

Meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands
March 1, 2022
5:00 PM in the Parish House

Agenda

Opening Prayer Jennifer

Spiritual Exercise Amanda

Minutes for Approval - January 23, 2022 Vestry Meeting

Rector's Report

 Worship committee

 Confirmation/Newcomer classes

 Interim Music Director

Wardens' Report

 Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Ministry Reports/Questions

Other Business

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Next Meeting:

 Sunday, March 20, 2022, at noon

Spiritual Exercise for March 1

**from Sacred Ordinary Days 2021-22*

In the season of Lent, we enter into the forty day fast that Jesus undertook in the wilderness. It begins on Ash Wednesday, when we receive the imposition of ashes and are reminded that we are but dust and to dust we shall return. During this season, we observe chosen forms of fasting, prayer, service or charity to engage this dedicated period of self examination, and to align our hearts with the suffering of Jesus as we move close to Holy Week and the event of the crucifixion.

Themes: fast, prepare, self-examination, quiet, contemplation, sacrifice, reflection, discipline, patience

Questions to ponder

- What role has self examination played in my spiritual life?
- How open am I to this season of penitence, fasting, and prayer?
- How might I serve others through this time of sacrifice?

Practices to ponder

- Attend an Ash Wednesday service
- Observe a Lenten fast, sacrificially abstaining from a habit, a food, or usual activity
- Commit to a particular prayer practice, deepening your connection to God
- Find an avenue for almsgiving and charity
- Celebrate the Sunday feast days, setting aside your fast to embrace the reality of the resurrection

Consider the themes, questions, and practices. You are invited to share your reflections at our meeting on the 1st.

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

Saturday, January 23, 2022

2:00 PM via Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Rev. Amanda Eiman, Rector; Terri Akbas, Senior Warden; Sarah Bayne, Junior Warden; Will Felder, Treasurer; Preston Pittman, Clerk; Margy Gerber, Paul Kantor, Chris Nowak, Fred Osborn, Joe Plummer, Gabe Salas, Jennifer Sandlund

GUESTS:

Bishop Mary Glasspool, Rev. Alison Quin, David McNary

The meeting began with an opening prayer by Gabe Salas, followed by a Spiritual Exercise lead by Rev. Amanda Eiman.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2021 MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Terri Akbas and seconded by Paul Kantor.

Rev. Amanda noted that the Task Force consisting of Bishop Glasspool, Rev. Alison Quin, and David McNary were joining today's meeting to share information about the Task Force's meetings and St. Philip's Nominating Committee. It was reported that the Nominating Committee, consisting of ALL past Wardens who wished to serve, including past Wardens who have not been attending St. Philip's over the past year, had met twice. The first meeting went well, but the second meeting was contentious. Sarah noted that the dynamics of the meeting were very complex. There were discussions about the Warden position which were difficult. Bishop Glasspool noted that the usual tradition in the Episcopal Church is that the Rector choose one of the Wardens. The Nominating Committee will be meeting again to finalize selection of the Warden and candidates for the Vestry.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Amanda announced that the church sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation for an hour on Wednesdays and two hours on Saturdays. She is asking for volunteers from the Vestry to act as attendants in the church during those times.

Rev. Amanda announced that a Reconciliation Committee has been formed with Joe Plummer and Will Felder as Co-Chairs. They will be looking for ways to reconcile with members of the Highlands Choral Society.

It was reported by Rev. Amanda that a couple of weeks ago she left a voicemail for Dr. Entekin to discuss the HCS performing a concert at St. Philip's Church. After not hearing from him, she followed up with an email. He requested that she direct her offer to Friedrike Merck, who in turn

responded that she would take up the offer with the HCS Board at their next meeting. Gabe recommended that Rev. Amanda use Fred Osborn as an intermediary. She noted that Fred and Joe Plummer have been copied on all of her correspondence with the HCS.

It was reported that Rev. Amanda and Daniel Bentley will be conducting confirmation classes for adults and children in the new year.

Rev. Amanda reported that it is planned that the Episcopal Futures Program will begin meeting in February with two other local churches to discuss challenges and directions for the future of the Church.

WARDENS' REPORT

Terri reported that work is being done on St. Philip's Annual Report. It will be primarily an e-report, with perhaps some printed copies for the Annual Meeting on March 6.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Will announced that an adjusted budget has been circulated, and that he would like to invite anyone on the Vestry who is interested to join the next zoom meeting of the Budget Committee-date to be determined. He noted that we currently have 35 pledges amounting to \$156,000. Expenses are expected to be \$390,000. We may be able to reduce some expenses in the music program and by deferred maintenance and watching other costs carefully. We did give Nursery School teachers cost of living raises and should consider it for church employees. Cottage rental remains the same (they are learning to use the snow blower for us). There is no "wiggle room" in office expenses. Sarah added that there will be a spring fundraiser for the Nursery School and tuition will be raised.

Preston made a motion, seconded by Terri, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 3:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Preston L. Pittman
Clerk of the Vestry

Buildings and Grounds Committee Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: March 1, 2022

Author: Paul Kantor

Action Items Completed:

Snowblower delivery and training.

Gutter and septic cleaning.

Initiation of new part-time custodian service.

Action Items In Progress/Pending:

Major cut in B and G spending in the 2022 budget, and planning for financial stringency was undertaken by the Committee, including decision to reduce church cleaning services by half during this year.

Church heating issues. Vestibule heat repair, and remounting church thermostat for more accurate temperature readings in process.

Fire alarm problems were evaluated resolved after the most recent false alarm and repair. In addition, installation of Knox boxes in two locations at the church is to be undertaken by Jim B in order to enable fire department access in the future. Finally, the purchase and installation of building number signs is to be utilized as soon as possible.

Parish House insulation and door issues. Installation of new door pull on PH door completed by Chris N. Minor insulation improvements for the drafty front door of the PH are planned. Although major window insulation improvements were needed, the committee agreed that this kind of expenditure would be untimely. Chris N offered to prepare for such improvements in the future by drawing up window plans as a preliminary project.

A snowplowing and shoveling plan formulated by Jim B. in consultation with various parties was agreed upon.

A churchyard tree plan proposal formulated by David Gordon and Anne Symmes was approved. This plan will help to guide new plantings as they become available.

Spring cleanup planning: focus will be on painting porches, clearing debris from the north stone wall, and undertaking minor pruning of trees on the campus by volunteers only in order to reduce costs.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote: NA

History/Archives Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: 2/24/22

Author: Margaret Leahey Gerber

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:

Nothing to report

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:

None

Items Requiring Vestry Vote:

None

Outreach Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: 2/19/22

Author: Joe Plummer

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:

The outreach/service to others main effort has been to understand the needs of the school at St James in Leyland, Kenya. Phil Guttridge and Jim Bopp evaluated the construction needs. Terri Akbas arranged for a money transfer for the first installment from the grant we received. We hope to receive a report and photos from their progress on the girls' dorm building.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:

Ross Corsair has produced a beautiful and moving video for Rural Migrant Ministries we hope to show soon at St Philips and Rev Richard Witt can use in gathering support for RMM ministries.

We are hopeful to have an open sharing of service to others at a future Coffee hour.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote: N/A

Worship Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: 18th February 2022

Author: Fred Osborn

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month: Worship continues both in-person and live-stream as Covid restrictions are lessening and more people are feeling comfortable attending events. 8am and 10am Holy Eucharist services have been continuing, but with the rise of the Omicron variant, choir has been temporarily discontinued. We expect to return to Children's Chapel and Choir in March. Wednesday evening prayer continues.

Interim Music Director Owen Borda will complete his one-year contract with St. Philip's at the end of February – his last performance will be Sunday 27th February. Rev Amanda will be away on 27th February so a tribute to Owen Borda will be made at the service on 20th February. Daniel Bentley will read morning prayer and preach on the 27th February. Rev. Amanda stated that starting in March we will have supply organists.

A Worship Committee has been created and consists of representatives from the altar guild, the video ministries, the choir, the music director, the clergy, lay readers, greeters, and flowers/decorations. The first meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd February. Blake Newton has resigned as coordinator of the lay readers; David Gordon has resigned as director of ushers and greeters. The committee discussed upcoming Lenten and Easter season events.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending: We will need volunteer leaders for coordinating lay readers, management of the ushers and greeters. We look forward to the return of the choir in March. At the urging of the vestry and the Bishop's special Task Force, Rev. Amanda invited the Highlands Choral Society to hold a concert at St Philip's this Spring. The HCS appreciated the gesture.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote: None

Youth Ministry Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: 2/24/2022

Author: Jennifer Sandlund

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:

Cross Trainers:

There were no meetings this month.

Sunday School:

The Children's ministry plans to resume in March.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:

On March 5th, the Cross Trainers will be delivering 10 dozen cookies made at home to be included in the lunch bags being distributed that evening by Midnight Run. We will also have a group of Cross Trainers and their parents participating in the run this time. We plan to have an in-person meeting with parents and youth to evaluate and discuss the Cross Trainers program on March 13th.

Communications Committee Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: February 2022

Author: Terri Akbas

Ministry/Action Items Completed: None this month

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:

- The Communications Committee will meet in March 2022 to discuss goals and initiatives for the year.
- The Spring Edition of The Messenger will be published in early April.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote: None