

St. Alban's Vestry Meeting Minutes

August 13th, 2013, 6:00 PM

Present Jen Tarling, Kelly Moughty, Frank Governali, Audrey Delafield, Michelle Whitney, Gretchen Hartley, Fr. Tim Boggs, Jim Croft, Connie Babcock, Jason Burks, Erik Olsen, Bill Bell, Bruce Babcock, Nancy Pezzullo, Peter Merrill

Absent Erik Olsen

1. Opening prayer by Fr. Tim Boggs.

2. Working dinner

3. Minutes from July meeting: The minutes from July's meeting were presented and accepted.

4. Children's Program

Debbie Fisher was our guest and introduced the updates to the Children & Youth Ministry plans for this year, which she and Kelly worked out over the summer.

Godly Play, Kindergarteners: Montessori-based program established in 1998 has been successful, and was upgraded a year ago. In keeping with Safe Church guidelines, Debbie will be recruiting 18 teachers this year. Sixteen children have registered, with thirteen of them being boys!

Our PLACE, 1st grade-4th grade: An experiential learning model, where children rotate through 3 classrooms over 3-week periods. This year's theme is "Wrestling with God," which has been designed to be more substantive, allowing children to work on connecting and applying Bible stories with daily life. Recruitment of 24 teachers is under way, and hope is to get each family to take on teaching two units during the year, since about 16 families are represented. Non-parent adults would also be lovely, and help inter-generational bonding in the parish. A goal and challenge is to include more music and perhaps find a way to introduce a children's choir opportunity at least seasonally.

Connect, 5th and 6th Grade: We will continue using Connect curriculum, and teachers will receive more training to emphasize helping students see connections between the story of Jesus and challenges/joys in their own lives. New Testament focus this year will allow youth to hear the stories chronologically, not broken up by church calendar. Two to three opportunities for non-Sunday morning activities will be provided, such as a trip to Monkey Trunks ropes course in Saco this September.

Family Services: This is a new feature this year, where children will attend church with their families in lieu of Sunday School. They will have a simplified service format, coupled with strong children and youth participation as readers, torchbearers, crucifers, chalice bearers, ushers, and even flower arrangers or altar guild-ers. These services are planned for October 6th, December 1st, January 12th, March 2nd, and June 8th.

Special Events: An anonymous gift has provided for age-appropriate children's Bibles for each St. Alban's child, to be distributed at the first Family Service on October 6th. In the future, Bibles will be given to each child entering Godly Play, Our PLACE, and 5th Grade.

Children will support Haiti Fundraiser in September, act in the Christmas Pageant (Jen Tarling, Director and Megan Buckley, Assistant Director), and participate in special Epiphany, Shrove Tuesday, Maundy Thursday, and Palm Sunday activities, as well as St. Alban's centennial activities.

Rite 13, 7th-8th graders: Format last year not successful because of sporadic attendance by this group. New format of Rite 13 will be confirmation preparation for people who are interested in this - people who are not interested in confirmation can still come and participate. Kelly will be in classroom one Sunday/month, other Sundays will be following "re:form" curriculum - based on questions such as "Why does God let bad things happen?" and not on scripture narratives. Abstract thinking ability of this age group allows these kinds of interactions. Kelly's monthly time in classroom will be to respond to big questions, and bring Episcopal flair to a general Protestant curriculum.

High School Youth Group: The Living Compass curriculum, which teaches a holistic approach to life will be used. The Parish Health Ministry will offer a version of this to adults in fall, and there is high school age-oriented version as well. This curriculum is widely used, and founders will come and guide us in leading it. It, consists of tools for managing life; there's even an app for that! The goal is helping kids connect their spiritual self with the reality of their lives, however they might do this. Also, there will be outreach trips, social service projects, confirmation classes to launch in Jan/Feb timeframe.

Raising Spiritual Kids in a Secular World Series: This series will continue with three sessions planned throughout school year. October's will be titled Kids & Worship, examining topics such as how are you engaging your kids around worship practices at home? Modeling spirituality. Next two topics TBA, based on what is needed/wanted, and current events. Those dates will be Jan 22, and May 7th.

5. Stewardship Listening program

Key dates: Listener training in late August, visits in Sept and October, Dedication Sunday will be November 3rd. Parish member list has been updated and refreshed. Listeners will have 10 names assigned apiece - 318 households, 9 on Stewardship Committee, 10 Vestry members, 10 additional. Key questions will be around what role St Albans is filling, and what would people like to see more of? Confidentiality of responses will be respected, recorded in notes with permission. Responses will be compiled and presented, possibly in a potluck the first weekend after Thanksgiving - Sunday night.

6. Communications Update

1 Church, 2 Audiences = Insiders vs. "outsiders", 3 purposes = Who we are in spirit, action, news? 4 platforms = emails, website, Albanor, Facebook. Website is in development and ready for comments and review by vestry. Will be launched Aug 26th.

Weekly emails will be issued via Constant Contact, weekly to all people who want it - current events plus regular features, i.e. Adult Education section, worship schedule, Mission & Outreach. Kirsten will be

maintaining the Constant Contact emails, and all staff will be trained in how to use and update. Evaluation of time and resources needed to maintain is underway, and is expected to be completed by year-end. A demo of this new format was displayed, and functionality, including mobile friendliness was displayed. Launch date is August 28.

Website (being developed on Word Press) was previewed. Vestry should send comments this week on website to Jen by Monday the 19th latest, if not Friday.

The Albanor will be similar to current format, but more articles, longer, thoughtful readings, issued seasonally. Announcements & News will be in weekly email format, so The Albanor will consist of things like reporting on ministries, less time-sensitive, journal-like.

7. Homecoming 2013 9/8 Parish Breakfast, Children's programs resume, newcomers committee will have greeters before the service. New hooks on pews for info rotating thru year.

8. Clergy Report

Audrey: Long Creek - huge, multi-generational, enthusiastic turnout for Long Creek Info Session.

Tim: Great interns! Rick preached, participated in many aspects of parish life. Lorenzo, who was in Haiti as our liaison and assistant to them reported back on his work there, and will come here 9/28 for dinner at the Rectory and Sunday the 29th will be at church for the Haiti Fundraiser. Jen will forward a video email.

Kelly: Successful 20s/30s potluck recently. Youth group taking school supplies which were donated for but not appropriate for Haiti to Root Cellar tomorrow.

9. Financial Report

Frank presented the finances - 64% of pledges for year have been fulfilled, plate offerings up significantly vs. last year. Special gifts were significant due to settlement of an estate recently. Containment of expenses is good. Clergy discretionary fund reflects economic upturn, fewer needs this year. Liquidity is ample.

10. Wardens' Report

Jim Croft-

Calendar items: 28th Sept for Haiti intern Lorenzo's visit and Haiti dinner.

October 19th & 20th: Living Compass people coming to present training on delivering their curriculum.

Get quotes for vestry section of website in ASAP.

11. Thank yous - all mentioned have been adequately thanked already!

12. Closing Prayer - Led by Bill Bell.