

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

16 August 2018

Present: Jay MacLeod, Bruce Avery, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Lin Potter, Peter Ruth, Barbara Smith, Alice Perry.

Absent: Harvey Best, Mark Kellett, Lisa Kelly, Greg Vogt.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer in honor of St. Mary whose Feast falls on 15 August and who was celebrated at today's Healing Eucharist.

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

Jay reported receipt of a \$5000 anonymous gift toward the music program. Motion made and seconded with unanimous ***approval to allocate \$600 to Music and Memory, \$2200 to Epiphany/Newport's Upbeat choir and \$2200 to St. Andrew's music program, with the latter amount added to the Jane Graham Trust in order to increase that principal and return funds each year for music.***

Jay also noted the anonymous donation of a television for the interns' use in the parish house in Newport.

Financial report: Peter distributed the liquidity report and ledger to budget for July, as well as Becky Rylander's Outreach Accounting monthly report. Discussion centered on Jay's question about the new Last Sunday program and how that affected already-budgeted outreach funds for an organization. *We will continue this discussion at our September meeting* to consider the possible impact on a recipient organization of high/low amounts received from year to year.

Christian formation and education: Kathleen Rusnak will offer a **course on Mark and Judaism** in two parts, 7, 14, and 21 October and 6, 13, and 20 January from 11:45 to 12:45 in the parish hall. The Bishop of Navajoland, the Rt. Rev. David E. Bailey, will be preaching on the last Sunday in October (28), the same day the Last Sunday offering will be dedicated to Navajoland.

Alice presented information about **small group programs** offered by the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) beyond the one we used during Lent (Gospel of John). They are "Five Marks of Love," "Growing a Rule of Life" and "It's Time to . . ." Additional information about these can be found at <https://www.ssje.org/monasticwisdom/#everyday>.

Alice also noted that EfM is another small-group option. As this year's EfM program draws to a conclusion, parishioners interested in joining the group in January will be invited to our meeting on 4 September.

Jay described the "**Messy Church**" program as one from England aimed at encouraging young children to become active in church. Motion made and seconded with unanimous ***approval to ask Aaron Jenkyn to submit a joint grant proposal to Diocesan Mission Resources to fund this experimental worship and evangelism program at both Epiphany-Newport and St. Andrew's.***

Camp Coniston: The annual 10 AM worship service and all-parish picnic is set for 16 September at Camp Coniston. Marni will identify who is responsible for ordering hamburgers and hot-dogs. Parishioners will be asked to sign-up on a sheet in the narthex to contribute side dishes and as a guide to amount of food to be purchased.

Stewardship: Bruce described the ease of using the government's "Required Minimum Distribution" (RMD) program for pledges. He also addressed the interest in using credit cards both in the thrift shop and for pledges and plate donations. Motion made and seconded with unanimous ***approval to authorize Bruce to investigate digitizing the thrift shop and annual/weekly giving.***

Morris spoke about the upcoming **stewardship campaign**, slated to run from 7 October through 4 November. He suggested the target for the campaign should be realistically based on the number of pledging households rather than simply a percentage increase over the previous year. *We will spend time at the September meeting* to work out details about such aspects as theme, timing of a dinner or similar event and preparation of a brochure to accompany other pledge materials.

2019 budget prep: Peter outlined his plans to spend October preparing a preliminary proposed budget for Jay and the Wardens to review before the November pilgrimage. It is incumbent on us to include input from Buildings and Grounds, Sunday school and other ministry with children, and other areas of ministry **not only in the budget but in stewardship conversations.**

Vital Worship: This grant from the Calvin institute of Christian Worship in Grand Rapids, Michigan with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. is responsible for a Big Sing scheduled to coincide with the conclusion of Epiphany Summer Camp at 3:30 PM on 24 August; and also for a youth-adult retreat on The Psalms as a Gateway to God at Mount Moosilauke Ravine Lodge 7-8 October. Jay distributed posters announcing these two exciting events.

Rainbow flag: Although Jay has received many positive comments about the flag, a few parishioners have expressed concern over the possible misunderstanding of the flag's intention. To clarify the message of inclusion and hospitality that is not meant to be the "only" thing to know about St. Andrew's, motion made and seconded with unanimous ***approval to enlist the help of the Crafty Critters to design and sew a cross on the rainbow flag.*** As noted last month, the message of the flag that "God's doors are open to all" will be the focus of the Warden's Words in the September-October newsletter. It was also suggested that the website and local papers include messages about both the background related to our hanging of the flag as well as our evangelism.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting will be at 5 PM on 20 September.