

## 2024-02-28 St. Brendan Vestry Minutes - REVISED

Date: February 28, 2024

Time: 8:30 - 10 a.m.

Location: St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church, Deer Isle

Present:

- Rev. Elaine Hewes
- Allen Downs
- George Pazuniak
- Meg Graham
- Jack Beaudoin
- Beth Carter via Zoom
- Dan Reardon via Zoom

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer – Elaine expressed the vestry’s gratitude for Marilyn Verhey, recognizing not simply her contributions to St. Brendan’s as a vestry member but the many ways in which we have all been touched and shaped by her presence.
2. Acceptance of Minutes from Last Meeting  
Dan moved to accept the minutes, and Beth seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.
3. Ministry Highlights
  - a. **Outreach** - Dan reports that the committee is beginning to assess opportunities at the local, state and global level. The committee, according to Elaine, is also discussing how to better utilize the basement for community work, such as Window Dressers. There are concerns about the condition of the basement which might impact future use. Outreach will pick up this thread at its next meeting.
  - b. **Building, Grounds and Technology** - George reports that the new gutter system has been installed, which should have an impact on the “dry-ability” of the basement. Both spigots attached to the boiler are leaking, a continuing issue, but the plumbing/HVAC team is on it. Allen noted that the overdose rescue kit has been installed near the AED and signage placed. We might consider holding a NARCAN and AED training following a Sunday service.
  - c. **Educational and Spiritual Formation** - Approximately 20 people participated in the Lenten program on C.S. Lewis’ *The Screwtape Letters*.

- d. **Pastoral Care** - Elaine reported that the work is proceeding as usual.
  - e. **Worship & Music** - Meg reported that the work is proceeding as usual. Brief discussion of:
    - i. Details of upcoming services for Easter and Palm Sunday.
    - ii. Plans for Good Friday service and Easter morning celebration.
  - f. **Welcome & Hospitality** - Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner was fantastic, Beth said. Donations amounting to nearly \$250 will be allocated to ERD.
  - g. **Finance** - Dan does not have January financials yet. The Gill Foundation gift account is, for the most part, intact. We've spent only a couple of hundred dollars on a lecture series. The apparent liabilities on the previous balance sheet can be attributed to money "owed" from 2023 to 2024, such as prepaid pledges. Only \$150 were "real" liabilities— such as prepayment on future hall rentals.
    - i. Discussion of Gill Family Foundation gifts - the parish has made several recommendations, but the decision-making process has stalled. There was a discussion about restarting the process.
    - ii. Sound system - The vestry explored enhancing the sanctuary's sound system for better hearing, including options like earphones, coil systems, and acoustic improvements, as well as addressing sound issues in the hall. We agreed to bring in an expert in church acoustics to assess our needs.
4. Old Business
- a. Acceptance of Parochial Report - Meg moved, Dan seconded. Unanimously accepted.
  - b. Update on the nominating committee - Meg (chair) said the committee is forming now. Allen and Meg will represent the vestry, and non-vestry members need to be invited. The committee will need to replace three vestry members and fill in a fourth (vacant) seat.
  - c. Elaine reminded vestry members of the Safe Church training requirements and documentation.
  - d. Getting ready for the Bishop's visit in June - June 16 worship with a gala dinner on 6/15 for vestry and the Bishop.
  - e. Monthly review of one of four visioning goals - Meg led a discussion about how to invite greater engagement and participation by inviting parish members. Initiate a "feedback" effect. On the list for our next meeting: Assess progress on the "youth" goal.

- i. Perhaps a discussion of what worked and what did not work as part of the needle exchange program? What can we learn from that experience?
- ii. We need to set a date to invite the director of Project Launch to discuss the program, its mission and needs. We donated \$500 to the program and it fits into to our “youth” goal.

Additionally, Elaine asked members of the vestry to prepare short reflections about what feels nourishing, energizing and vital about leadership. What matters? We don't want service to feel like drudgery. We need to help people understand what it means to say yes. How do we invite people into this ministry? Elaine emphasizes honesty - could we do it better? Meg suggests, as an example, observing a shift from a “power” orientation to a “service” orientation.

5. New business

Since April 7 will be a service of healing, it was suggested that we might try to schedule training for AED and Narcan on this date.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent. The next meeting is scheduled for the 27th of March.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Beaudoin, Clerk