

VESTRY MINUTES
Grace and St. John's Episcopal Church
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Guest: Kelly Park

Excused Absences: Jenneifer Campbell, Linda Rolstone

Unexcused Absences:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm following by an opening prayer led by Fr. Bob Bergner.

Agenda:

- The draft agenda was approved. (Jessica and Cindy)

Minutes :

- The minutes of the January meeting were approved as amended. (Louis & Jessica)

Rector's Report:

- We have been asked to sign an endorsement for George Black to be ordained as a deacon which we will sign at the next meeting.
 - On Friday @ noon a webinar training session is available from the Episcopal Divinity School on how to deal with Immigration and Customs & Border Control if we were to encounter this in the future. Bob and Renee agreed to attend. Everyone is welcomed to attend.
 - Pastor Josh and Bob discussed being intentional about their collaborations with us in general. They also discussed the possibility of planning a retreat for the advisory council members of all parishes.
 - Regarding coverage during the summer, Nathan Leach is interested if he is not placed for the summer in Massachusetts and Jim Curry would like to help out but he also has summer obligations. Kelly Mattox will continue to research this issue.
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Treasurer's Report:

Stewardship update

- All parochial reports must be filed on March 1st for closing and an electronic version will be sent before our next meeting in March. The report will be partial.
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Committee Reports:

Communications Committee:

- Completed the process of stamping names in books
- In the process of ordering T-shirts for the parish
- Signage is in a holding pattern

Worship Committee:

- Research is in process for kneelers, either hassock or fold-down kneelers. Renee agreed to send an email to show the options. Cushions look similar to what we currently have, with some square shaped and some rounded. Material options are vinyl or fabric. Some also have hooks on them so they can be removed easily.
- Liturgy practice and Faith – Lenten will occur at Christ the Good Shepherd on the – 5th Sunday
- 4am Sunrise service planning is in the works
- In the process of searching for a Pulpit and Lectern- specifically for the ones that were with St. John's
- Baptismal font will be placed on a dolly, making it mobile when there is no use for it
- Plaques will be reinstalled on pews
- Ash Wednesday 7-9am at Christ the Good Shephard and at ECC at 7:00 am

Dinner for a Dollar and the Food Truck:

- D4\$ did not go out on Sunday due to weather conditions
- Pancake supper planning is upcoming and in the planning stages
- Kelly Parks would like to invite students from YDS to cook for D4\$

Other Business:

Rectory Opportunities

- Tabled until next meeting
- Kelly M, continues to research

Revenue generating Opportunities.

- Renting space available on the parish's premises must be explored.
- Columbus House partnership will be explored as well to generate revenue.
- Thrift shop space is cluttered with drums from another church and need to be removed to move ahead with this project
- Locating renters for office space in the parish is another option to consider.

End of year donations

- St John the Evangelist donated to the following groups in the past and would like to continue with these efforts at \$200 each:
- Meriden Antique Vets, Wallingford Emergency Shelter, Wallingford Community Daycare, Wallingford Animal Control, Master's Manner, Meriden Humane Society, Meriden Wallingford Chrysalis, New Opportunities(Meriden Homeless Shelter

2025 Picnic

- A decision was made to continue picnic with Killam's Point who has lowered their price from \$1000 to **\$850** and this can be split with Christ the Good Shepherd, Additional parking spots were added, and a gas grill is available. This was booked for the 2nd Sunday in September. Josh said that he would bring the idea of sharing expenses to his counsel and get back to us.

Mural

- A meeting will occur on Thursday Feb 20th with an extension possibly to July 1st. More to come in the next meeting

Upcoming Mission activities:

- Received a \$2000 check from Todd
- Renee advised to take a look at list of mission activities that were posted.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday March **18th**, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm (Jessica and Candice).

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