minutes to respond. We could do this on a Sunday in August. Susan suggested letting people know in advance through the newsletter.

Jay discussed whether there is interest in families from the Youth Choir to join the church. Jay and Nicole have done a survey to see how the children and their families are feeling about the church and their experience. Once they have reviewed the feedback from the survey, Jay will discuss next steps.

Nicole has put together the Youth Choir schedule for next year with three distinct seasons. This calendar will reduce conflicts with the many community involvements of the children. Jay is considering running a God 101 type program next year at the church and may invite the parents of the choir children.

Nancy closed the meeting, and all present joined in blessing each other in the words of The Grace.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Mathias, Clerk

Clerk Note: The next vestry meeting will be 18 July 2024.