

Meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands
January 23, 2022
2:00 PM via Zoom

Agenda

Opening Prayer and Spiritual Exercise
January - Jennifer
February - Gabriel

Minutes for Approval - December 19, 2021 Vestry Meeting

Rector's Report
Church open for prayer and meditation
Reconciliation committee
Contact with HCS
Worship committee
Children's chapel
Confirmation/Newcomer classes
Outreach meeting
Episcopal Futures

Warden's Report
Update from Nominating Committee and annual meeting

Ministry Reports/Questions

Other Business

Treasurer's Report
Budget discussion

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Next Meeting:
Sunday, February 27, 2022, at noon

Spiritual Exercise for January 23

**from Sacred Ordinary Days 2021-22*

In the season of Epiphany, we enter into what some traditions consider the first of two seasons in the church year called Ordinary Time. It begins on January 6, when we celebrate the visit of the wise ones and their gifts to the Christ child. Lectionary readings during this time focus on the life and ministry of Jesus and invite us into the maturation of our faith.

Themes: revelation, journey, fulfillment, light, arrival, wisdom, rhythm, presence, manifestation

Questions to ponder

- How am I noticing the revelation of God in my life?
- What gifts to I have to offer Jesus?
- In what ways am I being invited to grow?

Consider the themes and questions. You are invited to share your reflections about the themes and questions at our meeting on the 23rd.

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

Saturday, December 19, 2021

12:00 P.M. via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

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

Guests: Jamie Copeland; Carolyn Copeland; Rev. Alison Quin; Denise Larson-Hanusch

REPORT OF DENISE LARSON-HANUSCH - EXECUTIVE SESSION

Joe Plummer introduced his professional colleague, Denise Larson-Hanusch, who presented her findings on the congregational survey in an Executive Session consisting of the Rector and the members of the Vestry, and Rev. Alison Quin of the Diocesan Task Force.

Following her report, Ms. Larson-Hanusch was thanked and excused from the remainder of the meeting. Jamie and Carolyn Copeland joined the meeting as guest auditors at this point.

Before beginning the meeting-proper, Rev. Amanda invited the Vestry and guests to engage in a "spiritual exercise".

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER MINUTES

Jennifer made a motion to approve the minutes of the last Vestry meeting. Joe seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Amanda announced that she had extended a job offer to Marcelo, replacing Tony as a general maintenance man. His letter of agreement begins January 1. There was some discussion as to how his salary will be reported on the Budget.

Rev. Amanda reported on the Christmas services. She said that at present, the plan is to have three Christmas Eve services, with the 5:00 pageant being live-streamed. With the rise in the new COVID strain, coffee hour is being suspended. Rev. Amanda also said that the party on January 8 at the Rectory will need to be rescheduled after the current COVID surge.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Terri reported that Joe Plummer has presented an idea about having the Church open at certain designated times for both congregants and visitors to attend for prayer and meditation. There

was a consensus that this was a very good idea. Terri said she would work on this and offer times for Vestry members to volunteer to "baby sit" the church.

Terri announced that she had reached out to all the former wardens inviting them to serve on a Nominating Committee to fill Vestry positions being vacated due to term limits of herself and Joe Plummer.

It was noted that Bishop Mary Glasspool and her committee will continue to work with the Vestry towards an "implementation" plan on resolving conflicts on the Vestry. There was some discussion of transparency and of concerns that there may have been "leaks" from Bishop Glasspool's Task Force meetings. It was acknowledged that there is a lot of concern and curiosity among the current congregation and those attending the Choral Society about what is going on at these meetings. Rev. Amanda confirmed that she is planning to call Dr. Entrekin in January to invite the HCS to perform a concert at St. Philip's.

Will Felder suggested that the Communications Committee could meet and discuss ways communications could be wider reaching to the whole community.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Will reported that \$67,000 has been raised in December so far, which is in line with our end of year historical giving. Will acknowledged that our income is still below our expenses and advised that we should strive to be more prudent regarding expenditures in everyway possible.

Chris Nowak added that the Building & Grounds Committee is examining where we can cut expenses and where we can safely defer maintenance. He said that Chris Sandlund will be monitoring B&G issues more in the future.

Will added that a cost-of-living adjustment for Micki, our church administrator, is being examined and considered as part of the budgeting exercise.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42.

Respectfully submitted,
Preston L. Pittman
Clerk of the Vestry

Outreach Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: 1/13/2022

Author: Joe Plummer

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month: Personal care kits were distributed to Hedgewood for Christmas led by Sue McClain. The HCS distributed sweat clothes to Hedgewood led by Robert Cuttler.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending: The major outreach effort continues to be to St James School in Lelan, Kenya. Rev Daniel from the school has sent building supplies and cost request to Rev Amanda. This request has been reviewed by Peg Moran and Phil Guttridge for accuracy and confirming to broad construction practices. All looks good so far. Terri Akbas will arrange for Phase 1 payment to be wired along with a request for photos showing progress. Rev Amanda reminded the team that our vision is a long-term relationship with St James beyond building this first girls' dormitory. We will try to keep the vestry and congregation informed of progress and hope some more people will join in this wonderful service to others in another land.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote: N/A

Buildings and Grounds Committee Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: January 23, 2022

Author: Paul Kantor

Action Items Completed:

Delivery of snowblower.

Part time custodian commences work.

Plan for future gift tree selection and placement completed (D. Gordon A. Symmes).

Annual gutter and septic tank inspections/cleaning completed.

B and G budget planning recommendations to vestry completed.

Action Items In Progress/Pending:

NA

Items Requiring Vestry Vote:

NA

St. Philip's Nursery School Liaison Report to the Vestry

January 2022

The St. Philip's Nursery School Committee met on January 13. Prior to the full committee meeting, Betsy, Travis Yuengst, NS Treasurer, Will Felder, and I met to discuss several proposals for tuition for 2022. We agreed on an increase of \$40 across the board, which includes a slightly larger percentage increase for those not selecting the 5-day program. This increase was unanimously agreed upon by the full committee. Phoebe has agreed to assist Betsy in the wording of the tuition announcement with especial assurance and emphasis for all present and incoming parents that financial aid is available. We continue to work on the long-term goal of making the school self sustaining and the budget for 2022 will reflect increased line items that the school will begin to assume.

In addition, the committee discussed the dates for the White Elephant Sale, awaiting possible further clarification about Covid, agreed upon continued testing for everyone after the February break, and protocol for a Chinese New Year presenter at the end of February in addition to other items.

Despite the weather and continued Covid in the area, the school has remained open with nearly full attendance from both children and staff.

Sarah Bayne

History/Archives Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: January 18, 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: 20th January 2022

Author: Fred Osborn

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:

Worship continues at Saint Philips with the regular 8am and 10am services of Holy Communion on Sundays, Bible Study at 7:30pm on Tuesdays, Evening Prayer at 6pm on Wednesdays. A new plan to have the church building open for a few hours at a time on various days will enable people to visit for contemplative individual prayer and meditation.

A worship committee is being formed to provide ideas and oversight of the various worship experiences at St Philip's. This committee will be made up of staff, vestry members, volunteers, and congregants.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:

A special committee / task force has been formed to focus on the work of healing divisions in our community and to lead efforts to build back our church as Covid fears recede.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote:

None

Youth Ministry Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: 1/19/2022

Author: Jennifer Sandlund

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:

Cross Trainers:

On Saturday, December 18 and Saturday, January 15, the Cross Trainers delivered 10 dozen cookies made at home to be included in the lunch bags being distributed that evening by Midnight Run.

Sunday School:

On Sunday, December 12 the Sunday School children added hay to the creche and sang carols accompanied by a guitar, in a gathering before the Evensong service.

The children performed a Christmas pageant in the shed at the 5 pm Christmas Eve service. This was done because of concerns about COVID, but the location was well-received and could become a tradition in the future.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:

We plan to have an in-person meeting with parents and youth to evaluate and discuss the Cross Trainers program when conditions permit.

Communications Committee Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: January 20, 2022

Author: Terri Akbas

Ministry/Action Items Completed: The 2nd edition (Winter Edition) of The Messenger was published in print, online, and distributed via e-mail on January 5, 2022. Hard copies of the newsletter were mailed to select individuals who may not utilize email and the internet on a regular basis.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending: The Communications Committee will meet in February 2022 and is always looking to welcome new members.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote: None