

Meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands  
September 25, 2022  
12:00 Noon in the Parish House

Agenda

Opening Prayer - Margy

Spiritual Exercise

Minutes for Approval - August 28, 2022 Vestry Meeting

Rector's Report

Discernment committees, Janine Thwaite, GMC Mission Fair, Diocesan Convention,  
Bishop Search, Organ Dedication Concert

Wardens' Report

Vestry retreat with Bishop Mary Glasspool

Treasurer's Report

Ministry Reports/Questions

Other Business

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Saturday, October 29, at 9:00 AM before the vestry retreat begins at 10:00 AM.

**MINUTES OF ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS**  
**AUGUST 28, 2022**  
**12:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Rev. Amanda Eiman, Rector; Sarah Bayne, Senior Warden; Will Felder, Junior Warden; Gabe Salas, Treasurer; Margy Gerber, Clerk; Kari Jo Cates; Jamie Copeland; Charlie Dupree; Paul Kantor; Fred Osborn; Marilyn Palefsky. Unable to attend: Jennifer Sandlund

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Will led opening prayer.

**SPIRITUAL EXERCISE:**

Our focus is on hope. Jamie spoke about initiatives involving children in Philipstown. Will expressed hope that Covid and the other causes of disruption are behind us and that we can focus on accelerating work we have begun- welcoming newcomers and longtime parishioners, organizing activities of interest to multi-generations, for example. Fred and Paul also spoke to hope for reconciliation and healing. Sarah pointed to the work of the Music Committee: The organ dedication, the development of a youth choir.

**MINUTES:**

On Fred's recommendation, an amendment was proposed and approved to change the word "transfer" in the Minutes to "transfers.". [An amended copy of the Minutes was sent to Micki Bless in the Office.]

**RECTOR'S REPORT:**

Summer camp was successful and we are looking ahead to the fall.

Three parishioners who feel called to special ministry are involved in the discernment process; committees are being formed to work with them.

**WARDENS' REPORT:.**

Bishop Mary Glasspool will lead a Vestry Retreat on October 29; Will is working with the Bishop to determine the place.

Welcome Back Sunday: Vestry members will be introduced at the 10 o'clock service on September 18. Evening Prayer will resume as will Children's Chapel; the Backpack Blessing will take place.

Kenya Proposal: The Vestry approved \$9,000.00 for St. James in Kenya; the church has submitted a budget detailing what the money will be used for.

Music Committee: A program is being developed for the Organ Dedication, scheduled for October 2 at 3 p.m.; a reception will follow. The guest organist is Craig Williams, Music

Director, Cadet Chapel, US Military Academy at West Point. Invitations are being prepared; the program will include a list of donors. Jamie stressed the importance of making the folks at the Highlands Choral Society feel welcome and that they should know that the invitation is coming from the Vestry. Sarah reported that she had written to Woody Entrekin, in her message emphasizing the fact that the organ would not exist without his advice and leadership; the Vestry concurred.

The Vestry approved \$6,800.00 plus \$200.00 for supplies for a Youth Choir. Amanda, as rector, will offer Susanne McDonnell a 3-month appointment as youth choir director.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

YTD, we are doing better than last year. Typically, larger donations come in at the end of the calendar year, but the Stewardship Committee has been asked to try to encourage spreading out the donations over the year as they focus on fundraising for 2023.

The Investment Committee's report has been passed on to attorney Laurie Sawyer.

By-Laws: The By-Laws, last updated in the mid-1990s, need to be reviewed and possibly updated. Sarah will head the committee which also includes Gabe, Margy, Paul, and Kari Jo. The committee should propose changes, if needed, to the Vestry.

Chris Sandlund will do the Alternative Audit Review of the calendar year 2021.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Amanda led the closing prayer.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

#### NEXT MEETING

The Vestry will meet at noon on September 25, 2022

Respectfully submitted:

Margaret Leahey Gerber  
Clerk of the Vestry

## ***Buildings and Grounds Committee Liaison Report to Vestry***

**Date: September 25, 2022**

**Author: Paul Kantor**

### **Action Items Completed:**

NA

### **Action Items In Progress/Pending:**

Fire inspection of campus buildings by the building department resulted in mandates to improve or add exit signs in church and Parish House, as well as other minor changes, including some electrical work in the kitchen area. Cost of these improvements are being estimated. Re-inspection by building department is expected during fall.

Rectory HVAC leak repair and warranty issues completed. The remaining overhanging issue is whether the manufacturer will pay compensation for the failed condenser part. This is being handled by Jim B.

Parish House windows grant project is being planned in order to complete the first stage of the project for which funds are available.

Bookshelf project in church near organ currently in progress by Chris S.

A grant award from the diocese for upgrading and replacing borrowed streaming equipment for church services is available. This is being handled by Rev. Amanda and Daniel Bentley.

Purchase of sump pump to regularly empty church HVAC water overflow was decided as best solution at minimal cost. Chris N is to install after purchase.

### **Items Requiring Vestry Vote:**

NA

## *WORSHIP Liaison Report to Vestry*

**Date:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

**Author:** Fred Osborn

**Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:** Worship has continued, with previous service being added on after the summer hiatus.

Children's Chapel and Wednesday evening prayer have resumed.

A "Welcome Back" Sunday was held on 11<sup>th</sup> September with a special blessing of back-packs for children returning to school.

Plans are under way to hold the postponed Organ Dedication Concert and an invitation and program have been developed for the event, scheduled for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 3pm. Craig Williams, organist at the West Point Cadet Chapel, will perform.

**Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:** Three discernment committees have been formed and have begun meeting to assess the call that three parishioners have for pursuing the diaconate or the priesthood.

**Items Requiring Vestry Vote:** approval of expenses for part-time director of Youth Music was accomplished at the 28<sup>th</sup> August meeting.

## **Communications Committee Liaison Report to Vestry**

**Date:** 9/20/2022

**Author:** Jennifer Sandlund

**Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:**

**Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:**

The Communications Committee will be meeting on September 27 at 1 pm.

Next edition of the Messenger will be in October.

## **Fellowship Committee Liaison Report to Vestry**

**Date:** 9/20/2022

**Author:** Jennifer Sandlund

### **Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:**

The main charge of the Fellowship Committee is “community building”. This includes the following:

- Receptions
- Newcomers
- Greeters
- Coffee Hours
- Spring Picnic (Rectory)
- Summer Open House (Sacred Sites)
- Advent Wreath Making (Parish House)
- Epiphany Season Gathering/Party (Rectory and PH)
- Women of St. Philip’s (Carolyn Copeland’s house)

Carolyn set up a sign up form with Sign Up Genius. This is helpful for keeping track of hosts and gaps in the schedule.

### **Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:**

We plan to include the coffee hour hosts in the weekly bulletin and have Amanda invite to coffee hour/announce hosts during the announcements, and open hosting up to everyone.

Amanda to discuss the idea of a churchyard tour with David Gordon in conjunction with All Saint’s Day. The Fellowship Committee can coordinate refreshments as part of this event if it comes to fruition.

Blessing of the Animals to be held Sunday, October 9th at 1pm. Fellowship Committee will coordinate refreshments.

Women of St. Philip’s next gathering to be held at Carolyn’s house the evening of Friday, October 14th.

**St. Philip's Nursery School liaison report to the Vestry  
September 2022**

The first meeting of the St. Philip's Nursery School Committee for the new school year was held on Thursday, September 1.

Members of the Committee include: Sarah Bayne, Chair; Kate Calligaro, Vice Chair, Kari Jo Cates, Erika Cooper, Fred Osborn, Allison Pataki, Anita Prentice, Julia Wynn, Travis Yuengst, Treasurer.

There are currently 21 children attending; 3 are expected to join in January. As expected, the school lost 3 students to UPK, and for various reasons a total of 8 students left the program. Betsy was able to add 5 students before the start of school. Summer camp was fully enrolled and very successful.

The major goal this fall is to offer an afternoon program for PK and K GUFs students from 2-4 pm two days a week. There seems to be a distinct possibility that we could offer this program legally. Betsy is in touch with the director of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum afterschool program which offers a program similar to what we would offer, using their morning faculty. Stay tuned!

Sarah Bayne



## **Vestry Music Report September 28, 2022**

The music committee has been zoom meeting weekly, and biweekly, to organize the organ dedication concert on October 2 and the youth program for children.

### Youth Choir

A new music teacher, Janine Thwaite, has been hired to organize and lead a children's choir. Janine is an organist, vocalist, and former choir director for St. Peter's Church in Peekskill, a music teacher with experience in bringing musical enjoyment to children. Forms for joining this children's choir have been created with all the necessary information, permission, and emergency contacts as well as the hours of the program for parent pick-ups. Participating parents have volunteered for supervision of the children and we anticipate hiring high school students to assist.

Below is the letter to the parents:

### Youth Choir

We are delighted to invite children (ages kindergarten and up) to join our new youth choir! Register here <<link>>

Rehearsals will be Fridays after school, with our first rehearsal held Friday, October 7th. Rehearsal time TBD based on the number and ages of young people involved. There may also be an option for those who are here only on the weekends.

We will be working toward offering music during services in both November and December, so we have lots of holiday music to look forward to. We hope for this to be a joyful, educational engagement with the Anglican musical tradition, and we are excited to welcome current Children's Chapel families as well as anyone from the community who would like to join us, so please spread the words to friends who love to sing!

The choir will be led by Janine Thwaite.

Please email Charity Shumway, adult choir member and mom of three future youth choir members, with questions. Thank you!

### Organ Dedication and Concert

## **October 2nd at 3:00 PM**

Anita Prentice created a program for the dedication which was to take place in March of 2020 and delayed to the present. Working with her creation, the program was revised to include Craig Williams who will play four pieces and continue to honor those who donated to the purchase and thank all who contributed to this magnificent instrument. A copy of the program is attached to this report, though there are still be some small editing changes.

A reception in the Parish house will follow the concert. Child care will be available for parents and a separate children's table will be created.

B & L Deli will provide the hors d'oeuvres, wine will be supplied by various volunteers, and paper products will be purchased. Emailed invitations have been sent to all members of the St. Philip's community, an ad and a press release will be placed in the local newspapers.

## **\*Pastoral Care\***

Amanda and I reviewed the mission of Pastoral Care at St. Philips as the needs of our community have evolved. Some of the needs and opportunities that have become more evident:

- Home bound elderly
- Anxious, angry and/or depressed youth
- Marriage Health
- Fellowship

At our next meeting, I would love your input and suggestions on how best to serve our community in these and any other areas that you feel need our care.

Jamie

*History/Archives Liaison Report to Vestry*

**Date:** 9/22/22

**Author:** Margaret Leahey Gerber

**Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:** David Gordon led a two-hour tour of the church and grounds on July 24 as part of the Sacred Sites Open House program.

**Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:** None

**Items Requiring Vestry Vote:** None

## **Youth Liaison Report to Vestry**

**Date:** September 2022

**Author:** Kari Jo Cates

### **Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:**

Before school started, our youth joined with other churches in Cold Spring and had a successful ecumenical swim party at the Plummer's home with almost 20 youth and 4 clergy in attendance. We look forward to this joint effort continuing.

Midnight Run supplies continue to be collected.

Children's Chapel kicked off for the fall season with 14 children and 3 adults in attendance. We are using StoryMakers curriculum and exploring Genesis 1-9 from now through the end of December. We learn the Lord's Prayer and a short creed, enjoy both energetic and beautiful songs that reinforce Scriptural concepts and work on creative projects as an extension of understanding the story. We will meet weekly on Sunday mornings except for the Sunday following Thanksgiving.

### **Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending:**

St. Philip's children and families will have a joint event with St. Philip's Nursery School on Friday evening, November 4th, for a Parent's Night Out. Parents are invited to RSVP and then bring their preschool and elementary aged children to the Parish House from 5:30p-7:30p for an evening of dinner, crafts and a movie together while the parents go and enjoy themselves off campus. Funds raised will benefit the Nursery School.

### **Items Requiring Vestry Vote:**