

Vestry Meeting
Thursday, April 25, 2013, 3:45 pm
Rector's study

The meeting was called to order by Maude March at 4:02 PM.

Members Present: The Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson, Maude March, James Clunan, Phyllis Partridge, and Nancy McCormick

Participating by Phone: Jackie Lowe, Steve Mahoney, and Arthur Keller

Participating by Skype: Linda Lewis and Donald Graves

Opening Prayer and Reflection Opened with lighting of the calendar, silence and a Ephesians 2:17- was read by Patricia Robertson. The following words or phrase stands out to vestry members:

- Peace near and far
- Not strangers
- Corner stones
- Connection
- Access
- Dwelling place
- Citizens

The Greek word for corner stone is the key stone.

What is the invitation in this passage?

Equality is suggested in the passage if you have a building or not; it doesn't matter. Inclusiveness is very strong, one member compared it to the story Stone Soup. We started with nothing and end up with a full bodied soup.

Our life together:

How well are we doing for one and all?

It is interesting to think of the one spirit, bringing people together from near and far. Most local churches don't have the characteristic this parish has. This is part of the vision that Paul was referring to. People committed to this church live far away, i.e. strangers and aliens. We come and stay and become involved in the parish. A rich population with people having different understandings and having everyone under one umbrella is a particular strength of this parish. You get an experience that you may not get in a local church. This influences the building blocks to make a different structure. Christ is the keystone so we are all connected and our strength goes through us all touching and being connected.

We need to remember we are all connected in the spirit no matter where we came from. This helps to make handling anxiety easier. In the next month everyone's anxiety will get

higher. We need to be aware of this and be gentle with each other. Transitions are challenging. On a whole it is felt the vestry is doing very well. There are hard things yet to do but it is felt we have confidence and momentum. We have learned to be more aware of each other and each other's needs. No one feels abandoned and left out completely. We may need to work on this even more. The young families are aware that we think they are very important and want to be sure to include them. When summer parishioners arrive we need to work hard to include the young families with socials after worship and be aware of the different needs and different groups. Examples are the young families, the three churches, year round parishioners, summer parishioners, and sunset service.

Everyone feels the survey completed for the parish profile was a wonderful tool. It is noted that welcoming people after church is important. St. Jude does a great job at this. It is felt that St. Mary's by-the-Sea parishioners should work harder to get the lemonade and cookies set up after worship. The vestry should make a point to stay for it and interact with everyone, encourage people to stay and join in after worship. Every Sunday make an effort to talk to two people who you do not know, engaging with different people. Try to move around to a different location in the church after worship to get to see different people. Maybe sit in a different place in church. Year round parishioners are one group and seasonal parishioners are one group and the summer parishioners seem to form yet another group. There are also ones who are visiting and are not associated with any group, as a vestry speak with the ones who are not in a group. Make everyone feel welcome. Feel God is knitting people together. Everyone at worship on Sunday is called by God to be there. Share experiences.

It was suggested to provide name tags for people to wear at the lemonade gathering after worship. This would encourage people to use them. Parishioners would get to know each other and make a more relaxed feeling during the social time following worship. Jesus said you don't need to remember everyone's name. Linda will schedule lemonade again this summer for the lemonade after worship.

A different culture between St. Jude and St. Mary. St. Jude much more inviting. We will work on St. Mary being more welcoming.

At vestry meetings vestry members will introduce to the group two people that they met and what they learned about them. It was also suggested to have St. Mary's vestry members go to St. Jude's a couple times a month.

Concluded with prayer by The Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson.

Approval of the minutes of the March meeting

A motion to accept the February minutes was made by Patricia Robertson and seconded by Maude March. The motion passed unanimously.

Business Agenda

The Financial report was presented by Maude March – see attached.

(Other income) is what is released from leadership.

The new computer, office upgraded, has been completed and a security software needs to be bought for the new computer. Presently a free one is being used.

A motion to accept the Finance report/minutes was made by Donald Graves and seconded by Nancy McCormick. The motion passed unanimously.

Stroud Report

James Clunan reported on the Stroud Committee meeting.

The Stroud committee recommended:

1. To increase Stroud fund received quarterly from \$8,000 to \$10,000. This increase would be almost the same as the cost of living increase. The request to change the distribution to \$10,000 is because the fund has grown to over one million dollars. If the Stroud is getting more money and there is more involvement in the community it will be able to do some creative things in the community.
2. To increase the Rector's Discretionary Fund disbursement to \$2,000 quarterly. The Rector's Discretionary Fund total disbursement will be increased to \$10,000. This increase would be reflected in the fourth quarter of the year when the need for assistance is greater. The other three quarters would remain at \$2,000. The fourth quarter disbursement is received in January. The schedule of payment would be:
 - 1st quarter: January – March, \$8,000
 - 2nd quarter: April – June, \$8,000
 - 3rd quarter: July – September, \$8,000
 - 4th quarter: October – December, \$10,000
3. As a result of the disbursement increase the rector will start handling the individual applications for assistance that come in. The Rector will manage the Stroud Applications of individuals that are in need of fuel assistance, rent assistance, and other financial assistance. Most of this type of request are between Thanksgiving and Easter.

It was discussed to have a financial coordinator come in to help those in need of assistance.

Stroud Requests for April 2013

1. Three young parishioners want to go to Bishopswood. The families has already paid the \$150 deposit and is asking for the remainder of tuition of \$265. (\$795)
2. More information was obtained from the 16 year old harpist who has been accepted into the Tanglewood Institute summer music program. The cost of the program is \$6850. Since she is home schooled, some avenues of fundraising are not open to her, but she is organizing some sort of Walkathon for this spring and has a pie making business. How much real help will be generated here is an unknown. She already has an impressive resume having played with the University of Maine Orchestra, Portland Youth Symphony

- Orchestra and a number of others and has played locally, including this last winter with the Acadia Choral Society. It is recommended to pay half of the tuition cost. (\$3,425)
3. Young couple with a toddler is need of heat assistance. Application was 2 days post of our January meeting. They provided extensive documentation; presume they are still in need.
 4. \$2,000 paid to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

A motion to accept the Stroud Committee Recommendations was made by Maude March and seconded by Jackie Lowe. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasure will need to change the distribution of the increase to 10K quarterly.

Summer arrangements

David Schildkret will be the Choir director for all of July and one week in August.

A motion to pay David Schildkret from the music fund was made by moved Maude March and seconded by Linda Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

Summer Organists will be Anna Reznichenko and Linda Foster.

- Peter Vaux will supply a schedule of what Sundays they will be playing. Peter will have to supply hymns for the bulletins.
- Maude March will have a meeting between the TPIC, and the two organists.
- Peter Vaux reported their salary will be handled in the same way Peter's is. (Per-diem.)

Nominating Committee update

Maude March reported the Vestry nominations are:

- Sheila pulling
- Morris Kellett
- Beth Renault
- One more local person needed

Buildings and Grounds

St. Jude's

Arthur Keller reported on the progress on St. Jude's parking and landscaping project.

- The sidewalk work has started. Thanks to Tony Smith for getting this started at the St. Jude's end of the street.
- 3 bids needed to move the project along.
- Sam Coplon provided designs, Patricia and Arthur approved the plans. New granite steps, hard surface and decking, landscaping plan. Those bids are in hand. Sent report to Morris Kellett and Anne Ogilby.

Vestry, questions about designs, or how the parts function:

1. Sweet fern.... Embankment need something hardy.... And bunch berry this will be natural and low maintenance. Hopeful the landscaping will be done before we open the St. Jude in June. (Atlantic Landscaping can do this in the time line) they can do all the hard-service walkways, the steps, the grading, etc. 34K
2. Carpenters, only one can meet the time table 17,500 K
3. Iron work railing and **Robert greeden** custom work, 4K

This is to be completed for \$55,500. This is part of the 90K originally approved. It appears we are somewhere between \$90-95,000 total. It was recommended to raise the original approval to \$100,000.

A motion to increase the original approval for the project from \$90,000 to \$100,000 was made by Arthur Keller and seconded by Maude March. The motion passed unanimously.

Landscaping fund currently has \$45,945.18. The project will receive \$10,000 from the Centennial Fund, and the Foulke fund will pay the balance. Financially the Parish is in good shape for this project.

Parish Hall

Patricia Robertson reported there is a sag in upper floor in the parish hall. Joe Renault has had an assessment done but has not received the report at this date. Maintenance funds will pay for the assessment. This will tell if there needs to be remediation or not.

Hearing loop

Linda Lewis reported on the hearing loop for St. Mary's by-the-Sea. She reported the Bronson estimate needs to be readdressed and Bronson couldn't guarantee it would work everywhere. We will not go forward with this until more research is done. Linda will report on this.

Discretionary Fund transition/vote for signature

The senior warden will handle the discretionary fund until new rector is hired.

A motion to have the senior warden, Maude March, handle the Discretionary Fund until a new rector was hired was made by James Clunan and seconded by Phyllis Partridge. The motion passed unanimously.

Ongoing Transition Efforts

Community Holy Conversation update:

- The Bishop has sent out guidelines for conservation.
- Summary of meeting with Vicki was presented by Maude March.
- TPIC Committee –plans for moving forward

Maude March reported two candidates have been chosen for interviews, Vesta Kowalski and Caroline Hines. Vesta Kowalski has been interviewed and Monday, April 29th. Caroline

Hines will do a service in the chapel and be interviewed following the service. There should be a decision very soon.

The decision needs to be made before the next vestry meeting. The committee will choose a candidate. Vestry will have to approve the TPIC. The vestry feels comfortable with the committee choosing the person to present to the vestry.

Profile Committee

Linda Lewis thanked Maude March for sending out the minutes for the meeting with Vickie Wiederkehr. The bishop approved the profile. Thanks also to Donald Graves for working on the profile. It is very close to being posted.

Search Committee webpage

Patricia Robertson compiled search committee webpage for the website. This is where the profile will appear when it is posted.

The Vestry retreat is on June 8 at the Maine Sea Coast Mission between the hours of 9 AM to 3 PM. Ideas are welcome. Maude will be meeting with Scott Planting to organize the retreat. Scott Planting is the facilitator for the retreat.

Maude is working on getting the discernment committee together. They will be presented at the next vestry meeting. There will be eight people all together with two of the members being vestry members. Steve Mahoney and Donald Graves will represent the vestry on the discernment committee. Six more members will be chosen.

Rector's Report

Patricia Robertson will be talking a trip to Paris and will be out of the office from April 26 to May 4.

Patricia is still working on getting The Rev. Wm Rasche Memorial Fund at St. Bartholomew's in New York straightened out.

Closing Prayer and adjournment by Patricia Rome Robertson at 5:52 PM.

The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for **May 23, 2013** at 3:45 PM in the Rector's Study.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Kenney
Parish Administrator