

Holy Spirit Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Present: Kevin Borg, Torian Donohoe, Mark Dvarishkis, Elizabeth Ettenger, Marva Gallegos, Mary Jennings, Joslin Siler, Kent Watson, Jim Wiley

1) Opening Prayer – Jim Wiley

2) Administrative/Business Matters

- Kent asked about reporting on boiler issues recorded in April Minutes; clarified that on pg. 3 of April Minutes Kevin is actually spearheading effort
- Kent noted that he has followed up with water, not electric provider as stated in April Minutes
- Torian asked about “Parks Front Office” charge on expense report – Jim answered that it is a charge for renting the pavilion at the public park
- **Motion to approve Consent Agenda with items noted above; Seconded, Motion Passed**

3) Parishioners’ Concerns

- Received two thank-you notes – one from MIC for the butterfly grant that was given for convict rehabilitation/support after incarceration, one from Emmaus Ministry for partnership and support in campus ministry
- Two newcomers to HSP – Kelly Grubaugh and Leslie McShane

4) Finance

Mark reviewed the April financial report

- Mark noted that the cost of Asst. Priest are offset by of Director of Spiritual Formation role due to Gretchen’s change in position; we are \$1,000 over budget due to transition
- Noted extra cost of pension, fringe costs that had not been anticipated and needed to be back paid to June, 2018
- Noted additional pledges that have come in; Rummage sale surpassed budget with an estimated \$8,451 in revenues
- Marva commented that revenues from Rummage sale fluctuate from year-to-year
- On the Buildings and Grounds budget line item, money was donated to this cause so the balance appears “negative” though it is actually just reflecting the donation
- Kent inquired about advertising – do we really want to cut back? Concerns about advertising for Easter service and otherwise. Jim and Torian expressed that attendance seems to be up from anecdotal evidence

- Investments are doing well – about \$27,000 in income so far this year, or roughly an 8 percent return
- Torian asked about Lawn and Garden – noted that volunteers have been helping and we need more volunteers to assist with lawn/garden. Torian will discuss an ad in Spirited Times to recruit more help. Kent will inquire about irrigation issues and soggy spots that are concerning
- **Motion to approve April financial report; Seconded, Motion Passed**

5) Memorial Board

- MB met and agreed to re-write bylaws to clarify that MB funds will go exclusively to HSP – regardless of MB status/dissolution at any future date

6) Old Business

- Data Security: Mark and Judy are looking at options for data storage. Currently comparing costs and software options
- Easter Brunch was a success – Marva and Torian have created a list of guidelines on food, logistics – next year we need more people for final clean up, we should perhaps make coffee hour sign up separate from brunch sign up
- Boilers: Jim stated that Temp Right has discovered that there was air in the system creating the “clunking” noise reported by staff and parishioners. There is a question about a potential puddle downstairs and that will be investigated. Work with Temp Right is ongoing, though slowly progressing
- Roof: Kevin reported that Margaret Borg has been in touch with original roofer – he has extra roof tiles he needs to bring over to the church. There are a few leaks that need to be addressed
- Bishop Search: Jim noted that we need to be engaged in Bishop Search/final slate of candidates. Encouraged all to send questions to search committee
- Budget/Shortfall Pledge Update: Jim, Mark, Elizabeth, Mary will be meeting to discuss ongoing budget challenges and possible solutions.

7) New Business

- Reviewed copier proposal from Ricoh
- **Motion to approve renewed copier lease; Seconded; Approved.**
- Vestry agreed to take August off
- Elizabeth will put together a sign-up sheet for Vestry members to bring cookies for the 12 weeks of summer and email to Vestry

8) No discussion of Ministry Reports

9) Other

- Need to consider alternatives to current Wednesday Vestry meeting time
- Kevin discussed AED training with Pat – Pat is willing to teach class likely in June. Individual may decide if they would like to pay \$5 for certification
- Mark noted that there was no Easter Egg Hunt this year; several parishioners seemed disappointed

Date and time for next Vestry meeting: Wednesday, June 12th at 1:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Ettenger (on behalf of Ann Wiltse, Clerk, who could not attend due to unexpected work change)

May Rector's Report to Vestry

Let me begin by thanking everyone for all the varied contributions to Holy Week and Easter services and hospitality! There are so many who put long hours into preparation for every aspect of this very special time and I want to express my gratitude on behalf of the parish to all involved.

Just prior our last Vestry meeting I attended the Bishop Search Retreat at Chico, continuing the discernment process with the Nominating Committee and several other candidates. It was an intense and very valuable time and I commend all the work of the N.C. for the way the retreat was carried out. As of last week, the final slate was produced with three excellent candidates. I am not one of those, but I am confident in the work of the Spirit in all of this, feel very good about what lies ahead for us at Holy Spirit, and for what will come in terms of the diocese and our next bishop. I continue to learn much from all the work I've done in this process to date and expect to continue to discern what next steps for all of us will be. Thank you for all the support and encouragement along the way.

The week after Easter I received news of my Mom's passing. It was time, and thankfully I had seen her in person just after the Bishop Search Retreat. For all your kind thoughts and prayers over the years regarding both of my parents, my heartfelt thanks.

The work of our ministry together continues. I was immediately brought back to the fullness of life together with Rummage Sale week, meeting with the Lake Missoula Clericus to prepare us to lead Clergy Conference this week, several pastoral visits particularly around aging (something we will talk more about in the months ahead), and had meetings with Staff, the Wardens, Memorial Board members, and the Personnel Committee.

Spring has clearly arrived with green up and now flowers bursting forth on the trees. We are blessed to live and serve in this part of God's creation!

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger
Rector

May Vestry Ministry Reports

A) Communications – Judy Parock, Chair

Our thanks to Dorcie Dvarishkis, Mark Dvarishkis, and Judy Parock for taking some wonderful pictures of our Holy Week and Easter celebrations. We posted them in albums on our church Facebook page and created slideshows for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday to highlight those services on our Facebook page. We also thank Frank Sherman for changing out the banners in the church courtyard, so we were ready for the Easter season.

The pace of parish life has not slowed down after Easter. In fact, the calendar has been full of events which is a good sign for our church community. Our focus after Easter has moved on to promoting all those upcoming church events. We developed posters for the church Rummage Sale on May 3 and 4, Camp Marshall Sunday on May 5, the Back-to-School BASH Book Drive on May 12 and 19, and our joint Kids Camp with University Congregational Church on June 17-21. We have also created rotators for all these events and posted them on the website and church Facebook page and also promoted these events in the Spirited Times, church newsletter and Sunday bulletin. We created Facebook events for the Rummage Sale, the Book Drive and the Kids Camp to invite people to share information about the event and to participate in the event as well. We have ongoing Facebook events for our Compline service, the Centering Prayer gatherings, the Love God, Love Yourself small group, and the Holy Spirit Supper Club which we use to highlight those meetings as well. Detailed information about the events is always available on the church calendar on the website as well.

Much of the focus after Easter was in the promotion of our church Rummage Sale. As we reported last month, we updated the posters for the Rummage Sale and posted them on the website and the church Facebook page. Our goal was to provide information that would assist with the donation of goods for the sale and to raise awareness regarding the sale in the community. The Rummage Sale committee handles some of its own publicity, and they advertised their event in the Missoulian in ads in the rummage sale section of the classifieds, as well as on Craigslist. This enabled us to reach a greater market in western Montana for the sale. We created a Rummage Sale event on our church Facebook page which we used to encourage people to share among their friends and thus increase the profile of the event in our community. We posted several updates regarding the Rummage Sale to the event page and used those posts to reach more in the community. Judy Parock took photos throughout the week of set up and sales for the Rummage Sale which were then posted to the church Facebook page and used to encourage donations and participation in the sale.

Planning also took place for the promotion of our Kids Camp (formerly Vacation Bible School) for June 17-21. This year we are doing this camp in conjunction with University Congregational Church, and the camp will be taking place at UCC. We wanted to have the promotional materials ready for use in May so that they would be available before the end of Church School. A poster was created that both churches can use as well as a coordinating registration form. A rotator was also created for the website homepage to advertise the event.

We're revamped the look of the homepage on the website by using a photo as the background image for the Newcomers' section. We think it has a more interesting look than what we had there before. We used this section on the homepage to highlight our Holy Week and Easter services, and the background photo was very eye-catching. As with the Newcomer section, you can click through to deeper in the website to get more detailed information.

– Judy Parock

- B) Holiday Market – Marva Gallegos
No report.
– Marva Gallegos, Vestry Liaison

- C) Parish Life – Don Gisselbeck (Kathy Swannack, Coffee Hours; Anne Cohen, receptions)
Reception committee report: The Reception Committee provided the reception following the Easter Vigil.
– Anne Cohen

Coffee Hours: Terri would like to continue the regular Coffee Hours through Pentecost Sunday, June 9. We currently need hosts for some of the Sundays in May. We will continue to follow up with members of the Coffee Hour Ministry to see if we can supply hosts for the remaining Sundays. If we can't supply hosts for those Sundays, Lori Cordis will make coffee. Lori Cordis will take over in June with setting up tables and chairs, making coffee and setting out treats for the summer. Someone from the Vestry will need to buy cookies for her for the Summer Coffee Hours.

– Kathy Swannack

- D) Properties – Kevin Borg and Kent Watson (Margaret Borg and Kevin Borg, co-chairs)
Properties/Buildings Report: The installation of the new pumps for the boiler was completed during Holy Week. At the same time, they repaired the leaking heating pipes in the Church School area and replaced the faulty backflow prevention valve that was cited by the state boiler inspector. The source of the “Big Bang” noise in the church has not been resolved and is still under further review.

Our thanks to Sue Lowery and Jari Davis for planting the flower boxes and for doing a quick rake of the main church yard in time for Easter services. The regular lawn service folks came and did a thorough clean-up of the yard right after Easter. The sprinklers will be turned on after the Rummage Sale is over.

– Margaret Borg

- E) Rummage Sale – Ann Wiltse and Helen Matveyeff (Marva Gallegos, Chair)
The rummage sale is in full swing this week. Many church members are working to process all the donations of rummage. An update after the sale ends will be sent to Vestry members. A big thank you to all the Vestry members who helped during the week or came to help clean up. Your efforts are appreciated!
– Marva Gallegos, Chair

- F) Social Concerns – Elizabeth Ettenger (Jim Wiley, Chair)
The Social Concerns Committee met May 7, so a written report was not available for the Vestry meeting. A verbal report will be made at the meeting if there is anything urgent to report, and we will send out a written report later to the Vestry.
– Jim Wiley

- G) Spiritual Formation – Glenn Hladek and Mary Jennings (Gretchen Strohmaier, Chair)
Spiritual Formation:
Lenten Potlucks continued in April with Stacey Siebrasse from MIC and Donnel O’Flynn, the priest from Kalispell. The conversation about community, its power to gather people, and the strength it imparts for participation and action, was a meaningful dialogue. We tried a difference format this

year, spending some time in small group discussion. Our numbers of participation were smaller this year, averaging in the mid to upper 30s. The format change may have contributed to that. We'll take that into consideration for next year.

Prayer Workshop. We had nineteen participants in our day-long prayer workshop which explored prayer through movement, art and the BCP. It was a lovely mix of participants, including some folks who had never attended this sort of event before. Six different facilitators helped with leading the day, giving the experience richness and depth.

Small Group: Love God, Love Self. This group, facilitated by Jody Thomasson, continues meeting once a month. Their final session will be in May.

Ukrainian Egg Workshop. Barbara Morrison facilitated this event in April. She had approximately 10 participants.

Church School. We had two special events in April, and both drew more participation from our children and families. On Palm Sunday we told all the stories of Holy Week and then made prayer bottles. Fourteen children attended and made great use of the opportunity to ask questions about Jesus's death and resurrection. It was a lively discussion about why Jesus died and how it actually happened. The Sunday after Easter children (Church School and QUEST) gathered at the Missoula Food Bank for a special service project that brought us together with folks from the Presbyterian Church as well. Twenty-four folks from Holy Spirit attended. This mirrors what families told us about the importance they feel around service.

Planning. Plans for Vacation Bible School (a collaboration with the UCC church) and the summer picnic continue. I am working on recruiting new leadership and transitioning out of my role as the sole point person in many of my areas of responsibility.

Resilience Film. I attended the film, sponsored by Parenting Place, in April, as a means of education for myself around resilience of families and children.

Worship. I presided once, celebrated Eucharist once, and preached once in April.

Diocese. I attended Clericus in April and I continue to work on plans for co-facilitating a session during the upcoming clergy conference.

– The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier, Assistant Priest

Youth Ministry:

It's been a strange, yet busy month for Youth Ministry! This month we had a Youth Pack high school event, which had low attendance but was genuinely super fun! Youth Pack is looking at doing things like that more often, but hopefully with more kids!

We've not had a whole lot of QUEST/Youth Group meetings this month because of Easter, but when we did, they were very good. We've talked about Easter and what all of the holy days mean, and what all of them may mean to everyone.

This next month we will have regular QUEST and Youth Group meetings, but they will be our last for the year. I'm also starting to ask for materials/donations for Grace Camp backpacks!

I appreciate your support and thank you for all your work!
– PJ Willett, Director of Youth Ministry

H) Stewardship – Torian Donohoe (Paul Polzin, Chair)

Nothing to report from the stewardship committee since we have not met in quite some time. The next step is for Terri, Jim and I to formulate a response advising committee members of the importance of their work and clarifying that the Vestry envisions the committee playing a vital role in the future.

– Torian Donohoe