

The Episcopal Church of St. Andrew – New London, NH

Vestry Meeting Minutes

20 February 2018

Present: Bruce Avery, Harvey Best, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Mark Kellett, Jay MacLeod, Peter Ruth, Lisa Kelly, Barbara Smith, Greg Vogt, Morris Edwards, Alice Perry.

Absent: Lin Potter.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer and a welcome to new members Morris and Alice.

January minutes prepared by outgoing clerk Marni Eaton were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Jay thanked Marni for her service as clerk and scribe.

Because new vestry member Lin Potter is unable to attend a Tuesday meeting, the **day and time of future vestry meetings** will be the **third Thursday of the month, beginning May 17**. The March and April meetings will remain on the second Tuesday of the month due to other members' prior engagements on Thursday. Bruce will convey to Lin any important discussion not adequately conveyed in the minutes.

Holy Week and Easter service times: Both 8 AM and 10 AM Palm Sunday services will process from a start in the parish hall; Maundy Thursday will follow a pattern similar to the past with foot washing and seder in the parish hall before a service in church including stripping the altar and a watch into the night. Bishop Rob will preach at the ecumenical Good Friday service which will mostly follow the Book of Common Prayer service. Easter Sunday services are dawn at 5:30 AM (champagne breakfast to follow), 8 AM (with hymns) and 10 AM. Gail Goddard will ask for volunteers to sign up for refreshments to follow each service.

Epiphany will have an Easter vigil at 8 PM, Saturday, March 31. Jay was and is unable this year to participate in any of Newport's ecumenical services (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) and proposes to host the Ash Wednesday evening service at Epiphany in 2019, asking a colleague to attend New London's evening ecumenical service in Jay's stead. Jay will celebrate the noon Ash Wednesday service at St. Andrew's in 2019.

Bruce reported that on the last three Sundays **new people** had attended services and coffee hour. In that context Jay read a letter from a visitor complementing St. Andrew's for the warm welcome he had been given.

Mission Action Plan:

Bruce shared graphs for the years 2013 through 2017 for **Average Sunday Attendance**. After discussion about the implications he suggested we review numbers quarterly.

Bruce spoke about an interest expressed by a parishioner for **livestreaming** services. Jay suggested we could begin with funerals and memorial services, with an announcement at the outset that the service is being filmed.

Alice suggested we consider having a **Facebook** page. Jay noted that for a church of our size it is unusual not to have this tool that connects across generations and is both powerful and free. We will seek volunteers to share responsibility on a quarterly-year basis with announcements in the newsletter, the Sunday bulletins and via e-mail blast.

Peter's **financial report** included handouts showing total assets of \$841,346.74 with liquid assets of \$214,669.82, and January 2018 ledger report indicating that expenses and income are as expected for the first month of the year.

Briefings:

In order to allow Shelly time for sustained attention to finance matters, she will not be available to visitors on Wednesdays, working behind a closed door. The office will be covered by volunteers (Anne Hall until summer; Marni and Becky Forbes for July and August) who can respond to visitors and calls

Jay reported that Epiphany Newport is doing "as well as expected" with average Sunday attendance stabilized at 17. They face challenges including a tough financial picture. He is hopeful some from St. Andrew's will see it as their mission to support Epiphany.

Retired clergy were recently treated to lunch with Jay in thanks for a lot of work they have been doing for free. In addition to their support at St. Andrew's they are willing and able to assist him at Epiphany.

All persons approached to serve on the Outreach committee have agreed. Jay expects their first meeting will be next week.

Jay will be away three days in mid-March for the National Conference on Evangelism, noting that it is paid for by the Diocese and will have a bearing on our ministry here and in Newport. He noted that Aaron Jenkyn is unable to attend but has watched videos of last year's conference and is well informed.

Barbara showed a **notecard** made with James Wassell's pen and ink drawing of Old St. Andrew's. Judy Wallace has donated 500 printed cards to be sold in packets of five. Motion by Harvey, seconded by Mark, and approved with one abstention to sell the packets for \$5. Sale will begin on Easter Sunday.

Seeking Shalom is an online interactive six-week course that includes a weekly meeting of participants. Jay described it as a critique of and suggestions for how to provide charity and outreach. The weekly meetings are set to begin on Friday, April 13 and will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 AM. With a group of 20 the cost per person is \$20. Billy Kelly will be administrator for the program out of Atlanta. To learn more Jay suggested we google "seeking shalom."

Jay closed the meeting with a moment of silence and our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk