

DRAFT VESTRY MINUTES
Grace and St. John's Episcopal Church
Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

NOTE: The meeting was available on Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

Present: Bob Bergner (Rector), Renee Janes (Senior Warden), Susan O'Connell (Junior Warden), Linda Simmons (Treasurer), Kim Judenis, Nadia Major-Dodd, Linda Rolstone, Cindy Turner, Raymond Panther & Jessica Kott

Present on Zoom: N/A

Visitor: Bill Menosky

Excused Absences: Whitney Batson, Jennifer Campbell, Kate Aitkenhead, Kelly Mattox

Unexcused Absences

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm following an opening prayer led by Fr Bob Bergner.

Agenda:

- The draft agenda was approved. (Cindy, Susan)

Minutes :

- Minutes of the March 19, 2024 meeting was approved as amended. (Jessica, Renee)
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Capital Projects:

- Bill Menosky joined us to continue the discussion on capital projects with emphasis on the Hardwood Floor project, Hardwood Chancel Project and the Pew removal / Replacement/ Staining project. Three quotes were provided using four vendors.
- Paulino (Adair) provided a quote of \$25,496 for the sanctuary floor and \$4,899 for the chancel bringing his total to \$30,395.
- Custom Wood Floors (Jamie) provided a quote of \$24,606 for the sanctuary floor and \$8,450 for the chancel, bringing his total to \$33,056.
- Based on the high recommendation and quality of work seen, it was approved subject to audit (Renee, Jessica) to select- Custom Wood Floors as the vendor for the chancel. Next steps will be to decide when the project will begin and take

the necessary steps to facilitate Sunday services at other locations while work is being done.

- Regarding the pew project, two quotes were provided by John Reilly and Artech. John provided a quote of \$10,000 and Artech a quote of \$10,400. A decision was made to select John Reily for the pews. Next steps will be to decide when the project will begin.

Treasurer's Report:

- Linda Simmons presented the report of reconciled funds through the month of April. We are currently within budget and financially in a good place. It was approved subject to audit. (Cindy & Linda).
 - Discussion was made concerning moving some funds out of Ion bank and into short-term investments.
 - Linda will schedule a meeting of the investment committee for further discussions.
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Rector's Report:

- Christ The Good Shepherd was asked to join us in Hamden's Memorial Day Parade and Hamden Fest. A rain date has not been announced for the Memorial Day parade.
- Bob suggested forming a picture directory of parishioners so that everyone would recognize each other. Sue suggested that the idea may have been proposed in the past and volunteered to do further investigation.
- Bob will be away for 2 Sundays in July and in his absence Bishop Jim has agreed to conduct the one of the services.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee:

- Gretchen does a wonderful job with the E-news and needs assistance with ideas. She would like persons to submit ideas for the e-news.
- Sue O'Connell is working with Bill Menosky on interior signage. The signs will be printed at Staples and Bill will hang them up. Bill will attend the next meeting on June 4th to discuss signage with the communications committee.
- Name tags were located by Susan.

Worship Committee:

- The Pentecost service held on May 19th went well.
- Arden House Ministry is growing and doing well.

- It was suggested that we hire a student to manage the Sunday service live streams for about \$25/ service. It was suggested to utilize a family member of a parishioner for the task.
 - Linda S suggested that the parish obtain their own equipment as it relates to recording devices so that it would be available for use whenever needed.
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Dinner for a Dollar and the Food Truck:

- Renee reported problems getting the stoves to light, but the issue was resolved when Allison last used it. As a result, Bill Menosky canceled the repair person he had scheduled to service the stove.
- Dinner for a dollar will eventually be asked to contribute to the parish funds so that maintenance of equipment can be accommodated.
- Bill mentioned the need for an upgrade of two 20AMP plugs for the freezers.

Other Business:

Mural

- A grant was provided to the church to get a mural placed on the church's building. Drawings made by John, Jessica and Gretchen will be provided to Rise Up for Arts so that they are able to gather the shared ideas presented to create a mural.
- It was also suggested that the mural be placed on banners instead and to include the church's logo so they can be taken down whenever needed. Gretchen will reach out to Matt at Rise Up to discuss further.

Altar Flowers

- Renee is not pleased with the current florist because the quality does not coincide with the expense.
- Jessica suggested Cheshire Nursery flowers because the cost is half the current price . Jessica agreed to conduct further research and to provide more details in the next meeting.
- Renee agreed to research the price and quality of Wallingford Flowers.

Prageman Trust

- St. John's was provided with a trust from the Pragmans for the up- keep of the parish. A petition to have the trust transferred to Grace & St john was made to Bank of America and final documents were signed at the end of the meeting by

Renee Janes and Linda Simmons with Nadia Major Dodd as a witness. The trust includes an endowment of \$4,000 per year to the parish.

Sanctuary flooring and pews:

- Paulino (Adair) provided a quote of \$25,496 for the sanctuary floor and \$4,899 for the chancel bringing his total to \$30,395.
- Custom Wood Floors (Jamie) provided a quote of \$24,606 for the sanctuary floor and \$8,450 for the chancel, bringing his total to \$33,056.
- Based on the high recommendation and quality of work seen, it was approved subject to audit (Renee, Jessica) to select- Custom Wood Floors as the vendor. Next steps will be to decide when the project will begin and take the necessary steps to facilitate Sunday services. The work will be done over the summer and will take 5 to 6 weeks.
- Two quotes were provided by John Reilly and Artech. John provided a quote of \$10,000 and Artech a quote of \$10,400. A final decision has not been made on the vendor because further measurements are needed. This cost includes removal, storage and re-installation of the pews..
- Kneelers are TBD.
- Extra lectern will be sent to the diocesan storage where it can be recycled for others that may need it.

Sound System Upgrade:

- We have received a bid from Pearmain Communications for 1 lectern mic, 4 speakers (2 in front, and 2 in back), and an equalizer. The proposed cost is \$3,800. The vestry previously approved up to \$5,000 for this work.
- Bob will follow up on how to incorporate this work around the new floor installation.

Investment Committee

- The agenda was tabled for the next meeting.

Missions and Outreach:

- The Memorial Day parade is scheduled for May 27 and to be done in conjunction with Christ the Good Shepherd. Parishioners will be asked to meet at Hamden High School at 8:00 am.
- We are in need of coordinators for Hamden Fest on June 8. Linda S has found two volunteers, Renne and Sue.
- Bob will follow up on the Hamden Black History scholarship.
- The picnic will be held on September 29th. Sue and Helen Barajas will coordinate. It will be held at Killam's Point from 8:00am to 8:00pm.

- Cynthia Ayers is the coordinator for the May fundraiser at Beaumont Farms in Wallingford which will occur sometime at the end of May.
- Linda R will check on a date for the fall Master's Manna collection in Wallingford.
- Linda R offered to be the coordinator for the new gift card program. Parishioners will be asked/reminded once a month to donate small dollar cards to the office.

Parochial report -Informational report that reviews the parish's operating revenues.

- Report was presented by Linda Simmons for the vestry's approval (Renee & Sue)

Thrift shop:

- Cindy and Allison will investigate other local charity shops. Cindy will measure the two rooms available. The charity shop will be available a few hours a day, several days a week, once it is up and running. Clothing and small household items will be sold.

Gift Card Program:

- Linda R led the discussion on when to roll out the program and in what denominations the cards would be in . It was agreed to use denominations of \$5 and \$10 cards and to provide as an outreach to the community for those in and outside of the parish who are in need.

The next meeting will be June 18th at the church and on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm (Linda S, Jessica K).

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