

The Church of the Good Shepherd

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Minutes for March 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting, held in person in the Parish Hall. We were joined by Mabeth Hudson, Chair of Outreach, who discussed how Outreach has evolved over her nine years as Chair.

Clergy and Staff: Arianne Rice+

Officers present: Tina Thomas (Sr. Warden), Bill Baker (Junior Warden), Cynthia Fraser (Registrar)

Vestry members present: Grace Belkot, Jill Hanson, Mary Ellen Gervais, Harry Gormley, Brooke Riegel, Marge Rodgers, Barry Rollins, Charles Warren

Absent: Bill Nesbitt (Treasurer)

WELCOME AND GROUP CHECK INS:

Arianne+ started with a prayer. The brief question to introduce everyone to Mabeth was “How long have you been at Good Shepherd and what brought you here?”

We then broke into groups of two to discuss the check in question, “What is an experience you can share of someone reaching out to help, support, strengthen you?”

MEETING:

OUTREACH UPDATE:

Mabeth Hudson who have chaired the Outreach Committee since 2013 talked about the history and how our ministries have changed over the years. Ministries like Habitat for Humanity which was very active for over 2 decades has taken a hiatus due to lack of participation. Paul’s Place and Our Daily Bread moved in another direction when they started looking to corporate sponsorships instead of small churches. The Rev. Van Gardner spoke to Outreach years ago and asked , “How is God calling us and what brings great gladness and what are the world’s greatest needs?” Those questions led to a shift in our approach to Outreach. The group read the book, “Toxic Charity” and began to look more to creating relationships with our Outreach ministries and not just giving money with no connections. SLYC, ACTC and AWE became the focus of Outreach and our budget increased over the years. She also mentioned the Committee authorized \$5K to Episcopal Relief and Development to help the refugees in the Ukraine.

Mabeth sees engagement of our congregation in our various Outreach ministries, communications, visioning and new leadership as the challenges for the Committee. She also mentioned the Diocesan commitment to funding Reparations and our \$3K donation and figuring out where Good Shepherd is called and why? She mentioned 20 took part in the Sacred Ground series and that may be offered again.

RECTOR'S REPORT:

Arianne+ reviewed the items we identified as the most important in our February Retreat. We recognized that re-engaging our committees is a high priority. Outreach is our strongest committee in terms of participation, ministry engagement, and distribution of funds (after B&G/staff/ops).

The other topic we engaged on retreat was that churches are communities of "attraction" more so than "promotion." A church's outreach ministry is typically the primary or secondary reason, after worship, why people join faith communities. How does living into our mission as engaged followers of the gospel transcend outreach and connect with all committees and areas of our congregational life - now and in the coming year?

We talked about Committees that need more members such as Stewardship, Buildings and Grounds and Altar Guild. She also mentioned that the position of chaliceist will begin again after Easter with a slightly different role to be worked out.

Arianne+ handed out a Baltimore Sun article on reparations and said the Redeemer is looking into their church history and seeing how they can address reparations. In June, Bishop Ihloff will come talk to the Vestry about reparations. She referred us to the Diocesan web page to learn more.

Kaitlyn is tentatively scheduled to start on May 2nd as Communications Coordinator and Mark Lobb will begin on June 15th as Associate Rector. There will also be a new Assistant Day School Director.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

Tina Thomas gave her report:

1. During the last three weeks, she made calls to every member listed in our directory. It is her hope that in the fall, maybe September or October, that every vestry member will split the list and reach out again. She said the response was great with everyone she was able to reach. She even had some people call her back which is usually not the case. In the process, we can update the directory as well as stay connected with the congregation.
2. She would like the Vestry to lead and with the assistance of the Hospitality Committee host a Fellowship Picnic on Sunday, June 26th directly after church. Hopefully, this can be held outside. Perhaps, we can get a Food Truck to come? Who would like to take on the lead and planning of this? Or do you know anyone in the congregation who would like to?
3. Please mark August 23rd on your calendar as the new date for the Vestry Meeting as opposed to August 16th. Tina will be hosting a potluck dinner at Tina's house and hope that you will all plan on being there unless of course you are out of town.

4. Finally, be prepared to help organize and host small group dinners (ala cottage suppers in the past) Please let me know if you are interested in hosting one or do you know someone in the congregation who would be willing? This gives you lots of time to talk it up with anyone you might be chatting with in the congregation.

Tina mentioned that Guy Wolf passed away unexpectedly just days after she spoke to him on the phone.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

Bill Baker reported the following:

1. The repairs to the Bell Tower have been completed.
2. The refinishing of the Parish hall floor was completed the week of 3/14/2022
3. Landscaping and spring clean-up of the grounds is complete.
4. The erosion around the Memorial Steps and areas boarding Carrollton Ave. will be addressed by extending the built-up curb from the Memorial Steps to the entrance driveway of the parking lot. Jill made a motion that we pay for this repair from the Disciples' Fund at a cost of \$4,875. The motion passed unanimously.
5. The School play area on the Boyce Ave. side of the building will require restoration. Bids are being sought to cover the area in mulch because grass will not grow with continued use as a play area and the ground becomes muddy.
6. The cracked beam in the church will require 3-4 days to repair and secure. The quote is \$8,500 and he proposed we pay for this from the Disciple's Fund. Tina made a motion which Harry seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

Bill also mentioned that we need to finish the roof, the middle section is still not complete which brought up the need for a Capital Campaign.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bill Nesbitt was absent but emailed his Treasurer's Report.

1. You will now receive this report and the new and improved "Projected Finance Report" on a monthly basis. No more hard-to-interpret financial reports (although Bill will still report on the details)!
2. We are projected to fall \$51K short of our annual giving budget.
3. Overall, we are projecting a revenue surplus of \$19K due to the "catch up" day school cost share arrangement for this year only (~\$65K)
4. Expenses are projected very close to budget, so our projected deficit is \$114.6K
5. Assistant Rector will start 6/15. We hope to fill the Parish Admin position by May. These impacts are built into the projection.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION 02/28/22:

1. Good Shepherd remains in good financial shape
2. Investments and Bank accounts = ~\$1.46 million
3. Operating Account balance = \$115,625
4. Liabilities = \$8,791 (J2A pilgrimage and memorial funds)
5. Total Equity = ~\$2.98 million

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY 02/28/22:

1. Pledge income (\$183K) is up significantly over this period last year
2. Day school cost share “catch-up” (one time) of ~\$65K was received this month
3. Utilities are up almost \$5K from last year, due to the increased cost of heating.
4. Non-budgeted expense of \$4,650 was booked for the emergency repair of the bell tower.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No Committee Reports since we spent a large portion of our meeting discussing Outreach.

Arianne+ said she is hoping to get some help for an Easter Egg Hunt this year. Cynthia mentioned she is coordinating an effort to give 50 Spring/Easter flowers to our seniors in Assisted Living, along with a handwritten note by a parishioner. Radebaughs is providing the potted flowers at a discount.

Arianne+ then asked for any Pastoral Concerns. We then closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

The meeting adjourned around 7:45PM.

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

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