

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

21 November 2019

Present: Jay MacLeod, Harvey Best, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Lisa Kelly, Russ Register, Barbara Smith, Greg Vogt, Alice Perry.

Absent: Bruce Avery, Becky Forbes, Lin Potter.

Guests: Aaron Jenkyn, Mike Quinn.

Jay opened the meeting with a recording of a Kyrie and prayer appropriate to tomorrow's commemoration of three musicians: William Byrd, John Marbeck and Thomas Tallis.

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

Church and Children Together: Aaron reported receipt of a Diocesan grant of \$20,000, equal to about one-half the annual cost of the new initiative that she is coordinating. With Advent a natural time to tighten welcoming/greeting new people, Aaron will introduce herself to individuals at the 10 AM service, noting that someone in a similar role is needed for the 8 AM service. She will be looking for additional ways to engage children in worship and to bring adults into coffee hour. With Upbeat choir activities beginning for the season, this is an opportunity for all-age engagement, and we can expect to see a preview of Messy-Church-type activities set up during coffee hour. She noted also the importance of our Facebook page and that steps are being taken to "grow" the page.

We can expect this initiative to require patience as growth is likely to be slow. We will provide supporting resources to parents and grandparents for conversations around faith that once were relegated to Sunday school. All of us are necessary for building the relationships needed to make Church and Children Together a success.

Stewardship: Morris noted we have plenty to celebrate as we are within \$20,000 of this year's goal of \$400,000. He outlined plans for the celebratory dinner including quotes from C.S. Lewis linked to a door prize, *Chronicles of Narnia*. Also a skit based on Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, an auction of two additional prizes and a tribute to David Almond with Kearsarge Chorale members in attendance to sing.

Nominating committee: Marni presented names of candidates to stand for election in January.

Buildings and grounds: With work on lighting, painting and cleaning stones in the hallway completed, Harvey was complimented on the outcome. Harvey noted the Green Committee will select a contractor from four bids submitted to install insulation in the attic space.

Music Director: Jay reported that under the chairmanship of Becky Rylander the search committee has met several times and finalized a job description. Advertising will be both local and national, including via social media. Applications are due by 15 January. Parishioners will

soon receive a music survey via Constant Contact to inform the committee in its search. We are fortunate to have Don Cox to assume the interim music director position.

St. Nicholas Fair – While the fair offers all the same things we love to see (crafts, baked goods, luncheon, Santa’s treasures, woodworking), an emphasis on children – including the presence of St. Nick (Santa Claus) and a Messy Church station -- will also be evident. With all activities on one floor children will be encouraged to think in terms of helping and giving to others rather than gifts to ask Santa for.

Lay Minister License Applications – Applications for Lay Visitors Fifi Mitchell and Pat Goodwin, Lay Visitor/Eucharistic Minister Bonnie Chappell and Lay Eucharistic Minister Nancy Fleming were approved by the vestry and signed by Jay and clerk Alice Perry.

Other Business – Jay noted that Charlie Tirrell, after leading 600 sessions of meditation on a Monday evening, will retire as of 9 December. Thought and prayer will guide next steps.

Lisa reminded us of safety concerns around a teen-ager alone in the nursery and we noted that Safe Church would require two people present. Under the topic of emergency preparedness introduced by Joe at a previous meeting, we expect to consider instituting a “hall monitor” program at the January vestry meeting, another way of providing an additional presence. As Church and Children Together grows, a nursery could be less needed but should remain available to parents who prefer some worship time without their children present.

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 19 December.