

***Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting***

***18 October, 2023  
Saratoga Springs***

**The meeting was held at 3 Beacon Hill Drive, Saratoga Springs.**

**Attendance:** Fr. Charles Wallace  
Sara Manny, Senior Warden  
Mark Claverie, Junior Warden  
Karen Finkbeiner, Treasurer  
Timothy Holmes, Clerk  
David Harper  
Marcia MacDonald  
Holly Sofarelli  
Marge Verrigni  
Rick Wissler

**Absent**

David MacVane

**Opening Prayer**

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, 18 October, 2023, by Warden Sara Manny.

**Devotions:**

Fr. Wallace offered devotions.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 20 September, 2023, were accepted as distributed. (Karen Finkbeiner, movant; Marcia MacDonald, second)

**Priest-in-Charge Remarks:** Fr. Wallace noted:

Consecration of Bishop Williamson – 24 February 2024  
Washing machine and Roof at Rectory  
Organ – SME December (below)  
Thanks to David and Kimberley MacVane for Church BBQ meeting  
Advent – Christmas (below)  
Parsonage allowance  
Funeral: Boyd; Interment of Ashes: Boyd and Bullock;  
Afternoon Trip to St Paul's, Troy – Tiffany windows in November

**Advent-Christmas services 2023**

3 December Advent Sunday  
7 December – 12.05 Thursday Communion service during Advent;  
7 December - 5pm Book Club  
9 December - Church decorating for Christmas.  
14 December – Thursday Communion service during Advent  
17 December 10am Lessons and Carols  
17 December 5pm Vestry Christmas Party – at Marcia's  
21 December – Thursday Communion service during Advent  
24 December 9am Advent IV Communion  
24 December 4pm and 10pm Christmas Eucharists

25 December 9am Eucharist for Christmas Day  
31 December 9am Eucharist for Sunday after Christmas

Office closed from 22 December to 8 January (inclusive)

Annual Meeting date - 28<sup>th</sup> January following 9am service.

**Treasurer's Report:** K Finkbeiner, Treasurer presented the Operational Financials Year-to-Date September. There were no surprises or unusual items.

Our deficit has increased to \$11,043 as some of the timing items that were helping Year-to-Date August were paid in September. YTD September, our underrun in expense is primarily driven by maintenance under plan for both the Rectory and the Church. Our Pledge and Plate giving for the month of September was slightly better than plan, although well under our expenses, so that our YTD Pledge and Plate income continues over plan due to the 2022 carry-over.

Unless we have unusual timing items helping us YTD October, we would expect our deficit to grow to about \$20,000 with our usual dependency on year-end giving to close the deficit and provide cash for the first part of next year. A paragraph will be provided for the bulletin.

**Senior Warden:**

S Manny reported on stewardship, preparations for the annual meeting and the parsonage.

**Junior Warden:** M Claverie reported on property management:

- ☐ Clerestory window protective glass has been installed by JR Lamb last month.
- ☐ Switched over to heat on Oct 10 th . Work done by Bourque. Some issues with the air handlers but my understanding is that those issues have been resolved.
- ☐ Replacement of a bad light switch in undercroft.
- ☐ Eagle lectern: the lectern, which was cleaned last year and then put in storage, tarnished while in storage. Another cleaning and a lacquer has been applied to prevent this from occurring. Maintenance will be much simpler.

☐ Roof:

o Snowguard system: Still waiting for an updated quote for snow rails from Alpine. The quote from Berger systems was too high and the work would not be scheduled until next year. We decided on just the snow rails since that would still provide protection for gutters from the snow/ice. JGWA is working with Mid-State and Sano-Rubin to secure a quote and to hopefully get the rails installed before we have snow.

o JGWA proposed using a flexible corrugated drainpipe to attach to the downspout to drain water away from the building, rather than relying on concrete spill blocks.

o Mid-State intends to complete the punch list items when they are on site to install the snow guards. JGWA will meet with them onsite when they begin work so that they can discuss the punch list work and the leak. Mid-State already had replacement horizontal downspouts in storage to replace the crushed downspouts.

- ☐ We need to start considering improvements to drainage. There was a drainage project

proposed several years ago and we might want to think about moving forward on that project.

Will require some updating.

□ Talking to Bonacio Management to oversee the day-to-day property management for both the church and the rectory.

□ Christmas decorating: Saturday, December 9 th @ 9am. We will try to schedule delivery of the trees on Friday (12/8) and get a crew to put the trees in stands.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 15 November following the 10AM service.

**Closing Prayer** led by Fr Wallace.

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Meeting adjourned 7:59PM

*Respectfully submitted,  
Timothy Holmes, Clerk*

### **Organ Upgrades report**

Derek Stannard wrote:

Our Casavant organ has served Bethesda Church well since it replaced the historic E.M. Skinner pipe organ in 1968. Nevertheless, the last 55 years have shown a fair bit of wear on the instrument, including deterioration of pipework (collapse), wind leaks, dust and debris, and a multitude of mechanical problems, including issues with the console and its functionality. The gallery organ, for its short life, also has a number of problems: the instrument lacks adequate wind supply; has persistent issues with the electronics of the console; and there is water damage pipes and wind chests that occurred preceding the replacement of the roof. The parish has contracted with the very reputable firm Foley-Baker, Inc. of Tolland, Connecticut, to service the instruments starting at the end of November 2023. They will make a full assessment of the instrument and will advise on ongoing care and maintenance.

The chancel organ was built and installed during a time that we call "Neo-Baroque", or an era of revival of baroque musical aesthetics. This period of organs brought forth a sound that is very bright, keen, sharp-edged. Unfortunately, this tonal scheme has not aged particularly well, and to today's more balanced and broad sense of musical ideas, the sounds of these organs are no longer looked upon favorably. The wonderful choral heritage of the Anglican tradition and the varied styles of organ repertoire ask for a more versatile instrument to fulfil the role of hymn playing and musical leadership within the church.

October 2023