

Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
April 21, 2021
Bethesda Church, Saratoga Springs

Attendance: Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge
Darren Miller, Senior Warden
Kate Berheide, Junior Warden
Karen Finkbeiner, Treasurer
Pam Houde
Field Horne
Laura Kszan
Sara Manny
Steven Rucker
David Wilder
Ann Bullock, Clerk

Absent: Marcia MacDonald
John Van der Veer

Opening Prayer

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at 7:05pm on April 21, 2021, at the Church, by Fr. Wallace

Devotions:

Fr. Wallace offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2021, were unanimously approved as corrected. (D Wilder, movant; K Finkbeiner, second)

Priest-in-Charge Remarks:

Services for Lent and Easter were as well attended as could be hoped. Music appreciated—both Lenten series and at Easter. New attendees on Low Sunday may have been a result of music, including E. Huntley, harpist.

The Paschal candlestand was dedicated in memory of John Huppuch. His memorial service will be held June 5 at 11:30 (Saturday)

Response has been generous for support of the candlestand and the green frontals and stoles. The cost of the frontals was less than the amount raised, allowing for some extra funding for other matters. The lantern and the lectern are both in need of repairs and refurbishment.

FEASST raised about \$2000 for those in need. Families are evaluated by the agency and payments made to cover their needs.

Legs Miserable will be mid-week: Kate will arrange for Wednesday afternoon walks.

Small chamber groups and ensembles are seeking venues: summer recital series may be in the works with NYCB chamber groups, for instance. It is important to keep the church open, particularly as the health crisis begins to abate and more people are venturing out.

Baptisms have been held as part of the 5pm service and people have just come in, seeing open doors and the group at the font.

Parish work day Sat, May 1 at 9am

S Rucker reminds us that COVID is a respiratory virus: we can slow down on the cleaning of surfaces. It is safe to leave papers out for people to pick up themselves.

Treasurer's Financial Report: K Finkbeiner, Treasurer

K Finkbeiner sent report showing income YTD (March 2020 to March 2021)

Expenses are below budget YTD largely owing to timing of expenses. Income is slightly over budget YTD—without including PPP as this loan as not been forgiven yet.

Special giving in March was very good: Giving for FEASST was over \$2000 to allow for support during the rest of the year. Easter flowers also well supported. About \$1800 for the frontals. Special giving will likely not continue this strongly, as much of it was related to Lent and Easter. But P & P has been ahead of budget YTD.

Question regarding the Vesper service: was singers' payment to come from the Griffith fund? Lenten weekly recitals were paid by special gifts, but the fees for the Vesper singers could come from the choir fund (Griffith)

Resolutions to be signed to allow the Parke fund to be transferred to general fund, specific line item, and to add Fr. Wallace and another as signatories of Griffith account, while removing Dean Vang.

Signage donations to date are about \$1500 short of the cost of the project: Fr Wallace prefers to limit the special appeals at this time.

Motion to receive the financial report approved unanimously.

Churchwardens' Report:

Senior Warden: D. Miller

D Miller reports that 13 churches signed the letter to the City re: Building Code revision in UDO which affects the definition of a church. Request that the definition remain as it had been in the Code.

J Cox will work with the City for the building permit. Additional time to get the permit allowed with further project information needed to be supplied to the City.

D Miller provided an update regarding the major donor to the New Parish House (NPH) project's sale of the donor's business to help fund the NPH. We must obtain a building permit and begin the project to satisfy the City while, at the same time, we are working on the project design with Sano Rubin. About four months' more work to get City approval and, at the same time, the financial situation must be resolved.

L Kszan asked about the chimney and the boilers. K Finkbeiner reminds us that the chimney may be part of the roof repair: it can be capped then. As it turns out, the boiler does not need to be replaced. Vestry discussed the importance of progressing with the building of a parish house and, in general, possible options for NPH depending upon available funds. Fr Wallace also noted that the church must look at the present building and needs. The bell tower cannot be rung manually as it is not secure within the tower. The bell tower requires repairs generally. It is incumbent on us to maintain the church building which has ongoing needs.

Roof bids received this week require further capital discussion concerning the roof and chimney options. Meet sooner than the May meeting to discuss this after K Finkbeiner has had a chance to evaluate the bids.

D Miller may have a better idea as to major donation in the next several days and will keep the Vestry apprised.

Vestry to meet April 28 to work on roof project; meet May 5 to determine next steps. 7pm

Junior Warden: C. Berheide

Dean Vang signatory on Griffith Fund. Need to remove him and add another individual to the account.

Motion for Resolution to remove him and add Fr Wallace and Craig Walton, Chair of endowment Committee as signatories. Moved by C Berheide; second S Manny Passed unanimously.

Parke Fund has been a separate account at Adirondack Trust holding \$2000 now. Farrell Goehring has controlled the fund.

Motion for resolution that the fund be dissolved and the funds in that account be added to the Church general fund with a separate designation. Moved by K Finkbeiner; second, S Rucker Passed unanimously.

Signature card to be delivered to the Adirondack Trust by S Manny

C Berheide to coordinate walking group.

Barbara prefers not to work more hours. Nonetheless, we wish to compensate her more fairly for her work. Motion to increase Barbara's salary to \$16.50 per hour retroactive to Jan 1, 2021. Discussion : K Finkbeiner reports that this will fit within the budget established. Movant, C Berheide; second, D Wilder. Passed unanimously.

Continuing Business: none

New Business: none

Next meeting: May 19, 2021

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Fr. Wallace

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann C. Bullock, Clerk