

Annual Meeting: Bethesda Episcopal Church
January 29, 2023
Held in the nave of the Church
Following 9am service

In attendance:

Priest in Charge
Senior Warden, D Miller
Junior Warden, S Manny
Parishioners: 55

Opening Prayer & Greeting at 10:11 am:

Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge
A Bullock appointed Clerk of the Meeting

Nominating committee Chair/ Sr. Warden D Miller

Presented the slate of candidates on behalf of the committee
Additional nominations invited from those in attendance

Rector's Report: Fr. Wallace

It has been traditional to report parish trends for the year past (2022) to report to the national church:

Annual attendance approx. 5400 (approx. 4700 in 2022)

Average weekly attendance: 83

Services were offered on 52 Sundays, mid-week services and Saturday evening services.

Midweek and Saturday services ended with the start of roof repairs.

2 weddings, one of which included a baptism of one participant. (2021 was unusually high as there were very few weddings in immediately preceding years)

8 baptisms including one adult were observed with gratitude

9 funerals held

A moment of silence was kept and a benediction offered for the souls of those lost in 2022

Offered gratitude for the opportunity to worship God in this place and thanks to all those who make worship the very best we can give. We faced some attendance challenges during the year, including an outbreak of COVID early in the year. Since October, 2022, however, attendance has been increasing. Bulletins printed have increased to 110 weekly and we regularly run out of bulletins.

Expressed thanks to R Bullock, Verger; Assisting preachers including, Fr Paul Evans, who while now retired, is still a clergymember in good standing; Fr. Richard Russo, who has now left to start a new Catholic congregation in Saratoga; Fr. Landon Moore; among others. Many thanks to those who offered mid-week and morning prayer services; bell-ringers; hosts and refreshment providers; those who contributed to the social and family life of the parish; M. MacDonald who has opened her home to the parish and Vestry; Sunday school, esp. S Manny;

Lectors, esp. V Hinkle, coordinator; Ushers; Technology and computer support; staff, cleaners and so many others who make the life of the parish so successful.

Thanks to K Slezak, D Stannard and all singers and musicians who contributed their time and talents.

Many thanks to the members of the Vestry who are rotating off at the end of their terms, including S Rucker who has joined the community at New Skete; D Wilder who has become an expert in canon law and revision of our by-laws; and especially D. Miller who is finishing his term as Senior Warden. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Approval of Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting:

A Bullock, Clerk of the Meeting, presented the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, 2022

Motion to approve by: R Bullock Second by: K Finkbeiner

No further discussion. Unanimously Approved

Treasurer's Reports & 2023 Budget: Karen Finkbeiner, Treasurer,

Offered thanks to all those who oversee the church finances, including the endowment funds, operation, and establishment of long-term goals. We remind ourselves of what it takes to keep our financial operations and records in order, including all those who keep and maintain the books; oversee expenses; audit books and maintain our fiscal security.

2021 Audit completed with no findings.

Endowment committee oversees the special funds for music and education, as well as several other smaller funds which throw off dividends for operational needs if needed. One larger fund holds \$625,000 which has been earmarked for capital expenses; nearly \$200,000 is committed for past projects. M Claverie has overseen these projects with grace and patience.

2022 Operational Results (unaudited): (*see note below regarding designated funding)

Operational* Income was \$ 328,245, better than budget by \$62,362

Thanks to generous year-end giving and on-going P&P giving which is acknowledged with thanks for the support of the parish.

Operational* Expenses in 2022 were \$ 275,750 , UNDER budget by \$ 9,845

- Despite inflation, we came in under budget on account of all-volunteer office staff, including rector fees, repairs (not capital expenditures) and diocesan assessment.

Operational* Net Income in 2022: \$ 52,495 , better than budget by \$72,210

- The budget had anticipated a deficit of \$19,715, but the year ended with an operational surplus. This will allow us to cover bills in the early part of the year when expenses are higher and giving is lower. This also allows us to have funds if needed for unexpected expenses.

Note: monthly special giving envelopes resulted in gifts from the parish to Beaver Cross, Shelters of Saratoga, Habitat for Humanity, as well as music fund for church, among other beneficiaries.

Endowment is kept separate and apart from operation funds under oversight by a separate endowment committee. Intention to grow the endowment for the future.

Looking ahead:

2023 Operational Budget:

Operational* Income Budget is \$ 307,000 down \$21,245 year over year.

Does not include any restricted funds.

Operational* Expense Budget is \$ 297,000, up \$21,250 year over year.

-Similar to 2022 expenses. We have increased the budget for most items to allow for 4% inflation (estimated) and increased the amounts allotted for rector/rectory expenses. Expected continuing volunteer office staff.

Resulting Operational* Budget allows for a budgeted surplus of \$10,000

-We will be spending the 2022 surplus early in the year, when we normally run a deficit. We will rely on regular giving by the parish, as well as dividends (expected to be less than 2022, based on economic projections.)

*Excludes Special/Restricted Funding (Choir, Christian Education, etc.) and Expenses

Thanks to all for continuing support and request that all continue to give and pledge generously.

Motion to accept the 2023 annual budget: Movant, R Bullock ; D Wilder, second; no further discussion, passed unanimously.

Overview: historically we have made numbers balance as follows:

2019, one single generous gift;

2020, PPP loan made up for deficits:

2021, significant giving by a few individuals made up the difference at the end of the year;

2022, parish giving finished the year on a positive note.

With many thanks to all for past support, we ask that generous giving continue from the parish.

Property Management Update: M Claverie:

Since last year, several projects have been completed, including:

A new roof with gutters and downspouts which also partly addresses the moisture issues in the undercroft;

Clerestory windows restored to repair glass, dormer sills and caulking, with an outer protective layer to be installed in the spring;

Bell tower roof which also covered flashing and alleviated moisture issues;

Rebuilt fire escape and door near organ/sacristy, including removal of old stairs and cement pad (which contributed to moisture in basement) replaced by new door, stairs and drainage-permitting stone;

Eagle lectern is being repaired/restored now by Lamb Studios—who built it originally; and

Wheelchair elevator repaired.

The air conditioning system is being repaired: New chiller to be installed, as well as new air handling systems throughout the church. This work is to be completed in the spring.

Many thanks to the Holy Rollers, including M Anspach and T Remington, for all of the effort to protect the interior of the church during the work.

Warden's Report: S Manny

Offered thanks to M Claverie and K Finkbeiner for their efforts to stabilize the parish and the church building.

Present amendment to the By-laws: Motion to amend the bylaws as circulated to amend the number of members and to define the term and status of members as officers. (Motion by K Finkbeiner, second D Miller) No discussion. Passed unanimously with thanks to D Wilder for his efforts.

Offered thanks to D Miller for his years of dedication and commitment to the Parish.
Acknowledged efforts of so many to further the life of the Parish.

Annual Elections: Darren Miller, Nominations Committee

Nominations were opened at 10:17am

Nominations committee met at the end of 2022 and established a slate of Vestry members to fill those who are rotating off Vestry.

Volunteer opportunities still abound, not only for all those who serve on Vestry, but for the entire parish.

There being no other nominations, the following were moved for membership on the Vestry as a slate: (Motion by L Holmes; second E Peticola) No further discussion. Unanimously approved.

Junior Warden: Mark Claverie

At-Large Members of Vestry): Karen Finkbeiner, David Harper, Timothy Holmes, Margaret Verrigni, and Richard Wissler.

Treasurer: Karen Finkbeiner

Clerk : Timothy Holmes

Parish attendees at Diocesan and Convention meetings:

Members of The Congregation: Charles Maze, Lynne Priestley

Diocesan Convention, alternate: Sara Manny

Questions & Answers; Closing Remarks (Additional Time If Necessary)

G. Aronstamm: Number of pledging units? 55 pledge cards received with about \$157,000 pledged. We rely on non-pledged giving to close the gap.

K Ansbach noted with gratitude that Fr Wallace has made an enormous difference in the life of the parish. Generous applause for all that Fr Wallace has done and continues to do.

R Bullock reminded all to reach out to new people in the pews

P Houde reminded all to wear name tags

S Manny noted that members of the Vestry stand ready to answer any questions at any time.

Fr. Wallace offered gratitude for the growth in the church, in attendance and in giving. Grateful for the efforts to sustain the church building, but we do have a challenge going forward in determining how to address the physical needs of the church which does not presently offer space for fellowship, education or administrative needs. All of this can be accomplished through the love and fellowship of this parish family.

Blessing & Adjournment: Fr. Wallace

Blessing offered and adjournment at 11:33am

Respectfully submitted.

A. Bullock, Clerk