

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

22 June 2023

Present: Jay MacLeod, Morris Edwards, Fifi Mitchell, Claire Pace, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Nancy Rollins, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Billy Kelly, Russ Potter.

Guests: Jameikah Smith and Shemar Stewart

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer and a welcome to our Voorhees University interns.

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

**Finance:** Mike distributed 31 May financials with a written report prior to the meeting by email. He noted both consistent income currently and an insurance payment increase from May 2022. Work continues to get QuickBooks to produce a balance sheet, and to address that Jay has asked that we again recruit volunteers to staff the office on Wednesdays (Jay's day off) so that Shelly can devote the day to accounting tasks. Mike will assure that the focus is on bookkeeping those days and Fifi will recruit and schedule volunteers.

**Field Placement:** Jay told us that Kelly Sundberg Seaman, diocesan Dean of Formation, approached him to provide a field placement at St. Andrews's for Joe Rose this fall. Following an interview with the standing committee, Joe was not ordained to the diaconate with others (including Aaron Jenkyn) earlier this month; a field placement is recommended in which Joe can work on his needs and help with some of ours. With a past sales career and as volunteer parish administrator at Grace Church in Concord, Joe is well-known to Celeste Hemingson who thinks he will be a good fit. Acknowledging that he enjoys mentoring, Jay expects Joe may preach on some Sundays, craft intercessions and get involved with Braver Angels.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Russ Register noted that **patio reconstruction** by Old Yankee Stoneworks is well underway with new steps in place and paver blocks laid. Capstones are to be placed on existing stone walls, perhaps finishing up in a week's time. Related to that work, a contract has been issued for guttering that will divert water from the roof away from the patio.

Russ said that the **solar panel installation** is close to complete. Also, Harvey Best continues looking into a solution to the now silent **toller (bell)**.

**Mission/Outreach:** Karen is the current host for our two **Voorhees interns**, Jameikah and Shemar. Already they have done a lot of church work and will be working on professional development around their majors. They have had many opportunities for social/cultural and outdoor activities and will interact with other area interns from time to time. She noted they are enriching parish life and offered thanks to them. Jay noted their experience is the first in what we hope is an ongoing relationship with student interns from Voorhees University. Both Jameikah and Shemar commented positively on some of their "first-time" experiences – hiking and kayaking among them – and expressed thanks for the great experience and hospitality

extended to them. Both also reported that their families (in Jamaica and Bahamas,) while a little apprehensive, are mostly “chill” about the steps their daughter and son have taken to come here.

Jay reported that a diocesan grant from Our Kids Commission will support **Dodge, Drum, Sing/Music Camp** – not just the two week-long (mornings only) music camps this summer, but programming into the fall. The camps will be offered with a request for a \$20 donation each week, allowing families with financial issues to participate. The summer program, with Shemar and Jameikah as part of the staff, will gently incorporate racial understanding.

In speaking of **Navajoland**, Jay noted that pilgrims from both recent trips will soon get together to discuss next steps. Jay also noted that Joe Hubbard, who with his wife Ashley had expected to minister to the mission for many years, will be moving with their three children to South Dakota. Nancy noted how important it was that Joe had been able to find a structural engineer to examine the buildings at St. Christopher’s Mission and that future projects would be based on the results of that survey. Elizabeth Lowell will continue to support fund-raising and other issues related to Navajoland, he said.

**It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to name Jerry Coogan to the Outreach Commission.**

**Skills Audit:** Claire, Nonie, Gardner Yenawine and Elizabeth Lowell have been meeting to design a way to tap into the skills and gifts within the congregation that are unknown but willing to be shared by people when a specific need arises. The group has drafted a prologue and will use Constant Contact when they have completed the design of the survey intended to tap into expertise “from the heart.”

**Worship:** Jay said it was wonderful to be back at Old St. Andrew’s for 8 AM summer worship. He also spoke of the Gould Road 10 AM service as more participatory for all ages. He also spoke of Messy Church, noting there will be a table at the summer fair but no evening Messy Church event on 2 July. There will be a 6 August Messy Church event, coinciding with Jameikah’s and Shemar’s last day with us, to include a baptism during the worship segment. With a Messy Church focus, there will also be a St. Andrew’s float in the 5 August Hospital Day parade.

**Events:** Jay noted that the 1 July **summer fair** is in good hands with Rosie and Harvey Best at the helm. There will be a diocesan informal **beach cricket** afternoon at Rye Beach on 30 July from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. We agreed to organize **foyer groups** to commence in the fall. Alice, Claire and Nonie will work to get the word out, to solicit sign-ups and define groups of six to eight participants, and to plan a kick-off event. A group of musicians including Steve Jordan reached out to Will Ogmundson about October concerts to be hosted at St. Andrew’s 24 or 29 October.

**Any Other Business:** Dates for **Philips Brooks** visits were re-confirmed: 19-20 July and 2-3 August. Lisa Kelly will reach out for volunteers.

Karen gave a shout-out to **Kathy Mathias** who has been coordinating the experiences of the interns.

Alice asked if there is need to clarify procedure when (if) Shelly is notified that a person on the **prayer list** has died. In such a situation the person's name is to be read in the prayers of the people on the Sunday following the death.

Jay closed the meeting with a prayer 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 20 July 2023.**