

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

19 May 2022

Present: Jay MacLeod, Joe Daly, Chris Heyl, Billy Kelly, Claire Pace, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Alice Perry.

Absent: Morris Edwards, Chuck Thompson, Karen Zurheide.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Community engagement: Jay described how thrilled he is with the **Dodge, Drum, Sing** after-school program that -- in addition to Nicole Densmore, Will Ogmundson and Jay as leaders -- includes both parent and church volunteers for 32 youngsters.

It is in response to the momentum of this program and in observing curiosity about “church” from parents and youngsters that Jay proposed offering **Messy Church** monthly beginning with an 11 June event. Messy Church involves well-planned activities geared to a theme followed by a story-telling exercise and brief holy communion. Socialization over a meal concludes the program. For the first one this spring, the theme will be Pentecost and the unifying Spirit of love. Jay noted that Messy Church is not just for children, but for all ages, creating its own congregation – not to expect to see attendees in church on a Sunday morning, but to introduce them to the church experience that may eventually lead them to engage in the Sunday worship experience at some time in their lives.

Jay expects to coordinate the first one but will also need at least eight core volunteers plus meal volunteers and other helpers. It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to begin Messy Church programming with the first event from 4 to 6 PM on Saturday, 11 June.**

Jay also noted that dates have been selected for visits by kids and counselors from the **Phillips Brooks Partnership**: 19-20 July and 2-3 August. Volunteers will be needed for the meals, hiking, overnight camping and tubing experiences we offer (with contingencies in case of rain and thunder storms). He is considering offering on-line sign-ups in addition to a sheet in the hallway for volunteers to sign up.

Finance: Mike submitted by email in advance of the meeting ledger to budget, balance sheet and a treasurer’s report and noted that the last month had been a good one, with two one-time gifts received and other budgeted elements on track. The balance sheet is also strong, he said. It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the treasurer’s report.**

Planning Ahead: Jay sought and received approval to resume Wednesday evening **BBQs** beginning 4 July through the end of August. We also agreed to having a single **Harvest Fair** this year with the intention of re-visiting the possibility of both a summer fair and St. Nicholas Fair for future years. Jay also announced the **bishop’s visit** on St. Andrew’s Day, Wednesday, 30 November at 7 PM.

Vestry Retreat: Joe reminded us of the vestry retreat on 6 June from 9 AM to 4 PM with Susan Schweizer as facilitator. Goals for the day include an opportunity for vestry members to grow closer to one another, to grow in personal faith, and to develop long-term priorities of the next several years and short-term goals for the next one to two years. Jay expects that actual details and implementation of those goals will occur at a later time.

Braver Angels: Alice reported that Woody Canaday does not have at this time a particular request for the vestry going forward. She reported briefly on the “Skills for Bridging the Divide” workshops held over the weekend. Those who had attended agreed that the substance – ways to listen and ways to respond when speaking to those with a different viewpoint -- was sound while the presenter’s skills were a bit “rusty” after the hiatus of in-person workshops due to COVID. The team (Woody, David Balford, Jen Giles, Penelope Whitman, Peter Ruth, Jeannie Sperry) welcomes feedback and may eventually acquire training to enable them to lead workshops.

Parish Directory: Nonie noted that release of the new directory needs to be moved forward into June, with lots of new members to add. More than 100 photos have been received and follow-up phone calls will be made to individuals who have not yet submitted a photo. The committee (Nonie, Karen, Alice, with Shelly) will determine the cut-off for final photos, in order that proofreading, printing and binding can occur – perhaps by mid-June.

Navajoland: Jay announced that the June pilgrimage has been cancelled due to low interest. The fall pilgrimission will be a full week's duration and will focus on help with construction projects at St. Christopher's. Lisa Kelly is the contact person if interested. Exact dates have not been set, waiting for interested individuals to indicate dates they would not be available to travel.

Any other business: In response to a question about **Sunday announcements**, it was decided to insert a summary of the weekly email in the service bulletin to make it easier for the announcer to draw attention to items of import.

In response to a question about **Old St. Andrew’s**, we learned that Chris is still trying to find a roofer for repairs, and that a professional cleaner is lined up to clean the building before opening. The altar guild has been consulted about their concerns and we expect to hold 8 AM services there from Father’s Day through Labor Day.

Claire volunteered to head up a **newcomer’s gathering** and will consult with Becky Rylander who has led those in the past.

Jay closed the meeting with a moment of silence and together we offered a mutual blessing in the words of the grace.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting will be 23 June.