

Minutes from Vestry Retreat Feb 22, 2025

Attending: Emily, Carole, Lois, Pat K., Greg, Jack, Gail, Pat S., and Sharon.
Sue was traveling

Sharon called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Opening prayer was offered by Pat Kent.

The meeting continued with a round table of our blessings

Jack volunteered to take minutes for the meeting, Joelle was elected as clerk.

Election of officers

Sr. Warden - Pat Kent and Jack Chaney will serve as co-Sr. Wardens with Jack taking the primary and mentoring role and Pat serving as an active assistant

Jr. Warden - Greg Walter stated he would happily continue in the role for the year. There was no opposition

Parochial Report will be completed in the upcoming week. Jack had already forwarded the budget information for the on line form. Jack will request the remaining information from the Endowment to be forwarded to the office.

The discussion turned to planning for the upcoming year. The focus was to plan events to engage and involve the local community.

Make-it, Bake-it, Grow-it, Take-it: combined plants and seedling exchange, bake sale, crafting get together in the pavilion in the spring.

Summer Church School: Pat and Emily are taking the lead to provide a Church School summer program this year.

Euchre Tournaments: Greg and Francine are putting together a series of euchre tournaments to begin Feb 28. 50% of the take will be for prizes, and 50% going to a fund for a new stove in the kitchen.

Play Dates: With the inclusion of a play structure, have planned dates for get togethers for parents with children. Hot dogs, drinks, and popcorn.

Lions Tailgate Events: During the season, hold hot dog get togethers in the pavilion.

Chamber Music Evenings: Develop contact with local schools to hold outdoor concert events in the pavilion.

Chess Tournaments: Greg is going to contact the local Waterford Chess Club to see if they would like to hold a tournament in the pavilion.

Trunk or Treat: Around Halloween time. Include the reminder of All Saints at the same time.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew: Mens group similar to Daughters of the King

Scouting: Follow up with council for sponsoring a Cub Pack, also a Scout Troop focused on serving special needs. Also look into Girl Scouts and Campfire.

Continued involvement in Chamber of Commerce

Continued Fireside Chats

Possible Outdoor Movie Nights

Pat S. and Gail put forward an idea for an old member homecoming Sunday. Selecting a Sunday in September and sending out emails and letters to "missing members" to return for a Sunday.

Carole provided an update to the search process. The request was made to change the designation on the posting to be for a Priest in Charge, instead of a Rector. The difference is a Priest in Charge is at the pleasure of the Bishop, and is treated as more of a period of discernment for both the priest and the congregation with a simpler separation if things don't work out. A Rector serves at the pleasure of the Vestry and separation is complicated in the case of a bad fit. A motion was made by Greg to change our posting to a request for a Priest in Charge. Seconded by Emily. Motion passed with no opposition.

Sharon provided an exercise in reflection with four questions:

- Where do you see the Spirit active right now?
- How do we see/hear/listen to each other?
- How do we support each other?
- How/where do you see the Spirit leading us as we go forward?

The topic of making the service more interactive was discussed. Lois noted that when she participated in the presentation of the service it was markedly different than her current experience as a member of the congregation. Involvement gave a higher level of connection.

There was much discussion about how engaging our coffee after the service is. Noting the high percentage of people that stay after to join the fellowship.

Carole expressed that it might be beneficial for some to take part in Active Listening training in order to get a better understanding of community needs and provide ideas for improvement.

There was general agreement that the "Feel Good" church model was not what we would be going for, because the feeling is short lived and superficial. We need to continue to be a "Living Church" that serves all members and provides an inclusive and engaging environment.

Sharon requested the formation of a Stewardship Committee to provide development of a year round Stewardship process instead of a short term Stewardship Campaign at the end of the year.

Jack brought up the question about changing the policy about alcohol use on site. Resulting items of note:

- A rule structure of when it is permissible must be developed
- Licensing from the state was determined to be unnecessary
later noted: "a permit is needed"
- No BYO! There would also be a member of fellowship controlling service
- Beer and Wine only and selection of quality level would be determined by event

Next meeting will be March 18th at 7:00pm.