

**The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
Glendale, Arizona
Vestry Meeting
(Via ZOOM/In-person)
July 14, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: (Noted in Bold)

The Reverend Dave Rickert

Barbara Bratcher

Jill Kratzer

Frank Perkins

Stacy Milhoan, Clerk to the Vestry

Tracy Hare, Sr. Warden

Cody Bro

Jackie Luptowski

Mary Jane Santamaria

Suzy Mortenson, Treasurer

Buz Isban, Jr. Warden

Ellie Calcagni

Kristie Meyers

Nancy Young - EX

Staff: The Reverend Canon Chuck Milhoan

Guests: Jennifer Roland, Mary Kathryn Brooks

CALL TO ORDER: The July meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 7:14 p.m. in the Parish Hall, by Senior Warden, Tracy Hare. This was followed by an opening prayer led by the Reverend Dave Rickert.

ROLL CALL: A roll call was taken by the clerk and a quorum was verified.

Cody Bro made a motion to fill the vacated Vestry space with Jackie Luptowski. Motion was seconded and carried. Jackie's term will end at the end of the year.

CALL TO PUBLIC: None

MINUTES: Minutes of the June 9, 2021 meeting had been distributed electronically prior to the July meeting. It was moved by Frank Perkins and seconded that the minutes be approved with necessary corrections. Motion was seconded and carried.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Total Revenue is ahead of Plan by \$14,235. Pledges are ahead of Plan by \$1,435 and Plate and Special offerings are ahead by \$11,798.

Expenses are better than Plan by \$15,209. The unfavorable variance in Ministries of (\$3,152) is primarily due to mission share being higher than projected. Parish Staff is better than plan by \$17,926 primarily due to lower than projected health insurance and salary cost. We are current on our mission share to the Diocese.

In total, our year-to-date gain is \$30,065 compared to a planned gain of \$622.

We met with our advisor from Ameriprise and discussed moving funds from our Money Market to Ameriprise. We are continuing to review this.

RECTOR'S REPORT: No written report

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT: See attached report

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT: See attached report

CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORT: See attached report

STRATEGIC PLAN:

- Ministry Review: The Reverend Dave Rickert reported that a Ministry Leaders' meeting will be held in August. He will get together with Kristie Myers to set a date
- Suzy Mortenson reported that we are working on a more welcoming environment. Greeters will not have to keep track of attendance anymore and have been asked to take photos of members so they can be downloaded into the Church directory
- Social Media Platform: Reverend Dave has taken over the Constant Contact weekly newsletter. He, and others, will be looking into ways of expanding out social media platform.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discernment Report: After listening to Mary Kathryn Brooks tell the Vestry why she feels called to the Diaconate, and hearing from one of the discernment team, it was moved by Cody Bro to accept the report of the discernment team and approve the Application for Holy Orders for Mary Kathryn Brooks.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Search Process Update: Tracy Hare gave an update on the search process which is included in the Senior Warden report.

OTHER MATTERS to come before the Vestry

- Discussion was held regarding the financial costs Mary Kathryn will have during her discernment process and beyond. It was moved by Cody Bro that St. John's pay for the psychological testing that will be needed, and to financially and emotionally support Mary Kathryn during her journey. Motion was seconded and carried.
- Suzy reported that due to a schedule change with some of the office volunteers, it will be necessary to change the office hours at St. John's. They will no longer staff the office from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- The Thrift Store is re-locating on campus. It will now take up the space in classrooms 3 and 4.
- Re-Opening of the Church (Abundant Life) The bishop has sent out new guidelines for those attending activities on any church campus in the diocese. Those who are unvaccinated are still required to wear a mask at all times while on campus.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on August 11, 2021, at 7:15 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Vestry, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. with a prayer from the Reverend Dave Rickert.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Milhoan,
Clerk to the Vestry

REPORTS:

Senior Warden:

Search Committee Next Steps

Mike and Mae had a phone meeting last week with Canon Anita. The following information was derived from that conversation.

Canon Anita was invited to address the August 14th regular Saturday Search Committee Meeting. Via Zoom, she will meet the 11 members of the search committee and perhaps will relay next steps as told to Mike and Mae.

The following items will be sent to Canon Anita before that meeting:

1. The final Parish Profile
2. Responses to 12 questions from the Office of Transition Management (OTM) (the Search Committee is working on these responses)
3. A two-paragraph job announcement (Mike and Mae are working on this)

When Canon Anita receives the above three items, she will forward them to The Episcopal Church. There is a \$199 cost for two weeks of visibility throughout the country for our open Rector position. The cost is \$499 for four weeks. Canon Anita recommends the four-week option.

Canon Anita will allow six weeks for candidates to apply. The Diocese will screen all applicants. The Search Committee will interview good candidates via Zoom and determine the top two or three. The Vestry will interview these candidates (also via Zoom) and choose one.

Junior Warden:

Air Conditioning –The two oldest units on the church are limping their way toward the graveyard. As of last month, each is 38 years old. New units are on order and will be installed when received in early August.

Water or not, that is the question. After 4 years the water pressure backflow relief valve finally failed miserably. This is the valve that regulates the water coming from the street onto our property. After a four-day wait for parts, it was replaced by a stainless steel unit that should last for years to come. Let the good times flow! Chilton Hall passageway overhead lights – They have been replaced with energy efficient units that work on a photo cell. They go on and off depending upon the atmospheric light without human intervention.

Land Use Task Force

Nothing to report.

July Report to Vestry
Jennifer Roland
Director of Christian Formation
Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

We had a great time at our first post-pandemic VBS. There were a total of 11 children participate with five of those being new to our church. We had seven youth volunteers helping and participating in the activities. I really appreciate the 15 adults who volunteered their time to make VBS an amazing experience for everyone. Unfortunately, the water outage cut our week short. There were three children able to join us in worship on Sunday to sing a favorite song. We will make up the story and crafts we missed on August 22 and 29 at 9:45 am. Our water day activities are rescheduled for Sunday, September 19. Be sure to bring your swimwear that Sunday to join us in water games and go down our water slide!

New Christian Formation activities will start later this month. We are having a Harry Potter Birthday Movie Party on Saturday, July 31 at 2 pm. There will be crafts, magical treats along with the "Sorcerer's Stone" movie and discussion. This will also provide a way to let Harry Potter fans know about an upcoming study Fr. Harry and I will be leading that will look at the books one chapter at a time through spiritual themes. This study will be called "Order of the Phoenix: A Spiritual Journey with Harry Potter" and is for interested people ages 11 and up. I have already spoken to a few people who are excited about this study opportunity.

I have been communicating with Sidney Sneed about some opportunities for adult Christian formation. He is being trained to serve as an EFM mentor. Education for Ministry is a program through Sewanee Seminary to equip lay people for ministry. It is a four-year program of intense study that costs \$375 per year for participants. There are scholarships available. We would be the only church offering this program on the West side of the Valley. He will also provide a deeper study of the "Lead Like Jesus" program on Tuesday evenings. At some point, he will also provide a study of the book by Adam Hamilton, "The Walk" about essential practices of Christian life.

Starting in September, Fr. Dave and I will offer Wednesday evening adult Christian formation. Every other week, I will offer "Graceful Nurture" which uses the Godly Play stories and learning method adapted for adults. Fr. Dave is developing a study for the alternating weeks.

Christian formation with children will start along with our VBS make up dates. We will have VBS make up stories on August 22 and 29. We will be off September 5 for Labor Day. On September 12, we will meet for our introductory Godly Play session. September 19 will be our makeup water day and regular classes will resume on September 26. We will start with one Godly Play class and expand to two as our attendance increases.

Youth Christian formation will take place after worship on Sundays until we hire a Youth Minister. We will bring in pizza or subs and have a discussion using the TeenText curriculum resource. I have used this in the past and it is a great resource that uses open ended questions to help teens dive deep into the readings from the weekly lectionary. It helps them connect the scriptures with their experiences.

Also in the fall, we will have "Faith Building with Legos" once a month on Saturdays. At these fun events, we will tell a Bible Story and invite participants to build their interpretation of the story out of Legos. I am hoping we will have participants of all ages. This will not only be a chance for children to play but for adults who aspire to be Lego Masters like on the reality show. We will be requesting donations of Legos to use for this ministry.

I am looking forward to these upcoming opportunities for all ages and hope to see you at some of them.