

Approved Vestry Council Minutes

In Person and Via Zoom

March 15, 2022

Present:

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mike Cherwa (RC 22) | Whitney McDaniel (E 23) |
| Joann Mancuso (RC 23) | Bonnie Startt (E 24 via zoom) |
| Matthew Wood (RC 23) | Charlie Mills (E 23) |
| Anna Crosby (RC 24) | Jackie Lucas (RC 22) |
| Andrea Whyte (E 22) | Dc. Gary Harmeyer |
| Fr Mario Melendez (via zoom) | Mike Meehan (Finance via zoom) |
| Julia Hatcher (Secretary) | Grace Leighton (Secretary) |

Absent:

David Dickerson (E 24)

Call to Order:

Matt called to order at 6.33 pm with a prayer

Spiritual Formation:

Fr. Mario on "Letting Go of Our Plans"

Approve Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2022

Minutes were approved.

Finance Council Report: Mike Meehan

- Income for February was a little greater than expenses, but we remain with a deficit for the year.
- A CD for \$30,000.00 for 15-months with an interest rate of 0.8% was established.
- The Financial Council is recommending that we try to get back to having a financial cushion (money in the bank) that we had before the roof expenses and Covid hit. That amount was \$200,000.
- The treasurer reminded members that the budget proposed was a "best guess" and does not account for any emergency expenses.

CLERGY REPORT

- There will be a non-Eucharistic memorial service for Brian Christopher Wright (Fran Dixon's son) on Saturday, March 26th, at 1pm.
- We still have no confirmation on a priest for Holy Thursday
- Fr Mario will initiate a virtual Wednesday evening bible study. It is planned to begin on March 23rd. A Zoom link will be sent out.
- Fr. Mario stated Holy Apostles has a subscription to a software package called "Verbum". It is a great tool to assist in planning bible studies. It can be used from the app or the website.
Holy week schedule is as follows:
 - Palm Sunday - 10.30am with the Blessing of the Palms in the Fellowship Hall and outside procession, weather permitting.

- Holy Thursday – 6:45pm ecumenical foot washing by the clergy and members of the Vestry Council followed by a 7pm Catholic Mass.
- Good Friday – noon ecumenical service with Stations of the Cross
- Easter Saturday – noon Episcopal prayer service
- Easter Vigil (Episcopal Holy Eucharist service) beginning at 7.00pm
- Easter Sunday – 10.30am “one service/two liturgies” (as normal)

COMMITTEE REPORT

Fellowship

Report was submitted. They have added to the “wish list” for items like a Therma Bunn Carafe and double oven and new refrigerator. They are still collecting metrics and birthdays monthly. Feeding the homeless was very successful.

Administration

Report was submitted. They wanted to highlight they were thinking of doing Spring Cleaning or Fall Cleaning. Plus continuing the working party on Saturday morning for odd jobs.

Social Ministry

Report Submitted. Wanted to highlight the “Rise Against Hunger” at All Saints Episcopal on March 19th and The Admiral’s hockey game the same evening. The weekly “Plarn gathering” was cancelled due to a Covid outbreak.

Liturgy

Report Submitted. Highlight Holy Week and Anne Martin will handle the flowers for Easter.

Christian Formation

No report but nothing new to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mold Report – Whitney

- Several areas have been tested for mold and the results do not indicate any widespread
- Action: Whitney to test the air vent for air quality.

VC Virtus/Safe Church completion

Reminder to Vestry Council members, it is a requirement for all Vestry Council members to have either Virtus or Safe Church training. If any member needs this training, it is their responsibility to get it and to provide a copy of their certificate to Dianne.

- Action: Individual member(s).

NEW BUSINESS

Mask discussion and vote

- CDC guidelines for mask wearing will be followed (in lieu of any other guidance from either of the dioceses). Currently that means masks are optional indoors for anyone that has been vaccinated
- Action: change signage in church and advise members.

Annual Council, Bishop Initiatives discussion – Charlie

- The 130th Episcopal Annual Council was held Feb 23rd–26th. Bishop Susan’s Initiatives focused on inclusion and diversity. For additional information go to the Episcopal diocesan website.

Reserved parking for clergy – Deacon Gary

- Two parking spaces near the front of the building will be reserved for our two priests.

Proposal to stand up ad-hoc committee for ambo/playground

- Two ad hoc committees will be formed to look into what should be done to the wall behind the ambo and what to do with the old playground area. The goal is to have the committees set up by mid-April and to have some preliminary thoughts on what to do with the areas by mid-May. It was briefly discussed to have any solution funded through funds raised at this year's Fall Fling.
- Action: Form ad hoc committees

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS:

- Please continue to update Goals Tracker and "wish list", encourage committees to add "wish list" items to monthly Committee reports
- Samaritan House Hallows references have been removed from Facebook & Constant Contact
- The 2021 Parochial Report was filed Feb 24
- Holy Apostles' promotional flyers were mailed out on Sat, Feb 26th to households in the Green Run area extending over to Midway Manor military housing.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church is sponsoring a "Rise Against Hunger" food drive on Sat. Mar 19th
- Sat., March 19th, interested members are encouraged to attend the Norfolk Admirals' hockey game in support of NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness)
- Deacon Gary will be on retreat Mar. 27-30, and will be on vacation April 20-26.
- Father Mario's and Catherine's son, Thomas, will be baptized on Sat., May 14th by Bishop Susan. All are invited to attend.
- Grace Leighton is assuming the position of VC Secretary, this was Julia's last meeting. The VC relayed their thanks to Julia and presented her with a spa gift certificate (she will be missed).

ANNUAL RETREAT GOALS FOR 2022/23

Christian Unity Goal:

To investigate and develop a cohesive and ecumenically focused submission to the Synod of Bishops; to increase understanding of why ecumenism holds special significance for our community; and to become a more visible ecumenical partner in the community.

- **Objective 1:** Create an ad-hoc committee composed of Holy Apostles parishioners that will provide an official submission to the Synod of Bishops call for input.

Responsible Party: All committees, clergy, parishioners

- **Objective 2:** Increase visibility of Church of the Holy Apostles as an ecumenical/interfaith community through active representation and participation at ecumenical and community activities as sponsors/co-sponsors/active participants.

Responsible Party: Ecumenical small committee and other community members, Christian Formation, Fellowship, Liturgy, Social Ministry and clergy

Membership and Outreach Goal:

Continue to communicate Holy Apostles' mission and vision by increasing external exposure of our church to the community through varied media sources and in-person events.

- **Objective 1:** Mail advertising flyers to different local communities to increase awareness of Holy Apostles at least once per quarter.

Responsible parties: Administration - Communications; Christian Unity

- **Objective 2:** Submit a news article to the Catholic Virginian, Episcopal Diocesan Newsletter, and the Virginia Media family of newspapers at least once per quarter.

Identify at least one ecumenical outreach event to be offered for coverage by local TV news outlets.

Responsible parties: Administration – Communications; Christian Unity, Social Ministry

Stewardship/Social Ministry Goal:

Increase parishioner participation in Stewardship activities at Holy Apostles and optimize the Social Ministry funds to maximize output in supporting community assistance opportunities.

- **Objective 1:** Increase level of parishioner participation in at least one Stewardship activity to 75% of active parishioners.

Responsible parties: Stewardship

- **Objective 2:** Apply for and submit applications to all eligible/available grant opportunities on time. Optimize the utilization of focused discretionary funds and received grant funding to best support and serve the local community to the maximum extent possible throughout the year.

Responsible parties: Finance, Social Ministry

Next scheduled meeting Tuesday 19 April at 6.30pm

Adjournment was at 8.05pm

Julia Hatcher
Secretary
March 16, 2022