

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove

Vestry Minutes for October 20, 2024 @ 12:10 PM

In attendance: The Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Correne Murphy, Jeffrey Carter (via iPhone), Paul Freeman, Ronya McCool, Mary Anne Pikrone

Absent: Dawn Indelicato-Faw, Ann Balsamo, Jonathan Cureton

Guests: Ezra Doyle

Opening prayer led by Rev. Nancy.

Quorum was noted. Behavioral covenant was reviewed.

Ronya will brief absent Vestry members.

Appreciations to Travis Hall (garden) and The Rev. Dr. Carol Wesley (supply priest 10/13).

Minutes from September postponed to November Vestry meeting.

Ezra Doyle reviewed St. John's' involvement in Tower Grove Pride and Mass on the Grass. Ezra asked rhetorical questions: "Should this be a joint activity with other parishes such as CCC and Trinity CWE?" "Should we consider glitter blessings?" "Can St. John's adequately staff the booth for both days?" Ezra notes that Trinity CWE in particular also has a vested interest and long history with LGBTQIA+ matters in the this region. Rev. Nancy suggests a post-event meeting to assess and plan for next year. Mass on the Grass needs evaluation about ownership, guidelines, and liturgy. Again, post-event meeting to assess and plan for next year.

Check-in among Vestry members, sharing joys, successes, concerns, and sorrows.

Continuing matters.

Stewardship. Ann Balsamo suggests:

- October 20—Vestry meeting
 - Review Stewardship materials and calendar
 - **Confirm methods, forms, how-to's for online pledge payments**
- Week of October 28 -- -- Mailing with letter, FAQs, Pledge Cards (financial and time/ talent – two- sided) 2024 year's pledge/giving to date. Include letter in weekly newsletter
- Sunday, November 3 – Kick-off – Ann will kick it off, Jesse Brower-Toland also to talk
 - **Coffee hour presentation on 2024 budget?**
- Sunday, November 10 and 17 – Speakers Jeffrey Carter (17th) and Mary Anne Pikrone (10th)
- Sunday, November 24 – in gathering

- December – clean up and budgeting

Motion (Ronya/Mary Anne) approved.

Online giving. Jeff recommends working with Louise (bookkeeper) to begin onboarding ContinuingtoGive.com, using their Silver plan level.

Vestry, please look at <https://www.continuetogive.com/online-giving-fundraising/price-overview-churches.html>.

Nominating committee. Please provide report by November Vestry meeting.

Garden. East lawn gardening project completed. Jeff will send appreciation

Building and grounds. Mary Anne wishes to be team lead on building and grounds. Discussion of needed and aspirational projects to close out 2024 and into 2025.

Rector's report.

Financials. New bookkeeper report and September balance sheet etc. received, but not yet reviewed in detail. Financial report next month. Executive Committee and Jeff to review current report and discuss with Louise. Executive Committee to meet Thursday 10/24 to discuss financials.

Deacon for St. John's. Diocese is assigning a deacon, Beth Ann Rolfing.

Outreach and engagement activities. Bingo Night was successful. "Phantom of the Opera" screening is gaining traction.

Repairs. Awaiting door that fits to repair the break-in.

Prayers for election. Wednesday, 10/30 during Evening Prayer.

Diocesan safety plan. Diocese requests that parishes create a safety plan for possible intrusion or targeted attack during services or events. Rev. Nancy will impanel a team to create a safety plan. Insurance agent is also in the mix about possible hazards around the church. Team to include Mary Anne, Jeff, Rev. Nancy, and possibly Gina. Consider engaging with SLPD.

Safe church compliance. Paul will remind Vestry members about Safe Church compliance.

Action items:

1. Appreciations in mail
2. Paul canvas Vestry for Safe Church compliance
3. Kick off stewardship campaign (Ann and others)
4. Continue on-line giving conversation (Jeff, Nancy)

5. Vestry nominations (Ronya and others)
6. Safety plan creation (Nancy and others)

Vestry report to congregation:

10/27 — Mary Anne

11/3 — Ronya

Welcome greeting:

10/27 — Mary Anne Pikrone

11/3 — Ronya

11/10 — Paul

11/17 — Jonathan

11/24 — Correne (include Vestry report)

12/1 — Jeff (include Vestry report)

Next meetings:

Thursday, 11/14 at 7 PM on Zoom: Executive committee, with Mary Anne to join

Sunday, 11/17 at 12.05 PM: Vestry in person

Respectfully committed,

Jeffrey Carter
Recording scribe