

Christ Church Vestry Meeting  
October 22, 2024  
In-Person & Zoom

**Attendance**

Clergy: Rev. Noelle York-Simmons & Rev. Robbie Laughton

Others: Julie Simonton & Anne Richardson

2025: Jack Hutcheson\*, Andrea McNicholas, Betsy Powell & Susan Magill\*

2026: Steve Reed, Cornelia Horner\*, Ken Knapp\* & Jay Purcell Manchester

2027: Kathleen Hickman, Chris Thompson, Nan Lawson & Wendy Montes de Oca

\* attended via Zoom

Absent: None

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**Call to Order & Opening Prayer**

The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Opening Prayer was led by Andrea McNicholas.

**Consent Agenda - Steve Reed**

It was moved and seconded to accept the September vestry meeting minutes. The motion carried with two abstentions.

**Staff Introduction - Robbie Laughton, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries & Pastoral Care**

Today's discussion will focus on the pastoral care part of his role.

- Pastoral care is Spiritual; Healing; Prayer & Presence
- Often in times of need but also includes joy
- It is meaning making
- It is not the exclusive domain of the clergy. It belongs to the church as a whole.
- We have an amazing pastoral care team at the church
  - Flower Delivery
  - Lay Eucharistic Visits
  - Long-term/Regular Check ins
- With only two priests, the lay team are being trained to further help through the Community of Hope International training
- How can the vestry help?
  - Ask questions when having conversations about care that's been received
  - If you learn of people that are homebound, ask if they would like a visit
  - Spread the word that lay pastoral care is indeed pastoral care
- It was suggested that lay ministers wear something denoting who they are and that they are representing the church

### **Stewardship Report - Julie Simonton**

- 2025 Pledges have begun!
- 2024 pledges are at 98% of our goal with \$1,540,823 from 368 people
- 61 pledges are in for 2025 and almost 60% have increased their pledges
- People are checking the box to have their pledge automatically increased and are using the calculation sheets
- Stewardship table will be outside the church through November
- People have been asking about a capital campaign - we are looking into a “comprehensive campaign” that could be launched in 2025, but we are at the beginning stages. This would be different than a capital campaign and wouldn’t have to be tied to the Fowler House

### **Treasurer’s Report – Anne Richardson**

- We are ¾ of the way through the year
- Nothing has changed dramatically
- The question was asked whether we can seasonally show revenue rather than straight line? This is a goal.
- September Revenue: \$144K
- September Expenses: \$167K

### **2025-2026 Budget - Anne Richardson**

We will be reviewing expenditure categories over the next few months - this month, we will discuss Property & Plant.

- 1.15 acres, 3 building historic campus plus 1.15 acres at Wilkes Street
- Space = program
- Supported by unrestricted gifts, restricted gifts & the Foundation
- Expenses include utilities, maintenance (some covered by Foundation), security, extermination, & supplies
- Benchmarking surveys say that average facilities costs should be \$6 - \$8 per square foot & we are paying \$7.33/square foot
- We have four buildings in four centuries
- We are planning to restore the report from the Foundation that shows the distribution, a percentage of which covers the HVAC

A Conversation was held around our revenue projections and the difference between a conservative estimate v. the optimistic view, which will continue to be updated.

### **Executive Session**

It was moved and seconded that the vestry go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously, and executive session began at 8:40 pm

Executive session returned at 8:45

### **News & Notes**

- Kathleen Hickman shared that for Thanksgiving, we will be going back to asking for food in addition to the gift cards
- Kathleen Hickman also shared that she attended a presentation at the Falls Church on truth telling and their report on racial justice. They have found records with enslaved people's names. They want to collaborate with us.
- Susan shared that she went on the Alexandria ghost tour, and our graveyard is a part of this tour with a trivia question asking how many people are buried here. They estimate 1,000 people.
- Jay shared that for Outreach, there is an emergency snack ministry needing supplies - these can be shipped straight to the church or to your home and delivered to the Lazarus Ministry
- Nan asked about the church security update
- Chris is being tasked with decorating the church for Christmas & Advent and is looking for suggestions.

### **Rector's Report - Rev. Noelle York-Simmons**

- Lia Sanchez fell in the auditorium recently. She is back at work but is limited. Former office manager Rosa returned to help.
- Annual Convention of the Diocese is coming up the second week of November. Noelle & Robbie will be there along with our delegates, and Susan Magill will be there as a member of the standing committee.
- The Presiding Bishop investiture of Sean Rowe will be a small affair at the National Church Office in New York. There will be a live stream offered.
- Staff gathered to plan Advent, which will be similar to the last two years.
  - The gift shop Christmas market will be earlier this year.
  - Advent 1 will include a display of nativity scenes belonging to the staff
  - Service project for food pantry guests will have hot chocolate bags & hand written notes
- Treasure Chest reports are rolling out - financial resiliency will be this Sunday. Still need to memorialize these reports.
- We had a great win with the Monday concert series, which was the idea of Margot Rood one of our choir members who is running the entire program. 150 people attended the first one. They will continue on the second Monday of the month. Tip tap pay was available and brought in a nice sum. It is being advertised at the tourist office and among other churches.

### **Warden's Report - Steve Reed & Jay Purcell Manchester**

- The Offutt Investment Committee met.
  - Nan Lawson was elected chair
  - The committee agreed to authorize \$19,000 to mission & outreach, which will be dedicated toward Meno Hospital.

### **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

- The next two vestry meetings are out of our regular pattern and will occur on the third Tuesday of the month due to Thanksgiving and Christmas (Nov. 19 & Dec. 17)
- Solemn mass is being sung on All Saints Sunday, November 3rd along with a reading of the nephrology followed by a reception
- Evening Prayer will be held on the eve of the election on November 4th

### **Closing Prayer**

Betsy Powell offered the Closing Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.