

**Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
July 20, 2022
Saratoga Springs**

Attendance: Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge
Darren Miller, Senior Warden
Sara Manny, Junior Warden, Clerk Pro tem
Karen Finkbeiner, Treasurer
Mark Claverie
Laura Kszan
Marcia MacDonald and Darby
Steven Rucker and Nick
Holly Sofarelli

Absent: Robyn Colonell
David MacVane
David Wilder
Ann Bullock

Opening Prayer

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at 7:08pm on July 20, 2022, by Fr. Wallace

Devotions:

Fr. Wallace offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of June 15, 2022, were unanimously approved as corrected. (K Finkbeiner, movant; H Sofarelli, second)

Priest-in-Charge Remarks:

Fr. Wallace attended Lk. George lecture on July 19; Special Monthly envelope offerings continue to be well-received and it has enabled him to meet people/connect us more to the community. Agreed to have the Racetrack Chaplaincy be the August recipient.

Elaine is preparing 6-month financial statements and Karen is adding a message.

Autumn program: Blaine is continuing his class; same time and place. Parish retreat is October 20 to October 23 at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY with Fr. Victor Austin speaking on grief/loss. Suggestion of book club date for "Cathedral" in Nov/Dec TBD. Maybe continuing the walking group. Manchester Hildean visit in late Sept/Oct.

No Vestry meeting in August; committees will present only reports.

Robyn Colonell is regretfully stepping down from Vestry.

We are largest Vestry in numbers, but not largest Parish: questioning if we need 12 Vestry members. Consider if the number could be reduced to 9. This would require no elections; as people rotate off, we simply would not nominate anyone new for the time being. Darren will look at our Bylaws and check flexibility; present at January annual meeting, if required.*

**Clerk's note: Section 4 of the Parish Bylaws, adopted January 18, 2017, requires four Officers of the Parish. In addition, (Sec 4.2) there shall be nine additional vestrypersons. Section 15 of the Bylaws provides for amendment of the Bylaws by vote of two-thirds of the members of Vestry at a meeting called for that purpose. The change shall be submitted to the Bishop and Standing Committee. If they approve the change without substantial revision, then the change as so approved shall become immediately effective upon receipt by the Parish.*

Treasurer's Financial Report: K Finkbeiner, Treasurer

K Finkbeiner sent report noting that Operations are over budget by \$1000, P&P ahead \$6000. Special monthly fuel drive helped, Beaver Cross raised \$3500. We have 2 upcoming weddings. Karen discussed a "Close the Gap" appeal, but we are worried about donor fatigue. Volunteers helping in the office through October helps the budget. Holly asked about another federal program that can help churches receive compensation money. We might host a November concert, waiting to hear back; Derek plays for them.

Building Report: M Claverie:

Scaffolding came down July 1. Waiting for Lamb Studios on a lift; clerestory windows will finish coming out before 7/31. There will be a 6-week turnaround, at the earliest; approx. 10-12 week project altogether; about 2 weeks to re-install and it will involve scaffolding in the church. We are on hold with bell tower roof. Fire stair replacement hoping to be scheduled in the next week/s. Sano Rubin wants to give us unused mahogany wood/trim work; where can we store it? Sell it? Donate it? There are 2 parish house windows from 41 Washington Street in storage; paying \$2400/yr to store. How much do we have left after drying out basement? Is the donor still happening? We will hopefully know by September meeting; the money will still have to go through a court approval process as proceeds are from a not-for-profit.

Churchwardens' Report:

Senior Warden: D. Miller

Donor update; see above. Parishioners/community members have been praising the roof work; Bethesda is looking good!

Office update: working on a job description, thanks to K Finkbeiner for helping.

K Finkbeiner added that our capital was at \$1 million in May; \$300k left before drainage project, which will hopefully be worked on in the spring.

September social event: Church Picnic on a Sunday from 4-6 hosted by M MacDonald; Many thanks to D MacVane for providing the meat and side dishes. The Committee is confirming the date. Discussed a theme message ie. "Bethesda Homecoming BBQ"! Committee is meeting again to plan details; thanks to L Kszan, M MacDonald and S Rucker for their leadership of this event.

New Business: none

Next meeting: September 21, 2022

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Fr. Wallace

Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted by:

Sara Manny, Clerk Pro Tem.