

## 18 April 2024 Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present: Jay MacLeod, Jerry Coogan, Jennifer Giles, Billy Kelly, Kathy Mathias, Fifi Mitchell, Claire Pace, Russ Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Nancy Rollins,

Absent: Susan Feyrer

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

**March minutes** were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Worship and Formation:** Thanks to Billy Kelly's efforts, St. Andrew's has accessed the first four episodes of The Chosen.

The Thursday Healing Eucharist has started up with the Rev. Lucretia Jevne and Canon Jim Ransom stepping up to share the load equally with Jay.

Old St. Andrew's will be used in May for the funerals of Susan Clark and Susan Sanders.

All-age Eucharist continues on the first of the month. Jay encourages everyone to keep welcoming Youth Choir families to make them comfortable with participating in the Eucharist.

The 7 April and 14 April presentations by Jared Goldfarb on Biblical Judaism and Rabbinic Judaism were well attended with 60 or more people, including many from outside of the St. Andrew's community. Jared has returned to Israel, but Jay has discussed with him the possibility of a regular bible study by Zoom.

Braver Angels is working on several new initiatives. Robert Putnam, a political scientist specializing in comparative politics, has written several books and has a new film entitled "Join or Die". Paul Catsos is investigating the possibility of showing the film at St. Andrew's and facilitating a discussion afterwards. The Braver Angels Team will meet to discuss this possibility.

Jennifer Giles is representing Braver Angels in leading a book discussion at Kearsarge High School through the Experiential Learning Opportunities (ELO) club. Kearsarge has asked Braver Angels to partner with ELO, and they are considering future activities.

**Pre-K Childcare Task Force Update:** Mike Quinn met with Steve Allenby from KNP; Chris Emond, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Central New Hampshire; Bob Friedlander, member of the New London Hospital Board of Trustees; and Lianne Roux, a social worker in the Student Support section of the Kearsarge Regional School District. Liz Niehaus participated by phone. This was an exploratory meeting to gather information about how to proceed with an initiative for early learning/pre-K in the Kearsarge region. Ideally, St. Andrew's would like to partner with other community members.

Mike plans to meet again with the group. The Boys and Girls Club is already working on several facilities throughout the state. Mike feels we need to assess the needs of our community. Nancy agreed, noting that we need to ask parents what they need rather than jumping in with a plan. Mike suggested that one possibility would be to hire a market research firm to do a needs assessment. The local school districts or school boards may be another good resource. Jerry Coogan wondered if the Outreach Committee might consider helping with providing funds for a needs assessment.

Jay thanked Mike for his initiative and continued efforts on this issue. Jay noted that through our Talents Survey, we have learned that St. Andrew's has many members of our congregation whose talent and experience could be utilized in a pre-K initiative.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Russ reported that Harvey has identified four building and grounds priorities. One of these projects is at Old St. Andrew's. The masonry of the church and the interior exit signs are in need of repair. At St. Andrew's, we need to find a contractor to build a handicapped walkway for the patio garden. Water damage to the drywall and window in "the cave" downstairs needs repair. And finally, the bell system needs to be rehabbed. Jay wondered if we could ask a local electrician to take a look, rather than using the original vendor and computer firm.

Jay hopes that Harvey can line up the bids for these projects and give the vestry his recommendation on the best contractors to use. Jay noted that there are some donors who have identified their interest in contributing to the walkway project and the repairs to OSA.

**Spring Purge:** Nancy explained that, in our Montessori pre-school process, we learned that we have a lot of clutter downstairs. She suggested that we find a volunteer to coordinate a spring purge effort with other volunteers. In addition to the closets downstairs, the kitchen also needs culling. She also mentioned the possibility of purchasing new tables and stackable chairs that would save space.

**Finance/Treasurer's Report:** Mike submitted the treasurer's report itemizing St. Andrew's financial results and conditions as of 3/31/24. This included the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual (January through March 2024) as well as the Profit and Loss Previous Year Comparison (January through March 2024).

Mike reports that he will continue to adjust the balance sheet, but in general, St. Andrew's is in a good place financially and has done well in the stewardship campaign and receipts.

Mike explained that he wants the vestry to have a conversation about programming and mission. As St. Andrew's stewardship numbers are up and operations numbers are up, he feels now is the time for the vestry to look ahead and anticipate the needs and programming initiatives for next year. He asked vestry members to identify initiatives and think beyond what we are presently doing, without worrying exclusively about the budget. He expressed that our budget should reflect our mission, not what is in the "wallet". As an example, he noted that St. Andrew's relies on many volunteers. There may be some places where professionals can be hired. He asked vestry members to think about concrete ideas and projects and to send their suggestions to him by email.

Jay responded that Mike's directive very much fits into the Mission Action Plan and the vestry retreat that was held two years ago. He underscored that the time to think about St. Andrew's future needs is now, in April, rather than at the end of the year.

Jay cited the Youth Choir as an example. Because of their participation in the choir, we have a relationship with several 5th graders. Now may be the time to begin planning a youth group for middle schoolers for next year.

**Voorhees:** Jay announced that we will only have one intern this summer, Georgea Saffrey. Vacavia McKenzie was accepted into an internship at MIT, so she will not be joining us. Jay and Nicole Densmore met with Kelly Pickett from the Outing Club to discuss Georgea serving as a counselor for the Outing Club summer camp. We are excited about this partnership, which will allow Georgea to interact with local children.

Georgea will work on Mondays and Tuesdays at the summer camp. Wednesdays will be her day off. Saturday will hopefully be a lighter day and the rest of her time will be spent at the church. Similar to last year, Georgea will interview church members and create recordings for the St. Andrew's Story Seekers. She will participate in the Phillips Brooks Partnership and sing in the choir.

Kathy and Jay will be meeting to set up and confirm housing for the six weeks.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Mathias, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting will be 16 May 2024.