

## 21 March 2024 Vestry Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Susan Feyrer

1. Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

3. **Worship and Formation:** Jay reviewed the Holy Week schedule, which begins on Maundy Thursday with a service starting at 6 PM. On Friday there will be an ecumenical service hosted by St. Andrew's, which will begin at 12:00 PM. On Easter, we begin in darkness with the vigil and celebrate the resurrection in a glorious Eucharist as the dawn breaks. The sunrise service begins at 5:45AM, with two additional services at 8 AM and 10 AM. All are encouraged to attend.

St Andrew's will again host a healing service at midday, on Thursdays. Jay indicated that he would need help with this service from time to time and that Canon Jim Ransom and the Rev. Lucretia Jevne are available to fill in on a volunteer basis. There is a special prayer at the healing service for those on our parish prayer list, but the new Order of Worship will include broader intercessory prayers than previously. Also, instead of having a dedicated time for Individuals to come forward for the laying on of hands and anointing, people will simply remain at the altar rail after receiving communion if they desire special prayers.

Jay announced that Bishop Hirschfeld will be coming to St. Andrew's for his annual visitation on the morning of 8 December 2024, the Second Sunday of Advent.

Jay announced a delay in classes on the series "The Chosen". The producers of "The Chosen" announced that release of the series for live streaming is delayed due to legal issues. The series is available in theaters. Churches may be able to access the series via "Come and See", a platform that Dallas Jenkins and producers of "The Chosen" have created. Billy Kelly will explore this further.

Jay announced that Jared Goldfarb's mother recently died. Jay saw Jared and his father at their home. Jared will be in the area for at least another month. Given that "The Chosen" classes are on hold, Jay may ask Jared to do a class for the congregation.

4. **Talents and Gifts:** Claire reported that 93 individuals participated in the church-wide survey of our members' backgrounds. She has completed the work of creating a spreadsheet that captures all the rich data provided by those who participated. This spreadsheet has been sent to Jay, Shelly, and wardens Nancy and Claire.

**5. Montessori Partnership:** Nancy thanked everyone who came to last Sunday's open meeting with the congregation, where Liz Niehaus gave a brief presentation outlining her vision for her preschool and then provided a sketch outlining the space that the school is looking to use. Those present had an opportunity to ask Liz questions. After Liz left, an open discussion took place, led by Nancy. We have all received the minutes of the first meeting that was held on Tuesday, 3/12. Those present included participants whose missions were most likely to be affected by the preschool and Jay, Nancy, Claire, and Kathy Mathias (as clerk) from the vestry. Minutes of the open meeting on Sunday 3/17 have also been sent to all vestry members. In addition, vestry members have viewed all emails and written feedback from church members that were sent to the church after the open meeting. Today, the vestry will review and discuss this opportunity and determine if St. Andrew's will partner with Liz and the Montessori school she proposes.

Each member present was asked to speak concerning the proposed partnership. Discussion focused on the church's mission and discerning whether the Montessori School would advance our mission. The impact on existing missions was discussed. Two members of the vestry had not seen the memo recently sent to us by Liz, so this was read aloud. Liz reiterated in her letter that she does not want to delay the start time for the school and thus wants to begin in the Fall of 2024.

After a long discussion, a motion was made and seconded for St. Andrew's to partner with Liz Niehaus and the Montessori School. There were three yes votes and nine no. Jay agreed to call Liz to inform her that the partnership was not approved by the vestry.

Based on the vestry's acknowledgement of the problem in our community related to early childhood education and day care, a second motion was made to form a task force that will include vestry members, members of our congregation, and the community at large to find ways to address the problem of child daycare and early childhood education in our community. Mike Quinn agreed to organize the task force. The vestry unanimously approved the motion.

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

Minutes taken by Claire Pace.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Mathias, Clerk