2024-04-24 St. Brendan Vestry Minutes - Approved

Date: April 24, 2024
Time: 8:30 - 10 a.m.
Location: St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church, Deer Isle

Present:

- Rev. Elaine Hewes
- Allen Downs
- George Pazuniak
- Meg Graham via Zoom
- Jack Beaudoin
- Beth Carter
- Dan Reardon via Zoom
- John Arrenson - Guest

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer – Allen led us with a selection from the Book of Common Prayer.
2. Acceptance of Minutes from Last Meeting – **Beth, Dan seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved, conditioned upon the addition of an attachment referenced but not included.**
3. Ministry Highlights
    a. **Outreach** – John is providing a report. Six organizations have been funded.
        i. Americans who tell the Truth - $350
        ii. Healthy Island Project: Senior Lunch Box Program - $1,000
        iii. Maine Multicultural Center - $500
        iv. World Central Kitchen - $1,000
        v. Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem - $1,000
        vi. Island Community Center, Camp Kooky - $1,250

    Meg suggested that we could increase the parish's awareness of the donations and rationale. Current practice has been to document the details and include in the Navigator. Each donation includes a letter to the recipient.

b. **Building, Grounds and Technology** – George reported that structure remains central to the group's work. Replaced a defective (new) sump pump. The gutter system is doing well, but the gutter over the porch is not functioning at all. We are on Mainely Vinyl's list – it will cost $800 to fix. Also, the meditation garden is under construction, with cost of less than $1000.

c. **Educational and Spiritual Formation** – Elaine: We met and have a full summer planned at the 10:30 hour on Wednesday mornings. Pete Dane and Mary Poole(?) are doing a three-week study of Dante. Pete Antich is also doing a series. Additional sessions on hymns and prayer.

d. **Pastoral Care** – Elaine: We continue to do the work for caring for those in our community.

e. **Worship & Music** – Meg reviewed the healing service – our general feeling is that people are growing more comfortable with the service, and that it is going well. We intend to keep the same format going forward. Elaine added that the summer will include Celtic Eventide services. She will provide a summer calendar of events.

f. **Welcome & Hospitality** – Beth reported that a May 6 ministry meeting is approaching with a full agenda looking forward to summer events.

g. **Finance** – Dan provided financials for the first quarter. Income is "impossible to understand" at this time, given the number of prepaid pledges. He sees no problem with income, and expenses are within $200 of budget on $40,000 in spending. Dan expressed concern about the committee's roster, given recent resignations. He will convene the group as it is presently constituted and decide how to move forward until the end of the year.

4. Old Business

a. Update on the nominating committee – Meg: We're underway and have been working on the officers and members at large.

b. Monthly review of one of four visioning goals – Supporting youth on the island. This is part two of our two-part conversation on this goal.

1. After school program W & Th
2. Empty Bowl Supper
3. Scholarships
4. Supporting Summer Camp on the island
5. Project Launch - Kim Hutchinson coming to St. B. on June 23
6. Reggie Harris - September 13 and 14

ii. Meg: We must be very good at ascertaining this kind of information for "supportive" goals. People like Miriam and Kassie Grey. Fay. Woody. Jo Jacobs. Many more.

iii. Dan: Restorative Justice, the kid's garden at the Stonington Transfer Station, the program that Lily runs…

iv. John: What's the status of food project – like backpack program.

v. Elaine: how do we harvest these insights? An article? A presentation at coffee hour? Meg – perhaps people could come to vestry? Come to coffee? Maybe a theme. What do they do? How get involved? What is needed? Elaine suggests June 9, starting with Kassie and Fay. Can we include this on Zoom? Jack will invite them.

c. Allen wants to build a roster of ministries – various members of the vestry will provide Allen with lists next time. This will help us queue up the next vestry.

d. Sound system update – Acoustics analysis – George has been working with a professor at Husson College. Tom van Buren has also contributed to the discussion. Two issues: (1) the sanctuary; (2) the hall. George reviewed prior year records and found that acoustics have always been a challenge. The hall is the more urgent of the two, which he has broken into multiple phases:

i. Replace side (high wall and border) acoustic panels installed in 2016. Cost would be on the order of $6,000 or less. One variable is shipping cost, which prevents an exact quote. Ceiling panels can be replaced, but the installation cost is higher and the return on investment is uncertain, given the height. Also, do we do tack-able panels at eye level?

ii. Sound system for hall – In the past, we've moved equipment back and forth. It's not great for the equipment, and the equipment isn't optimized for the hall. George's preference is to hang speakers here. Roughly $3500 depending on the system, and we would do it in stages.

Dan reports we have earned $14,000 in investments. Allen makes the point that we have the Gill Foundation money, and that parishioners would likely support the effort financially.

Elaine: an improvement for the sound quality of this room is not just for St. Brendan's, but because our space is available to people on the island for use. "It's not just for us."

George makes a motion – up to $6,000 for panels and up to $4,000 to install a new speaker system in the hall, contingent on approval from

Finance Committee. Dan seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

e. Questions about Bishop Brown's visit on June 15-16.

f. Deadline for annual report materials - July 1 (Micky Jacoba wants to edit all the reports for the annual meeting. So that means reports to the office need to be in on July 1.)

5. New business
Vestry service discussion – Tabled for discussion next month.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent. The next meeting is scheduled for the 15th of May.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Beaudoin, Clerk