

**St. John's Vestry**  
**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**  
**March 14, 2023**  
**Meeting via Zoom- Due to Weather**

**In attendance:** Rev. Rob Stevens, Chuck Silva, Gerry Simpkins, Andy Bangs, Kelly Boston, Anne McSally, Chris Nettleton, Tom Gruen, Randy Philbrook, Lizzie Bristow, Brooke Bassett and Steve Falci.

**Absent:** Allie Dudas, Rebecca Hennessy, Barry Hechler

**At 7:00 Chuck called the meeting to order**

**1. Finance update: (Kelly)**

Kelly presented

- January total \$5,000 from the plate vs the \$2,500 that was planned
- Strong parking revenue is in line and favorable for \$6,000

Stewardship Update – we are close to the 300 pledges with a short list of names that Chuck was planning to reach out to; send names along to the Vestry for contact to reach our goal.

**2. Clergy Updates: (Rob)**

- There is an interview on 3/16 for a potential candidate for the Assistant Rector Position. Next steps are for the Vestry to discuss housing for the candidate and family. If it works out the timing will be a summertime hire.
- The two important factors for the new hire- Salary and benefits and for the family to be able to afford housing in the seacoast.
- Rob shared that St. Johns has a model that can support two full time Clergy. The current way of the patronage to pay off the debt of Rob's house is a practical approach for both the people purchasing the home and for St. Johns.
- The parochial report is done, the taxes that we do every year. Shout out to Rebecca and Michelle as they do the bulk of the work/ preparation of the report.
- Choir School update. Olin, Jennifer and Ashley are planning a benefit concert in May. There is an offering 2x per year to benefit the choir school in the Spring and the Fall, planning on Palm Sunday's offering to go to Choir School. A fundraising team will work on planning for the benefit concert event. Choir School is a strong way to recruit new families to St. Johns.

**3. Building update: (Gerry & Rob)**

- Gerry discussed that the fire department is coming in for a final check this month. There is a maintenance list of ongoing projects that continue to be addressed.
- Rob shared that the new sound system was going to be put in and ready for the following Sunday's service. He shared that the equipment and labor came in at \$23,000 when they had budgeted for \$30,000. Rob shared that it had been 22 years since the sound system was updated. The money used for the new system came from the Decker Fund. Rob and Olin are planning to team up to get donations to cover the cost and pay it back.
- Rob discussed a strong interest in looking into handicap/ wheelchair seating in church. He shared that once you enter the church there is not really a place for wheelchair accessibility.

Gerry and Rob have a contact to reach out to about the work that needs to be done to the pews to make this happen. Gerry confirmed that he always gets 3 quotes for comparison of numbers and will do this moving forward with the handicap accessibility project.

**Closing prayer: Rob offered a prayer to end our meeting.**

**Meeting adjourned: approximately 8:00PM**