

**St. Francis Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
February 15, 2024**

ATTENDANCE:

Vestry Present:

√OPEN Rector	√Gerriane Breck, Clerk	√Grace McDougall
√ Pam Maiolo, Sr Warden	√Olivia DiAgostino	√ Paul Sinckler
√Amy Myzie, Jr. Warden	√ Michelle Klastava	√ Christy McGuire
√ Gerry Welch, Deacon	√Marie Petit-Homme	√ Elaine Patania
	√Cynthia Pelliccia	

Absent:

Also Present: Ilia Scriven, Treasurer, Rev Ayden Petrone

Meeting called to order by Pam at 7:35pm and facilitated online using Zoom.

Pam announced this is the last meeting she will be leading as she has led since Fr Jack retired, and Rev Ayden will lead going forward beginning with the March Vestry meeting.

Opening Prayer and Community Formation:

Assist us, Lord, in living hopefully into the future. In the face of change, help us to set unnecessary fears aside and to recognize our potential for creative response. Help us to develop a reasonable optimism when confronted by “the new” and to, guard against our defensiveness. Be with us as we remember and celebrate former times, and keep us from unreasonable yearning for them, which takes us from the work you have set before us in our time. All this we ask in the name of your Child, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Election of Vestry Clerk & Parish Treasurer for 2024

- Motion for Gerriane to be Clerk of the Vestry by Amy and Second by Cynthia. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion for Ilia to be Treasurer by Paul and Second by Christy. Motion carried unanimously.

Welcome Olivia DiAgostino as first-time vestry member. And Paul & Marie as newly elected & returning members.

And welcome to our new Priest-in Charge Ayden Petrone

Minutes:

The minutes for the January Vestry meeting were emailed by Gerriane 2/13/24

Motion by Christy to accept the January Minutes as is. Second by Cynthia
Motion carried unanimously.

Treasury Report: The November report was emailed by Ilia on ###/###/24 as follows.

The Church is \$(1,346.57) under budget for the month of January (col D, line 114). This is primarily because of Pledges being lower than budget. Because the January 28th collection was not deposited until February(annual meeting was that Sunday) it is quite possible that this trend will reverse itself

*in February when that deposit is accounted for. Income was \$(1,713.00) (col D, line 33) under budget and expenses were under budget by \$366.43 (col D, line 112) **PLEASE SEE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON YTD RECAP.***

For the month of January the church has collected 7.0% (col E, line 113) of its 2024 income budget and spent 5.7% (col E, line 112) of its expense budget. For comparison purposes, year to date through January is 8.33% of the year.

As I say every year at this time, it is too early to make any conclusions on the results for the first few months of the year, but we should have a better idea of how the results are trending by the end of the first quarter.

Motion by Paul to accept Treasurer Report as is.
Second by Cynthia.
Motion carried unanimously.

Deacon's Report - Gerry

It is exciting to hear that a priest in charge has been called. I had a lovely conversation with Ayden and look forward to working with them. This month seems to have flown by. I continue to participate in Bible Study with Holy Cross North Plainfield on Wednesdays. We are reading the Bible cover to cover. The in-person is very lively. They also have a second group on Zoom. All are welcome. Having finished the Bible passages is not mandatory.

We are officially in Lent. I love Lent. We will have a Formation hour after church on Sundays. We are using Life Transformed, The Way of Love. I will also be following Lent Madness through Church Publishing. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I tried to hold Deacon Chat 2/4/24. Noone attended. I see that Michelle and Marie want to do youth programming. I think that's great. I encourage them to reach out to Clare Gutwein from the Diocese. I also think reaching out to local churches and working with them. Given the small number of youth in our church I believe that would be more successful. St. Mark's Plainfield has a great youth program.

Ash Wednesday was very busy. Laura Breck, Rick DiAgostino and I administered Ashes to 16 commuters. I also went to Greenbrook Regional Care with Princess. We administered Ashes to about 50 residents and staff. I also went to St. Peter's Family Health Center and gave ashes to 20 people.

Sr. Warden's/Fellowship Report - Pam emailed report 2/13/24

Successful annual meeting. All offices filled. All hand on deck for a wonderful fellowship lunch & meeting. Thanks to all.

Meeting with Ayden on-line & on phone. Will meet in person on 2/19. They will bring their wife & son to see St. Francis.

New ministry – Youth- being put on the agenda. Marie & Michelle (5 youths) will lead. I have told them that they program/agenda is theirs to make. Acolyte, lector, bible study, bowling, painting, outreach, fun. Whatever. We have these young people in our midst. We need to get them involved. We do not have Sunday school interest, so let's try this approach.

After a non-committal conversation with Bishop Sally, Ayden & I spoke about making a request for a bishop visitation on St. Francis weekend, Oct 6. We have at least two confirmands, perhaps 2 receptions & a few reaffirmations. I sent an email to the Bishop's Exec Assist. Have not gotten a reply.

On Jan 29, I sent 3 March dates & times as requested for required Anti Racism training for congregations in transition. This evening, I received an email saying no team was available on those dates. I have suggested to the scheduling person that we reverse the decision making & tell us when someone is available. Stay tuned. Holy Cross, N. Plainfield has invited St. Francis to participate in a mid-day service on Good Friday. Others participating are Grace, Plainfield & St. Mark's, Plainfield. Ayden is waiting to hear back from Mother Shockley about details.

Additional Discussion:

- Committed to two Confirmands – Marie's Children Robert 14yo and Gabby 16yo.
 - Requested Bishop to do the Confirmation sometime around St Francis weekend (Oct 6).
 - Elaine concerned with the timing conflicting with the Dunellen Harvestless 10/13. The Bishop visit takes precedence

Outreach/Rectory - Pam report emailed 2/13/24:

Outreach

- *\$200 donation sent to United Negro College Fund in honor of Dr. Baskerville our BHM presenter.*
- *Women Aware, New Brunswick is the recipient of our special donations this Lent. The organization's mission is to promote safety & self-sufficiency of individuals & families affected by domestic violence in Middlesex County. Should we put up the Thermometer in the narthex & set a goal??*

Jr. Warden's Report – Amy

- Power supply for sump pump – Paul working on it
- Flashing on front side of Daycare needs to be replaced, as reported by Helen our Rectory tenant (who often looks out for us)
- Snow Removal – bill from Reagan for first snow \$500+, and waiting on the second removal. Amy called to ensure it was plowed and salted for the Shrove Tue event. FYI - in past we were plowed by Frankie Lox, and last year we had no expense, and the previous year was nominal.
- Stone in the parking lot will need to be addressed in Spring. In past we have rented front end loader from Home Depot and moved stone around – which allows us to see what we have/need
- Shrove Tues – low turn out, good fellowship, and we collected \$194.
- After the May 18 Milbank rental, we will need to have our floors done (clean & wax).

8:00 Ministry assignments & discussion – (New Ministry- Youth)

Pam Maiolo- Sr. Warden, Finance, Buildings & grounds, Rectory liaison, Outreach

Amy Myzie – Jr. Warden, Buildings & grounds, Finance, Financial Secretary

Gerrienne Breck – Vestry Clerk, MailChimp, Sign

Olivia DiAgostino – Communication (FB – all advertising and community announcements)

Michelle Klastava – Youth, COME

Grace McDougall – COME, Fellowship, Finance

Christy McGuire- Stewardship, Communications (media releases & Website)

Marie Petit-Holmes – Youth (Michelle Klastava)

Elaine Patania – Stewardship, Finance, (Office Overseer)

Cynthia Pelliccia – Fellowship, Finance

Paul Sinckler – Finance, Buildings & grounds

Discussion:

- New ministry “Youth” because we have several pre-teen/teens. So Pam met with Marie and Michelle to initiate programs that serve these youths. This will replace Sunday School, since there has been no population. The budget that was under Sunday School and Acolyte (\$200) will now move to Youth.
- Pam shared Michelle’s story regarding Confirmation education, While she expressed a need, there was no solution at St Francis so she enrolled in a confirmation 2-year program at St Luke’s in Far Hills

Old Business

- *Black History Month Celebration*
 - Was a success
 - Heather is probably already working on next years program
- *Shrove Tuesday*
- *St. Pat’s Dinner – March 16 5pm-7pm*
 - \$15 adult
 - \$11 for Children/Vegetarians
- *Hall Rentals (normally we charge \$75/hr)*
 - *March 23 8a-4pm, Card Show.* Cynthia Opening and Closing. Pricing adjusted (\$600) as he is using part of the Undercroft as well as Milbank. This was a referral from Trina our Office Assistant
 - *May 18 3:30-10pm.* Same group as this past weekend, they good, cleaned up after themselves and renumerated for using paper towels. (March Vestry mtg will assign Open/Close).
- *Anti-Racism training*

- Anti-Racism Training – Pam is trying to schedule with Diocese. Pam provided 3 date options to Ellen, none of which worked. So Ellen is going to provide Pam with a few date options for us to figure out what works.
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- *Diocesan Convention March 9*

ACTION ITEM:

New Business

- *Empanada Assembly & Sale*
 - Cynthia is away the first week of April. She suggested Empanada's are usually a Fall, and agreed to do it around St Francis time – pre sale end of Sept into Oct. And possibly have some available for Harvestfest on 10/13. Cynthia will put order forms out when we do the Sept Welcome Back.
- *Jazz Concert (Steve Minzer Quartet) April 21 @ 2pm*
- *Spring Cleanup date*
 - Amy will work on a list
 - Target end of April 4/28
- *Good Friday participation with Holy Cross*
 - In past there was collaboration on Good Friday. This year, Mother Stephanie Shockley at Holy Cross North Plainfield is leading a collaboration with area churches for a Prayer Book Liturgy, Passion Gospel, Holy Communion (which involves roles filled by members of the participating parishes), and has invited St Francis to join. Ayden has reached out to Mother Shockley to get more information.
- *Upgrade of audio system at pulpit & lectern*
 - Rick DiAgostino will evaluate our set up and possibly see if we can have a more dependable method for Mass on the Grass/Picnic, and zoom from Milbank (e.g. for Annual Meeting, BHM, etc.). Vin ordered the technology that Steve recommended from the last Mass on the Grass.
 - Placement of mic's on lectern may be contributing to low voice volume. Pam suggesting we replace that mic with a gooseneck mic which will accommodate younger speakers
 - Pam will reach out to Rick with a quasi-deadline to get the work scheduled.
- *Calendar for planning – Pam will work with Ayden to create a spreadsheet or calender.*

Closing remarks from Ayden. Opportunity for Q & A.

- Ayden is excited to be here and continue to work together. Call them Ayden, or Rev (not Father or Mother).
- Ayden asks for our grace as they learn (last night was their first Ash Wednesday service)
- Ayden is taking time off next week. Ayden's last day at full-time job is 2/21, and is off the last week of February, and hopes to spend some time at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park NY, and St Mary's Watchung (Eileen Smith is Ayden's spiritual director. Ironically, Eileen was close to Jack Zamboni).

- Elaine shared that she has been working with Trina on the Easter and Holy Week bulletin. Trina is doing fine, but needs assistance since she is not Episcopalian, so invited Ayden to assist Trina while Elaine will continue to assist.
- Gerrienne shared that the digital sign is relatively new for St Francis, we are open to any ideas for how to better use this medium to get our message out. Same goes for Mailchimp. We are also open to helping Ayden acclimate to the area as they are unfamiliar with Middlesex County as a whole.

Next Meeting- March 21, 2024 7:30pm

Closing prayer - Ayden

Move to Adjourn by Cynthia second by Am

Respectfully submitted,

Gerrienne Breck, Vestry Clerk

Distribution of minutes:

- 1) Email Vestry minutes for review*
- 2) Place signed hard copy in binder in St Francis office along with Treasurers Report*
- 3) Post a copy on bulletin board in Narthex*