

**VESTRY MINUTES**  
**Grace and St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 7:03 p.m.**

**Present on Zoom:** Bob Bergner (Rector), Renee Janes (Senior Warden), Kelly Mattox (Junior Warden), Linda Simmons (Treasurer), Nadia Major-Dodd (Clerk), Candice Gray, Kim Judenis, Jessica Kott, Raymond Panther, Louis Pressman, Linda Rolstone, Cindy Turner

**Guests:** Sue O'Connell, John Anderson & Bill Menosky

**Excused Absences:**

**Unexcused Absences:** Jennifer Campbell

---

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm following by an opening prayer led by Fr Bob Bergner.

**Agenda:**

- The draft agenda was approved. (Kim and Candice)

**Minutes :**

- The minutes of the December meeting were approved and amended. (Linda Rolstone & Jessica)

**New Vestry Members:** Louis Pressman and Candice Gray

---

**Rector's Report:**

- Annual meeting went well
- Pews will be installed
- Bob would like to take a sabbatical. Jim Curry would like to help out but he also has summer obligations so we will have to research for supply persons for the morning prayers. Bob would like to take a break in June, July and August, plus part of either May or September, so research will be done to determine the priest supply available to us.
- Kelly is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year seminarian, but she is doing CPE this summer so may not be available to us
- It is possible for Brian to preach and conduct morning prayer
- Drew Collins was just ordained so we will request if he is available.
- Mark Santucci can also be contacted by Renee Janes to determine availability
- During the sabbatical, parishioners can attend Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church once a month as an option.
- Louis Pressman has also volunteered to cover a service as well.

- Home visits were discussed, Kelly volunteered to work with Bob to plan replacements during Bob's sabbatical.
- 

### **Treasurer's Report:**

#### Stewardship update

- A few pledgers have left the parish and a few are intermittent attendees. Some have reached out and notified that they are unable to commit at this time. Balance sheet was reconciled and presented through December.
- 

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Communications Committee:**

- The committee met on January 7, 2025. To date, we've gotten no response from Century Sign who we met with in the fall. Renee will contact other local sign companies.
- Renee noted that Christ the Good Shepherd has new interior signage. She will follow up with Pastor Josh on the supplier.
- Gretchen will order rubber stamps for the tops of the four books used in worship.
- Gretchen will finalize the new letterhead design with Bob's suggestions.

#### **Worship Committee:**

- Did not meet this month
- Tabled for the next meeting

#### **Dinner for a Dollar and the Food Truck:**

- Things are going smoothly
- Midwest food truck is doing well. There is no way to tell in advance what they are getting in donations from Manchester. It usually includes boxed foods which are not what is usually served at D4\$.

#### **Other Business:**

#### **Rectory Opportunities**

- Kelly, Bill and Linda Simmons provided a brief history of the rectory to new members of the vestry
- Kelly wants to form a group that is similar to that of the task force to examine the rectory's space as well as space within the parish to determine how they can be utilized to generate revenue. After speaking to Alison, Kelly wants to collaborate with the team she forms to develop ideas to gain revenue.

- Allison has been researching ways to generate funds by utilizing the rectory space but has not had success due to the changing post- covid environment

### **Revenue generating Opportunities.**

- Renting space available on the parish's premises must be explored.
- Columbus House partnership was explored as well to generate revenue.
- Thrift shop is still an option.
- Locating renters for office space in the parish is an option to consider.

### **End of year donations**

- End of year donations fell off our list of activities and will be operational again.
- \$500-\$1000 had been budgeted for donations
- Renee Janes agreed to follow up on promised donations.

### **2025 Picnic**

Susan O'Connell explored options for this year's picnic venue.

- The Pavillion at Brookvale, one area is currently undergoing renovation, accommodates 100 persons, 4hrs \$50 6hrs/\$75, 20X 40 sq ft, 3 charcoal grills, picnic tables can be moved around but must be returned to original position, no rest rooms nearby but accessible port-a-potty, no water, no electricity.
- Sleeping Giant \$220/ day 22X60sq ft, accommodates 50 persons, rest rooms are available, no water no electricity, charcoal grills.
- Hammonaset \$220/day, 2 grills, 12 picnic tables that can accommodate 12 person / table, no water or electricity.
- Lighthouse Pavillion \$150 charge for non-residents, electricity is available, 20X 40 sq ft and can accommodate 80 people with 2 grills, after Labor Day there will be a charge for parking at \$25/car,
- Killams Point has lowered price from \$1000 to \$850 and this can possibly be split with Christ the Good Shepherd. Additional parking spots were added, and a gas grill is available
- Ideal time for the picnic is the Sunday after Labor Day, a permanent date will be discussed at a later date

### **New Cleaning company**

- We are not satisfied with the current parish cleaner so we will search for others. Current cost is \$480/ month once a week cleaning. Other quotes will be obtained.
- Limpiex will be contacted.
- Coastal Cleaning will be contacted.
- City Wide has been emailing us with a bid at \$400/ month

## **Mural**

- Gretchen has reached out concerning the Calvin Institute's proposed new date and we are currently waiting for more information on the project.

## **Upcoming Mission activities:**

- Gretchen has publicized a list of people for mission activities.
- Candice agreed to take part in the Diaper bank and Gift card project.
- Abraham's Tent has a facility and family home that they are trying to provide for people in need, Feb is usually when it's done and should be considered for an upcoming mission
- The vestry agreed to expedite a donation to Columbus House in the amount of \$500 from our budget because they are in urgent need. We will ask parishioners to donate an additional \$500 through the vestry. (Linda Rolstone and Renee agreed on this with the support of the vestry.)
- Kelly wants to re-enroll D4\$ for the Great Give
- Swords to Plowshares was provided with a larger grant to continue with their ministry.

## **Pew Installation:**

- Pews will be reinstalled tomorrow Jan 22, 2025, and kneelers will be replaced for less than \$12,000
- Not all pews will be returned and as a result more space will be available.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm (Kelly and Linda Rolstone).

---

## **Acronyms used:**

G&SP = Grace & St. Peter's  
SJE = St. John the Evangelist Church  
CGS = Christ the Good Shepherd  
SPOTH = St. Peter's on the Hill  
ECCT = Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
TEC = The Episcopal Church in the US  
FTAC = Food Truck Advisory Committee  
D4\$ = Dinner for a Dollar  
S2P = Swords to Plowshares