

Meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands
April 24, 2022
12:00 Noon in the Parish House

Agenda

Opening Prayer - Jamie

Spiritual Exercise

Minutes for Approval - March 20, 2022 Vestry Meeting

Rector's Report

Music Self Study

Lent and Easter review

InnerChange and Episcopal Futures

Amanda away at priests' retreat April 25-27 then in NC April 28-May 3

The Rev. Jan Nunley supply priest on May 1

Episcopal Charities Sunday May 8

Chris Lawrence from InnerChange guest speaker on May 15

Warden's Report

Counting Sunday collection

Treasurer's Report

Ministry Reports/Questions

Other Business

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Sunday, May 22, 12:00 noon in the parish house

Spiritual Exercise for April 24, 2022

**from Sacred Ordinary Days 2021-22*

Easter

Easter is the pinnacle of the church year. We celebrate the resurrection of Christ from the grave. This event that forms the foundation of our faith invites us to deepen our belief in the mysterious paradox that life follows death. In theological terms, this is called the paschal mystery.

The broader season of Easter has fifty days. During this season we observe Jesus' ascension in to heaven and the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church on the Day of Pentecost.

Themes: praise, resurrection, victory, life, joy, redemption, completeness, perfection, union

Questions to ponder

- What could it mean to practice resurrection in my life?
- How have I witnessed new life flow forth from death?

Practices to ponder

- Pay attention to new life - whether in nature, relationships, people, or situations
- Keep a gratitude journal
- Take up a fifty day practice, in contrast to the forty day fast of Lent, that promotes joy, freedom, and celebration
- See where God might be wanting to do something new

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY OF ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

Sunday, March 20, 2022

12:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The Rev. Amanda Eiman; Sarah Bayne, Senior Warden; Will Felder, Junior Warden; Gabriel Salas, Treasurer; Margy Gerber, Clerk; Kari Jo Cates; Jamie Copeland; Charlie Dupree; Paul Kantor; Frederick W. Osborn III; Marilyn Palefsky; Jennifer Sandlund.

OPENING PRAYER

The Rev. Eiman offered the Opening Prayer. Vestry members will be assigned to offer the Opening Prayer at future meetings.

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

The Rev. Eiman led the Spiritual Exercise, asking members to think about how they are invited to share in the events of this Lenten season.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2022

A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Sarah and seconded by Gabe. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

1. New Vestry members were asked to read carefully the *The Vestry Handbook*, provided to each new member.
2. By-Laws: Sarah noted that the parish By-Laws were last updated in 1995, so we should undertake a review at some point. Sarah reminded Vestry members to listen to each other, treat each other with respect, to support decisions that have been made, and to keep Vestry matters confidential.
3. Will explained that governance of our church is rooted in the New York State Religious Corporations Law and the national and diocesan Canons of the Episcopal Church. He added that the last two years have been difficult (Covid, a new rector, intra-church conflicts that affected our ability to do some things). We went through a process that involved many false starts, so we are especially grateful for the efforts of Bishop Mary Glasspool and her Task Force to assist us. We need to continue to work on the relationship between the Vestry and the Rector. We also need to work on the identification of lay leadership for programming in the church.
4. Sarah noted that Canon 34 "Of the Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation" had been invoked. Fred explained the Canon 34 required that the Bishop's Office become involved to reconcile disagreements and explore issues. Fortunately, the Task Force will continue to help us try to work together; their final report has not yet been submitted. Will added that the Task Force has been very collaborative and that they have agreed to work with us on the preparation of the Report.
5. Will observed that though there is no monolithic experience among long-term members of St. Philip's, it is the case that many long-term members feel hurt, upset, and disappointed over issues related to their perception of the rector's leadership. We continue our efforts to heal the hurt on both sides and to keep members interested and

involved. Paul observed that there is a general sense that we need to give priority to healing and reconciliation. Will emphasized that we also need to do the business of running the church.

COMMITTEES

A. Liaisons and new members:

Buildings and Grounds: Paul Kantor, Liaison; Jamie Copeland; Charlie Dupree

Communications: Marilyn Palefsky, Liaison; Jennifer Sandlund [Terri Akbas]

Fellowship: Jennifer Sandlund, Liaison; Kari Jo Cates

Investment Committee: Charlie Dupree, Liaison; Gabe Salas; Fred Osborn

History/Archives: Margy Gerber, Liaison; Jamie Copeland [David Gordon,

Chair; Terri Akbas; Anita Prentice]

Nursery School: Sarah Bayne, Liaison; Fred Osborn; Kari Jo Cates

Outreach: Will Felder, Liaison; Gabe Salas

Pastoral Care: Jamie Copeland, Liaison

Stewardship: Gabe Salas, Liaison. [Terri Akbas is chair]

Worship: Fred Osborn, Liaison. Sarah Bayne; Margy Gerber

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Clerk: Margy Gerber was elected Clerk of the Vestry

B. Treasurer: Gabe Salas was elected Treasurer

RECTOR'S REPORT

A. The common communion cup will return on Sunday, March 27. Intinction is not permitted.

B. Maundy Thursday: Night Watch. The church will be open all night.

C. The church is open on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Rodman Neumann is in charge.

D. Discernment Committee: Daniel Bentley has been approved as an Aspirant for ordination to ministry. The Vestry must indicate how we will support him, though we have some time to decide on the amount of financial support.

E. Music Ministry: Chris Fasulo, the interim music director, is staying through Easter. Marilyn and Fred agreed to serve on the Self-Study Committee in preparation for hiring a permanent Music Director. [Other members include Smitha Dawson, Charity Shumway, Carolyn Copeland; Will recommended adding Belle Newton]

OTHER BUSINESS

Fred expressed concern about the aftermath of the Rector's interview in *The Highlands Current* and asked how we might help her. Sarah explained that she, Will, and Amanda have identified parishioners who have expressed serious concern and will try to meet with them. Bishop Glasspool has urged us all to exercise care in talking with the media. Fred noted that we need to have a mechanism for dealing with these issues, adding that we appear to be on the way to having appropriate procedures. Will emphasized the importance of talking with the Vestry before interacting with the press. He expressed appreciation for the Rector's apology at the Annual Meeting, adding that it is important that we model a united leadership effort

between the Vestry and the Rector; after having listened to each other, we also need to move on.

CLOSING PRAYER

Kari Jo offered the Closing Prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, April 24, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Leahey Gerber
Clerk of the Vestry

St. Philip's Nursery School Committee report
April 24 2022
Sarah Bayne, liaison

The White Elephant Sale of children's toys and goods was held on Saturday, March 26 and earned about \$2500. Given that the sale had not been held for two years, it was considered a success, especially since the items were limited to children's goods. Betsy and her team of parents and teachers deserve praise for the time and effort it took to put it all together. It is always requiring of much volunteer time and effort on the part of the director and her team, which is balanced against the outreach that this kind of sale offers to the larger community.

A spring cocktail benefit party is planned for Saturday May 21, similar to last year's benefit and structure. Present and past parents and grandparents will be invited. Vestry also attended last year. A wish list of mostly larger ticket items of equipment and other supplies in addition to cash donations for professional development for faculty will be presented at the party. Last year's party was very successful in receiving cash donations as well as equipment such as playground improvements.

Camp is full, and enrollment for next fall is coming along- many 2 year olds than we have room for, though we are not full for 4 year olds.

Communications Committee Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: 4/19/2022

Author: Jennifer Sandlund

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:

The spring edition of the Messenger was published in mid-April.

Updates are being made to improve the visitor experience of our website, thanks to the work of Daniel Bentley, which involved the integration of our new fonts and a new layout for the Welcome page, including a movie of favorite images that highlight our members and not just the campus.

Our outreach page is being enriched thanks to the efforts of Kathy Plummer and Smitha Dawson.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:

New visitor cards and stationery are planned.

Next edition of the Messenger will be in July.

History/Archives Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: April 24, 2022

Author: Margaret Leahey Gerber

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month: Nothing to report

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending: Nothing to report

Items Requiring Vestry Vote: None

Worship Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: Friday 15th April 2022

Author: Fred Osborn

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month: With the pandemic retreating, and the consequent lockdowns and restrictions lessening, St. Philip's is back to in-person church for its regular 8am and 10am Sunday services.

Video broadcasting of the 10am service continues, with recent enhancement of additional cameras to give a look at the whole sanctuary, not just the altar; this makes the experience of watching the service much more immersive and inclusive. Thanks, again, to Daniel Bentley who has so ably led the video ministry for years.

Children's Chapel has returned. A small choir – up to six people – joins the new Interim Music Director, Christopher Fasulo, who adds his robust tenor to the enthusiastic singing group.

Special Holy Week services included a Maundy Thursday evensong, followed by an all-night vigil with various time slots taken by volunteers of the congregation, in person and at home. An ecumenical Good Friday service was held at noon at St Mary's, Cold Spring.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending: The new Worship Committee has met several times, helping design the Holy Week services and special activities.

A new Music Self-Study Committee has begun deliberations to shape what St Philip's should seek in its Music Ministry. The Committee members are Sarah Bayne, Carolyn Copeland, Amanda Eiman, Ron Madden, Fred Osborn, Marilyn Palefsky, and Charity Shumway. Marilyn and Fred have been long-standing members of the St Philip's Choir and currently sing with the Highlands Choral Society, so they will bring a perspective on the successful music programs of the recent past. The Committee may seek input from our parishioners through a survey or questionnaire.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote: None.

St. Philip's Worship Committee
Wednesday, March 30, 2022
7:30 PM via Zoom

Opening Prayer – Rev Amanda Eiman

Present: Rev. Amanda Eiman, Margy Leahey Gerber, Fred Osborn, Charity Shumway, Carolyn Copeland, Daniel Bentley, Ron Madden (joined 8:07 p.m.)

Apologies – Charlotte Rowe, Sarah Bayne

Minutes – Daniel Bentley

Worship Considerations

Wednesday Evening Prayer: Daniel suggested suspending Wednesday EP in Holy Week to concentrate energies on Maundy Thursday/Good Friday.

Friday Morning Prayer: Daniel suggested not having Friday EP on Good Friday to avoid confusion with Good Friday service.

Holy Week Plans:

Palm Sunday — Passion roles are assigned. Question was raised about having a procession. One was done under the interim rector, kids enjoyed it. Amanda suggested doing liturgy of the Palms outside, weather depending followed by procession into church.

Maundy Thursday – Holy Eucharist at 6pm followed by night watch at 8pm.

Good Friday — 12pm at St. Mary's, subject to confirmation with Fr. Steve Schunk. 4pm Good Friday service for family. No set up required.

Easter Sunday – 8 am and 10 am Holy Eucharist. Music: Amanda spoke with Chris Fasulo about, asking about brass or other instrumentalists. Chris was reticent. Wanted organ and choir. AE explained it was the expectation at St. Philips that musicians be brought in. Struggling to find musicians at this late stage because CF was only brought in at the start of March.

Rodman will offer prelude vocally.

Graymoor stations of the Cross – Friday April 1 10-1:30.

Music Self Study

Vestry has been in conversation about next steps for the music program. Vestry has asked that a self-study be formed to discuss past, present and future of music at St. Philip's. They will be tasked with producing a document to help in music director search. Group is: Rev. Amanda Eiman, Fred Osborn, Carolyn Copeland, Charity Shumway, Ron Madden, Sarah Bayne, Marilyn Palefsky. Belle Newton has produced a memo on the history of music program which will be circulated.

Ministries Reports

Altar Guild – Margy: Ask that we keep Marianne Benjamin in our prayers. We need to recruit junior members to Altar Guild from new members at St. Philip's.

Flower Guild —

Ushers/Greeters – AE: Micki has sent out a new schedule for March. New greeters will be joining in April.

Lay Readers —

Music/choir — CS: All is well. Enjoying working with Chris.

Video Ministry — DB: People are still watching, around 50 per week and 6-10 live. Jack Illian's assistance has continued. Stopping call for further volunteers at this point. FO asked if we were going to continue hybrid past when COVID becomes an issue. DB strongly in favor of keeping online worship going beyond then because we still have a number of parishioners who are housebound or of limited mobility, or have moved away and want to stay in touch with St. Philip's. Also a useful evangelism tool, so people who are "church shopping" can see what we do at St. Philip's. Remarked that a number of new people to St. Philip's did this.

Future ministries: acolytes - on AE's agenda to train acolytes from confirmation class. Processional cross has been refurbished.

Other Business

Free standing altar discussions — AE: Free standing altar (FSA) started being used in Parish House in the interim period. First time at St Philip's first time many at St P's have experienced versus populum worship. AE was encouraged to use the freestanding altar when she first started. One of the issues was that it was not made for the space it is in. Builder of the altar Jeff Dain stained it darker to match the space. Open the floor to ideas and suggestions to advise her. Lots of considerations about liturgical seasons — when do we use it? Where do we place it? Made suggestion that instead of current FSA we use some sort of table as to be less obstructive and fit the space better.

CC: FSA never made an appearance before in church. Current FSA feels obstructive. Has experience with both. Raised Q about eagle lectern. Does not like the ad hoc solution of music stand. Ron concurred in Q about eagle lectern which was previously in church. AE unsure about why it was not brought back after renovations.

DB: Aesthetic, practical and liturgical considerations re: FSA. Aesthetic — I think most people agree the current FSA isn't a beautiful object. Practical — We're bringing back chalicists and acolytes, is there enough room behind altar rail for two or three people. Liturgical/theological — What's the meaning behind facing "east" vs facing the people. In favor of the table idea.

MLG: Referred to earlier email: My sense is that a free-standing altar works best in a church that was designed to accommodate the post-Vatican II "face the congregation" setting. A good example is the chapel at St. Michael's College in Vermont where the altar is located at the crossing. Additional comments from meeting: Maybe open table would work but the vote is for the high altar.

CS: Table seems like a great idea. Loves what a table represents. Feels appropriate.

FO: Have been to churches versus populum and enjoyed it. But returned to St Philip's and have come to appreciate the high altar. Looks as if the priest is "captaining the ship".

RM: Has no strong opinion on direction of celebration but does like the altar and had further questions about the lectern. Also Qs about the Anglican/Roman Catholic use of facing the people.

DB: Gave history of Anglican use of altars. In short: English Reformation banned use of high altars. A table placed lengthwise in the chancel became the normative Anglican practice for 300 years until the Oxford Movement of the late 19th Century reintroduced the high altar to some churches, mostly Anglo-Catholic. St. Philip's high altar is from 1910 at the peak of the Oxford Movement. The normative Anglican practice since the mid-20th century has been for the priest to face the people.

FO: Should there be a community canvas of the issue? Perhaps some people don't have enough information to make an informed preference.

DB: I don't know if enough people have an informed preference on it. But when Amanda makes her decision on the issue, the changes should be communicated to the parish.

Further discussion was had about the next music director. Opinions were shared on Chis Fasulo's playing and hymn selection which have both been well-received. He would require more money than supply. It's possible in the summer we try out other candidates for the position subject to the Music Self Study group.

Returning to the issue of lectern: Carolyn Copeland was to ask Jamie Copeland about the renovation committee's decision not to bring it back.

Closing Prayer

Next Meeting Date — May 18th

Meeting adjourned 8:55

Youth Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: April 2022

Author: Kari Jo Cates

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:

The Cross Trainers continue to supply cookies to the Midnight Run, baking and packaging cookies to be included in meals and personal care kits to be shared with persons facing homelessness across Manhattan by a team of volunteers from various churches who aim to make personal connections with the individuals they meet. The Acolytes are active in the service again, with significant, eager participation on Easter Sunday morning.

Children's Chapel enjoyed regular Sunday gatherings during worship, beginning at 10a in the Parish House and then joining adult worship for sacraments, with a weekly average of 15 children attending. Singing, learning the Lord's Prayer, reading and acting out stories from Scripture and praying together helped the children engage together as a community and with God's Word.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:

Cross Trainers hope to participate as a group in the clean-up day at Rural Migrant Ministries in May and also provide cookies and possibly a carload of helpers to upcoming Midnight Run missions. They traditionally helped out with a craft gift with the Children's Chapel on Mother's and Father's Day, and are considering how to be involved this year.

Children's Chapel begins an Easter series lasting through May and taking us through when we break for the summer in early June. We are also beginning to plan for our second year of Vacation Church Camp, to be held August 8-12, 2022.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote: