



St. James' Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
November 12, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.

Vestry Present: Emily Chittenden-Laird, Sally Cooper, David McClure, Lucie Refsland, Jodi Hammond, Earl Haddad, Greg Johnson, Bitsy Shaw

Clergy Present: Rev. Zach Drennen, Rev. Joseph Lutz, Rev. Amy McClure

Absent: Cooper Benedict

1. Opening prayer offered by Zach.
2. Review of minutes from 10/8/23 Vestry Meeting. Motion to approve by Lucie and seconded by Dave. Approved as written.
3. Sally gave an overview of the beautiful ironwork throughout St James that was created and installed by John Cornish, blacksmith.
4. Finance report – Rob was unable to attend, so review of the financial report was summarized by Dave. Earl motioned to approve report, Bitsy seconded. Accepted through acclimation.
5. Old Business
 - a. Mobile Health Unit Fund (\$2,188) Information about the origin of the funds was discussed. The Kilcollin family donated \$1,000 and the rest through grants. Greg motioned we ask the Kilcollin family if their contribution could be reallocated, with the balance to the Greenbrier County Emergency Ambulance Service. Sally seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Rev. Drennen annual review will be conducted November 27th from 10am-12noon. Canon Jordan Trumble will be attending.
 - c. Diocesan requirement for clergy compensation was distributed by Emily to vestry members for review.
 - d. Updates on Vestry member recruitment have resulted in two new members accepting positions on the vestry, Jake Neuman and Christine Pollard. Emily noted that more members will need to be recruited with the group suggesting Colleen & Jim Owens. Zach informed the Vestry that Cooper Benedict has resigned his position on the vestry effective at once, so a fourth parishioner will need to be recruited for vestry. Discussion and agreement as to whether an appointment of his position would work in the interim versus having to have a vote by the parish. Other names mentioned were Alex, Kay & Dorothy. A younger member would be desirable.
6. Junior Warden's report was given by Greg Johnson. Noted the expense for replacement of the wooden fence around the back yard of the rectory was @ \$8,500. An aluminum fence even more at &11,000. There are 275' of fence to replace or repair. Laura Lee Haddad made valance curtains for the office that look wonderful. Dave reset the timers for the outdoor lights.
7. Ministry area reports

- a. Outreach Committee review by Sally. A large box of bandages & layette sets was sent to Global Health Ministries. Thanks to Cindy & Mark for paying for the mailing of these packages. Many knitters have completed hats that will be sent out soon. There was a trunk load of food sent to Old Stone food pantry and six boxes (study buddies) were filled and sent to college age members. Harm reduction donating dental care kits for Christmas stocking for program participants. Funds to help offset the cost being collected.
 - b. Jody Hammond discussed Parish Life activities planned; with the Pasta being served at the Harambe Dinner to be held November 29th. There will be a caroling party organized by Emily on December 19th and an Open House hosted by Lida & Zach on the 23rd at the Rectory.
8. Priest Associate update by Rev. Joseph Lutz. He has been doing home visits and went to the hospital a couple of times. The hospital now has a list of chaplains, and he is on that list. Continues to serve at Church of the Incarnation & All Saints. Positive response Wednesday services being moved to noon.
9. Priest in Charge update given by Rev. Zach Drennen. Dashboard of contributions, and attendance show continued increase in weekly attendance year over year by an average of @twenty attendees. Contributions not as consistent. Discussed how the Harambe auction will be held and mentioned it would be a suitable time for folks to bring their pledge cards.
10. New business
 - a. Discussion about the combining of discretionary funds into one account as suggested by Rob Tissue, Greg motioned that this recommendation be accepted and seconded by Lucie. All approved.
11. Next meeting will be held December 12th at 7pm.