

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sister Bay
Vestry Meeting
July 24, 2023
MINUTES

The meeting convened at 1p.m. Attendees: Brit Frazier, Betsy Rogers, Trudy Jischke, George Hughes, Susan Hoffert, Carol Heil, Karen Malzahn, Norma Bramsen, Carolyn Finch and Carol Ann Osinski. Pete Thelen, Lori and Ross Holton attended via Zoom.

Opening prayer

Susan offered the opening prayer.

Procedural

The July agenda was approved. The June minutes were amended per Karen and then approved.

Paul, Betsy and Mother Brit met regarding stewardship where they agreed to begin the drive in August with a series of parish forums on Sundays after coffee hour—about 11:45 a.m. to noon. The forums will be loosely structured with a different theme each week and offering a Q&A session and lasting 45 minutes to one hour. On Aug. 6th the theme will be pastoral care, explaining how St. Luke's is involved in the community. On the 13th the theme will be stewardship—why we ask, how the money is used and why it's important. The third Sunday (Aug. 20) will feature outreach and the 4th (Aug. 27) will discuss how and why to invite others to join St. Luke's as well as the future of St. Luke's in the Door County community. A full recap of each will be distributed through the Enews.

Bishop Gunter has suggested Tuesday, Sept. 5, as the date for the celebration of new ministry for Brit. Being just after Labor Day, it is hoped many of our summer residents will still be able to participate. Further planning will continue as we get closer to the date.

Brit's niece and nephew will be baptized at St. Luke's on Sept. 17th. Their parents will sponsor our coffee hour afterwards.

Ralph Blankenburg has volunteered to be the point person for outside groups to schedule events on our calendar. A copy will be put in clipboard alley and a pdf shared with those routinely in the building. Discussion was held on integrating the calendar with the website and a hot link included in the Enews so people can also sign up online. This will be discussed between Ralph, David Skidmore and Brit when David is back from their trip.

Junior warden's report— George asked everyone to thank Stan Hoffert when they see him for filling the cracks in the parking lot.

A discussion was held on the columbarium. Lori proposed that a special meeting be held between her, Carol H., Brit, Betsy and George as there is a need to discuss several issues including memorials. Each Vestry member was asked to visit columbaria at other churches for ideas which will be discussed at our August meeting.

Karen proposed that the outstanding balances from the Teicher and Timm memorials be transferred to a new Burial/Memorial Garden fund. Motion was made and passed.

George asked Susan and Betsy to look for burial contracts and a directive from the Bishop regarding the columbarium when they clean out the files in the office located in the Canterbury room. Brit suggested we begin to consider digitizing all files.

Lori asked that whoever is on the kitchen committee be identified as the oven is in dire need of cleaning. Karen said it was an informal committee. Lori will clean the oven on Aug. 20th.

Senior warden's report—Betsy reported a separate meeting for policy review will be scheduled.

Diana Wallace has asked to be relieved as a convention delegate. The convention will be held Oct. 21 at St. Thomas's in Menasha. David Skidmore is the other delegate. Pete agree to take Diana's place and assured everyone that Roberta will be alternate.

Betsy has paid the renewal fees for Zoom, since we still use it quite often, including Vestry meetings, book club and happy hour.

She also urged everyone to think about Vestry elections in January. She and George will end their terms. Paul and Susan are also scheduled to go off in January. She added that she hoped those members whose terms are not up will continue to serve. If anyone has a compelling reason to go off the Vestry, contact Betsy.

Outreach—Brit asked to adjust the agenda to allow the Outreach committee to report before the treasurer. The Vestry agreed.

Pete reported that the Door of Life Food Pantry is in dire need of donations; they are out of everything. He will send an email to the rest of the committee for approval to provide more funds for food and grocery gift cards. (He did and the motion was made to purchase as much of the items in need that we can afford; motion carried.)

Susan asked that we make a request for donations in the Enews, offering a list of suggested items and that for those who prefer it, we accept checks. Brit will announce the situation on Sunday. Trudy will speak with Heidi on whether she needs help with shopping.

Rector's report—Brit thanked everyone for their help with and participation in the parish picnic and the Bishop's visit.

Kathy Blankenburg has offered to team up with Brit for a class on the Acts of the Apostles. Dates to be determined.

She encouraged everyone to participate in the Zoom triologue discussions for information in general and what the effort means to our parish. She noted we will not be as materially affected as others.

She reiterated the plan to begin our stewardship campaign earlier with the forums as a soft launch in an effort to include summer residents. Additionally a more formal program with speakers is planned for every other Sunday, beginning Sept. 27. She would like to ask three families to testify as to why they give. Brit, Paul and Betsy will write articles for the Enews as to when the drive will begin.

It was decided to also add envelopes in the back for those who prefer using them for the plate.

Upon noticing moments of anxiety within the congregation regarding change, Brit encouraged everyone to alert her and to work together to be sure to dispel rumors, correct misinformation and ask others to come to her or members of the Vestry if they have concerns.

Treasurer's report—Pledge income continues largely as projected, although the termination of one monthly pledge as of May 1 will reduce our income this year (pledge budget has not yet been reduced accordingly). Compounded with the ongoing reduction in Giver of Record income, our income this year is unlikely to meet its target this year, for the first time in memory. We expect our cash cushion from previous good years will take a hit this year, but not to the point of needing to take money from investments. On-line giving is on hold until webmaster David returns in mid August but we expect to move ahead with VANCO.

Most of the complex web of activity surrounding the transfers of investment to new instruments and administrators has now been spun, and changes will come more slowly. TDA has merged our investments into one statement, including a holding of about \$114,000 in Treasuries. That performance is not broken out on the statements in a way we can track as a separate fund. We still have \$.13 in Fidelity because of a late dividend posting. The former savings account balance as of June 30 will become part of the operating fund, and some of our checking account funds were transferred into that fund in July (not reflected here). Fortunately, the DCT made \$21,000 in the second quarter. It is hard to tell what is happening with TDA/Fidelity with the various changes in value because of the transfer, but activity in future months should be clearer.

Expenses continue as in recent months, higher than last year. Accounts with budgets that are likely to be exceeded soon include Cleaning, Bookkeeper, Printed Materials for Worship, Altar supplies, and Holiday Flowers. The

expenses are all justifiable but the cumulative effect is significant and spending at these rates will be a challenge to sustain. Some budget categories are largely unspent. Some other costs are continuing to rise: We received word from the Diocese that next year's building insurance premium will go up \$345.

Old business— No progress on finding a new bookkeeper. Karen asked everyone to alert her to any possible candidates they may know or know of.

Kathy Blankenburg has offered to take over providing flowers for the altar. It was noted there is no line item for this in the budget. This will be discussed when creating next year's budget.

New business— None

Lori offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m. The next meeting will be held Sunday, July 20th, at 12:45 after the forum. Betsy will offer the opening prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffert
Vestry Clerk