

## **Minutes from Meeting of the Vestry**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 7:05 P.M.

At Marcia MacDonald's Residence

**Attendance Regrets:** Tim Holmes, Sarah Manny, David MacVane

**Present:** Mark Claverie, Jr. Warden, Karen Finkbeiner, Treasurer, David Harper, Marcia Macdonald, Holly Sofarelli, Marge Verrigni, Acting Clerk, Rick Wissler, Fr Wallace

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Wallace

Minutes of the June 2023 meeting accepted (Karen Finkbeiner, movant, Holly Sofarelli, second)

### **1. Rector's Report:**

- 65 people signed up for the October 1st BBQ at the MacVane's home. The MacVanes are supplying food (Fred The Butcher), Church will provide Beverages, Plates, and Utensils. Parishioners providing desserts
- 18 Have signed up for the New Skete Tour on Wednesday, September 27th.
- 8 have signed up for the Holy Cross Retreat from Oct. 13th-15th. (concerns of the working of the elevator are mentioned. Father Wallace has asked HC which confirmed that there is a functioning elevator).
- The Book Club is moving forward.
- Father Wallace mentioned there are now several retired clergy (various denominations) that are able to assist when needed.
- Mary Withington is going to be invited to our next meeting to talk about the progress of The Home of The Good Shepherd.
- We have a Bishop-elect, Fr. Jeremiah Williamson, to be consecrated and installed Feb. 24, 2024
- Derrick Stannard's music program helped with summer attendance.

### **2. Junior Warden, Mark Claverie, Property Management**

1. Dormer painting & repairs completed by Frank Ryan & Sons
2. JR Lamb is installing outer protective glass over the clerestory windows beginning Monday (25th )
3. Haven't received confirmation that the eagle lectern is returning at the same time.
4. Request that, if possible, the 2 windows from old Parish House be returned. We pay \$2k annually for storage at Lamb Studios. I will try to find someplace to store the windows, perhaps at the storage facility in Wilton. We need to decide about the windows which were going to be installed in the new parish house when built.

5. Fr. Wallace and MC met with representatives of Bonacio Property Management yesterday(Tuesday 9/19) for a tour of the church.Lisa Shields and Scott Wilson, a senior property manager.Scott Wilson used to attend Bethesda as a youth, even served as an acolyte. He is familiar with much of the church building, even remembering the time before the side entrance was built out.
6. Tasks that would be beyond the abilities of the management company, BM would work to find appropriate contractors.
7. The tour included the basement and undercroft area (lights were out due to a faulty light switch, so tour by cell phone light). Also went up into the bell tower and discussed the sprinkler issues. Scott has a good working relationship with NE Fire Protection, especially with the technician who inspects our sprinklers and saw no problem with access to the sprinklers. Suggested that annual sprinkler inspection/maintenance be rescheduled during warmer weather.
8. BM have crews that could take care of junk removal of junk from basement/undercroft of church.
9. Discussed the water damage at the east transept. Also, recognized the problems with the inward sloping of the concrete walkway. He understands would not be an easy job without knowing more about how the walls/buttresses of the church are built. These would be things that we would rely on somebody with more expertise, perhaps a structural engineer, before taking on such work.
10. We asked for a quote for regular maintenance of both church and rectory including mowing, snow removal, small repairs (electrical, painting, etc.).
11. Bethesda received an award from Saratoga Preservation Foundation for the new roof. I accepted on behalf of the church.
12. Still outstanding:
  - a. Pricing for snow guards. I have been promised to receive a quote today from Mid-State Roofing for snow guards (Berger Bros) recommended by JWGA rather than the Alpine snowguards originally quoted. The thought being that the Berger snowguards would look better with our roof than the Alpine.
  - b. Resolution of bent gutter and restoration of water damaged wall & column. (Scott Wilson of Bonacio Mgt) was ready to climb up and inspect the flashing and the gutter!.

### **Treasurer, Karen Finkbeiner, Financial Report**

- Church finances are in reasonably good shape. Year to date the deficit has dropped and giving is higher than budgeted.
- Accounts were opened at Saratoga National \$50,000 CD and a \$40,000 Money Market.
- Capital funds are \$300,000 plus.

**Various:**

- Bruce Solenski has included Bethesda in his estate; exact amount to be determined.
- Because of limited space in the back of the church three rows of pews are to be removed. This will allow more room for Baptisms and gatherings. Motion approved ( Karen Finkbeiner, movant, Marcia Macdonald, second).
- Marcia Macdonald also suggested that pew cushions are to be moved to accommodate more parishioners in the back of the church
- Due to its age, the chancel organ requires some attention so that it will continue to serve the church in the future. Derek Stannard, Bethesda's organist, recommends Foley Baker. FB will be on-site at the end of November to perform seasonal tuning and maintenance

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 18th.

Fr Wallace closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marge Verrigni, Acting Clerk  
September 21, 2023