

*Approved electronically*

**St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry     26 October 2022**

Present: Pamela Brittain, Tom Brzeczek, Bill Cheney, David Dennehy, Jane Ferguson, Diane Gustafson, Rev. Roger Haenke, Alex Valdez Beer, Lynn Young  
Absent: Alice Burnham  
Guest: Bishop Susan Brown Snook

Rev. Roger Haenke called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

The following appreciations were noted: Everyone who worked on the Centennial Dinner and Liturgy, Tim Attaway as President of the Men of St. John's and Chair of the Steak Dinner, and Linda Dennehy for reorganizing the Nale Hall closet and for setting up refreshments on Sunday mornings.

Bishop Susan Brown Snook posed questions to the Vestry, answers summarized here:

What are the strengths of the congregation?

- Compassion, resilience, willingness to work hard
- Extremely welcoming, especially in performing baptisms for those who feel they have nowhere else to go (*Bishop Susan suggested something St. Andrews does - having a dinner for the parents of the preschool children*)
- Taking care of each other, filling needs for Lay Eucharistic Visitations, meals, and cards of encouragement
- Campus

What are the major challenges?

- No children or youth programs
- Need to collaborate with parishes around us; more ecumenical services such as the one planned for Thanksgiving Eve

How are we doing after the pandemic (numbers and finances)?

- Giving is at budget or above.
- Average Sunday attendance is low, but livestreaming is up. (*Bishop Susan noted that this might result in reduced energy.*)

What ideas do you have for sharing the good news with the community?

- *La Misa* in English (*Bishop Susan asked if we had asked those who come what they would like, perhaps another day/time for La Misa.*)
- Re-establish a ministry for the military (*Bishop Susan said that a proposed Episcopal Veteran Fellowship would bring vets together to talk and to study the Bible.*)
- We need to do a better job of marketing, for example: our facilities.

- We have constant communication with the Chula Vista City Council and Chamber of Commerce.

How can the Diocese support St. John's in ministries?

- Provide training, especially leadership workshops
- Being a sounding board for us
- Give us a name to contact when we have questions
- Diocesan campaign to get people into the Episcopal churches

The Vestry thanks Bishop Susan for her time and wisdom.

Diane Gustafson moved to accept the Consent Agenda (Rector's reports for August and September, Outreach report), David Dennehy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bill Cheney gave the Treasurer's report (filed with these minutes in the Vestry binder in the Church Office). Revenues year-to-date are tracking above budget. Expenses are high but below budget. We continue to add \$2000/month to the Property Fund.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Centennial:**

Recent items will be selected to add to the time capsule from the dedication of the church in 1997, and a celebration held on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's. We will reach out to people who used to attend church but haven't recently, and perhaps call it a Homecoming Celebration".

### **Property Committee:**

David Dennehy reported for the Committee. The a/c unit in Classrooms 9 & 10 has died and cannot be repaired. Estimated cost is \$16,000. This cost is the responsibility of Head Start. A semi-annual review with Anderson was completed; corrective maintenance comes to \$4000. The Property Committee is working with Anderson to look at the life cycle of the sixteen units and prioritize them. The refrigerant used in those units is now illegal, and, if they die, the units cannot be used. A unit above the choir room cannot be maintained because sheet rock was put around it.

Lloyd's Pest Control recommends monitoring for termites at this time.

### **Columbarium:**

Blessing of the Columbarium and re-interment were held on September 11. The project cost \$50,000. Collection was \$36,000 plus a donation of \$14,000, so there is a \$0 balance. Cost of a niche is \$2500, with \$500 of that going to endowment for perpetual care.

### ***La Misa in English:***

In August 25 parishioners and 8 others attended, total 33. There was no meeting in September.

**Survey about Sunday Liturgy:**

A survey will be created and distributed via Survey Monkey with a pilot project of two services to begin in January. In order to survey people who no longer attend, questionnaires will be sent using rosters for the past ten years.

**Stewardship Campaign:**

The slogan for this year is *More Than Enough*, and the campaign runs from October 16 to November 13. Blessing of pledges will be November 20. Various parishioners will give weekly reflections on stewardship during the Sunday liturgy and in the e-newsletter. There will also be three receptions hosted by Tom Brzeczek, Bill and Irene Cheney, Lynn Young, David Dennehy, and Rev. Roger Haenke.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposal 2022.1026.01**

2023 Budget Process:

Thursday, November 17, 2022 Finance Committee prepares preliminary 2023 budget

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 Vestry reviews preliminary budget

Thursday, December 22, 2022 Finance Committee prepares final 2023 budget

Wednesday, December 28, 2022 Vestry approves final budget

Sunday, January 22, 2023 Vestry presents the final 2023 budget at the Parish Annual Meeting

The proposal above was accepted unanimously. There will be no need for a Vestry meeting in January before the Annual Meeting

**Proposal 2022.1026.02**

The Columbarium Committee with the legal expertise of Chelsey Nyaradi and Ray Contreras have revised the Columbarium Agreement and Application. Also, the Columbarium Policies and Procedures have been updated.

**Resolved**, the Vestry of St. John's accepts the new Columbarium Policies and Procedures and the new Columbarium Agreement and Application.

Lynn Young seconded the motion brought by the Columbarium Committee, and it passed unanimously.

**Vestry Membership:**

Terms are ending for Tom Brzeczek, Bill Cheney, and David Dennehy. David is not eligible to stand for re-election.

***Early Warning Signs of Impending Church Difficulties:***

This is an informational item and a document provided to churches by the Diocese.

**Good News Festival:**

December 9-10 at Town and Country Resort. Attendance is free; advance registration is encouraged.

Following prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Diane Gustafson, Recorder

*Minutes sent electronically and approved via email by:*

*Pamela Brittain*

*Bill Cheney*

*David Dennehy*

*Jane Ferguson*

*Alejandra Valdez*

*Lynn Young*

*No response from*

*Tom Brzeczek*

*Alice Burnham (had been absent from meeting)*