

Vestry Meeting Minutes July 16, 2023

Attendance: Peggy Lefebvre, Mary White, Joanne Sims, Marilee Roth, Tim French, Judy Joseph, Jennifer Frechette, Linda Anderson, Mth Darlene Kuhn, Barbara Ryan

Vestry meeting opened at 12:30 with the Covenant of Leadership.

Mth Darlene began a discussion of book “Walk in Love” The Roman church added “and Son” without talking to other denominations in the Nicene creed. The Episcopal Church has now deleted “and Son.” Anglican church is based on tradition, scripture, and reason. Read pages 223 to 268, chapters 17 to 20, for next meeting. “The Church Cracked Open” by Stephanie Spellers was suggested for next book.

Peggy gave the treasurer’s report: spent about \$20,000 including \$11,000 for fire suppression system refill in past month. She will send the pledge status letters out. Currently we are only \$250. off financial mark which is good; expenses are in line with budget. But building expenses are eating into savings. Sunday August 13th Mth Darlene will talk about stewardship and Tim will talk about expensive upkeep of building.

The Senior Warden’s stewardship letter will be sent July 30th. Marilee’s letter will be given on stewardship Sunday.

Bill Card’s memorial donations were over \$3000. David will decide how it should be spent. Paul Cromheecke’s memorial receipt also over \$3000.

Tim, Sr. Warden, said he felt congregation awesome; everybody helps.

Linda talked about the Fall fling; this is the last year she will be the person in charge. She will continue to sponsor at Chikaming Country Club; Tim said he also would be willing to sponsor. The fling will be Sunday, September 24th, from two to five, with heavy hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, auction items. There will be one super basket plus smaller ones for auction. Parishioners will obtain donations ... restaurant certificates, theme baskets, other items that guests will bid on. Linda will put out signup sheets. The fling committee consists of Tim and Jolynn French, Marilee Roth, Joanne Sims, Peggy Lefebvre, and Linda Anderson. Matt Conklin did all billing and set up credit system for last year’s fling. Last year made \$10,000, spent \$2000. with net profit of \$8000. Honored Neighbor by Neighbor, Interfaith Action, Feeding America, and Pokagon Fund.

Mth Darlene has asked Bean Craig to be the junior member of the vestry. He will talk to his parents.

David Lewis has moved the sign for our trail that is part of Chikaming Open Lands trail challenge. The trail starts behind the Stumphenge.

A cell phone company has contacted the church about putting tower on top of steeple. Several churches have agreed to this and is a good source of extra income for church.

Marilee reported that the Altar Guild and the flower guild have been merged. Jolynn purchased seven gift cards that can be used to purchase flowers at Meijers. They no longer want flowers charged.

Sunday, September 10th the service will be at New Buffalo Park followed by the church picnic.

Sunday, August 27, will be a service at 5:00 p.m. at Lions Park, St. Joe, with the other Episcopal churches in the area. Would still have the regular morning service here at the church.

Mary moved, Joanne seconded, that all reports be accepted.

Putting the collection plate at the back of the church was discussed again. This is being done in some churches in other dioceses since many people are now paying their pledge via automatic bank deductions. Mth Darlene will loan the church a nice plate to be used to try out the change. She will announce the change during announcements. We will continue to pass the plates for a short time until congregation gets used to the change.

We are currently serving communion wine in small glasses instead of a common chalice. We can now go back to a common chalice however some are not comfortable with the common chalice. Temporally we will use both. The bread will be served in the middle with the common chalice on one side and the individual glasses on the other. The vestry voted against the use of grape juice.

The meeting closed at 1:32 with Jennifer praying.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ryan, secretary