

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING AUGUST 18, 2022

The August Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:00 p. m. by Fr. Josh Stephens, our Rector. Those attending included: Curate, Fr. Ian Williams, Senior Warden, Jennifer Shelton, Clint Adams, John Barker, E. R. Haire, Will Rodriguez, Kim Sanders, Lynn Wiescholek, and Dick Zecher. Those absent were Elizabeth Christenbury, Marissa Pharr, and Gibson Sims.

Devotional: After a Vestry member check-in time, Lynn Wiescholek led the opening devotional. After relating stories that emphasized celebrating approximations and listening to the wisdom from the mouths of babes', she closed with a prayer.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda for August: Vestry members moved to accept all committee reports for the month of August. Clint made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 19 Vestry meeting; it was seconded by Jennifer and passed. There was no discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported that while income continues to exceed expenses to date, other contributions and memorials are below budget. Full-year expenses are expected to exceed the Annual Budget due to increased costs of natural gas, office equipment, and maintenance for building repair and painting. However, an anonymous gift of \$25,000 was received to defray the costs of repairing and painting the Church's exterior trim and woodwork.

The finance committee met recently and projected a small surplus for the year. Still, there continues to be a need for pledges to be paid. The committee has begun working on the 2023 budget. Tom also reported that Slater Solomon of Corliss & Solomon, PLLC will be conducting the audit of all 2021 finances.

Fr. Josh made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by Will and was passed.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh reported that he had met recently with the Askews, Deacon Sandy, and Dick Zecher to discuss ways to reach more parishioners that are homebound through our Lay Eucharistic Visitor Ministry. Goals included identifying parishioners who are unable to attend services, consolidating the pastoral caregivers and LEV ministries, and training more volunteers. The group also discussed ways to communicate and collaborate with other ministries including the Meal Train, Prayer Shawls, and cards.

Fr. Josh also discussed the annual pledge drive will begin in early September. Information will be mailed to parish members in September. An Ingathering for

Pledging event is being planned and is scheduled for Sunday, October 16 @ 11:00 at Kanuga Conference Center. There will be a church service followed by a cookout.

In addition, Fr. Josh shared information about a Covid Relief Fund from the Village of Flat Rock. More details along with applications will be available soon, Through this fund, the church could receive funding for expenditures directly related to the pandemic such as air filtration and AV systems.

Curate's Report – Fr. Ian reported that since his arrival in late June, he has been involved in many aspects of parish life at St. John in the Wilderness. Currently, he is collaborating with Lynn and Mary Anne on Christian Education curriculums for youth and coordinating a St. John Young Family Ministry gathering on August 21 as well as a Youth Breakfast on September 11. He is also planning a joint Youth Group outing with Holy Cross Tryon on September 18.

In addition to officiating funerals, healing services, alternating schedules for preaching and celebrating with Fr. Josh, he has attended the Historic Flat Rock Summer Social, attended a Historic Grounds Committee Meeting, and visited Interfaith Assistance Ministries.

Senior Warden's Report: Jennifer discussed an outreach activity scheduled for September 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. here at the church. The church will host '*Rise Against Hunger*', a national program that helps to supply food to children around the world. Forty volunteers are needed to pack approximately \$3,500 worth of food.

Junior Warden's Report: In Gibson's absence, Fr. Josh reported that the security doors for the Administrative and Education Buildings have been ordered. Painting the church is scheduled for September. The kitchen in the Wilderness Room will also be remodeled due to a donation in honor of Mike Covell.

Old Business

Summer Fellowship Dinner Update: Lynn and Elizabeth reported that there have been some changes with the fellowship dinners, but all have gone well. Vestry members are encouraged to invite people to fill out the desired number of guests at their dinners.

Instead of an August breakfast, the church will have a reception following the 11:00 service on August 28th. We will only have one service that will be held in the parish hall. Special music is planned.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: Clint Adams discussed the theme of *Together for Joy (Psalm 98)*. Clint, Fr. Ian, and Fr. Josh will be working on a letter that will be sent to parishioners in early September. Sarah will be updating the brochure that was used last year. Clint also

discussed our fall gathering scheduled for October 16 at Kanuga. The annual pledging timeline is pending and will be shared in September. A discussion of setting goals ensued; last year's goal was 170 with 164 pledges being received. The Finance Committee has a meeting on September 8 for more discussion and preliminary planning of the 2023 budget.

Sustainability Committee: The transition from paper and plastic products to sustainable dishware has been well received. Groups are using glasses, cups & saucers, plates, cloth napkins, and utensils. All paper and plastic products on campus will be gathered and stored in labeled boxes and be available should the need to use them arise (outdoor events, power outages, dishwasher failure, etc.) Replacement tablecloths and cloth napkins have been donated by the Flat Rock Foundation and church members. Further, St. John will discontinue purchasing single-use water bottles except for a few to be stored in the ushers' closet in the church for use in the event of a personal emergency. Instead, water dispensers and reusable tumblers will be placed in the office reception area, Wilderness Room, and Parish Hall kitchens.

Members of the church staff also practice sustainability. Sarah has begun recycling St. John's Konica copier ink cartridges, which are being picked up by Konica Minolta's Clean Planet Program. Kevin has begun using a homemade natural weed killer to replace Roundup and reports success with this product.

Following the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the August Vestry Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker

Clerk of the Vestry