

St. Alban's Vestry Meeting Minutes

Sept 10, 2013, 7:00 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

1. **Opening Prayer** by Tim Boggs "Prayer for the City"
2. **Approve last meeting's minutes** Need to add the attendance - Erik absent in August. Jason moved to approve, Erik seconded, all in favor.
3. **Review Finances and Stewardship Project (Listening)** - Frank

Finances: Eight months into the year, critical time for spending and contribution levels. Pledges on track, and plate offerings are \$1,800 higher than last year, reflecting generosity of new folks.

Expenses - office expenses are much lower due to new copier, and good management of expenses, including supplies, postage, by office staff. Postage savings reflects more reliance on electronic communications. Worship expenses higher due to new communications project expenses and guest musician expenses, both offset by gifts: \$10,000 for communications vs. >\$5,683 expense to date.

B&G expenses included slate roof repair, garbage disposal, freezer, stained glass window on-going maintenance, elevator repairs. No big expenses upcoming.

Investments and balances: Frank has re-categorized, to make easier to understand. Parish operations account lower than last year due to pledges lower than last year - loss of some bigger donors.

No 2012 comparison, except for total, because accounts were not separated out the same way before now.

Haiti fund includes a \$3,000 donation from a friend of Tim's, from personal solicitation.

Listening Project:

No official reports on success/status yet. Listeners were trained last month, and have begun the interview process. Two sermons have mentioned project, communication about it in many ways to parish. People have gotten mixed reactions, many positive comments, some people not as enthusiastic about concept of meeting with Listeners.

Listening is key to project, and emphasis to be on listening to what people have to say, and letting them guide where the conversation is going, talking about pledge at end unless it comes up before.

Discussion of how to handle declines - procedure for getting pledge call in the mail. Deadline is the end of October, but completing soon is the goal, while still current. Listeners and testimonials will be speaking in church in coming weeks.

4. Clergy reports

Tim: Lots from clergy in last meetings - Communications/Education. Great response on 4 communications methods, some criticisms. Keep the comments coming.

Curricula for Sunday School started out well. Great Parish Breakfast. (Need more silverware!) 34 parents at parents' meeting. Choir full, extra members - need to move wall out to accommodate!

Clergy will be visiting classrooms more this year - Tim et al working on a rota to schedule clergy duties.

Flower guild needs some new blood. People retiring, Lynne Holland moving to Brunswick. First week of October, Sunday Oct 6th, a workshop will be offered for flower arranging to encourage new members, led by Lynne and Susan Betz.

Flyer coming out for worship in the garden, planned for Sept 22nd at 5 pm with music, Evensong. Newcomer's Ministry needs revitalizing.

Centennial project: Former warden has agreed to help with this project.

Kelly: Family services: first one will be Oct 6th. 5 such Sundays on Calendar with young people leading worship. Will use Rite 3, because can customize and distill the structure. Lift up kids and show them that nothing is off limits. Roles for kids who don't want to be on stage - flower arranging, altar guild. Not chaotic, not dumbed down, or not too serious, just accessible, refined, shorter - 60 vs. 70 minutes. Erik requested that not all of them be on Parish Breakfast days, so that he won't miss watching his kids participate.

71 people attended last Sunday am/afternoon, and teacher recruitment is going well for younger kids. Kelly still trying to recruit for older kids - recruitment is harder than usual because of the desire for non-parents of the kids in that group.

Audrey: Emailed people about Long Creek with application for people interested in volunteering. So far no responses. Hoping that people will volunteer, since very much interest at initial meeting. Discussion about sending press release to local papers. David Vickery interested in St. A's sponsoring a unit of students: Funding things like a pizza party, more social events.

Preble St changes this month: cooking and serving at Sacred Heart on Mellen St, not St. Albans. Preble St closed because of maintenance. Only need 4 to cook, 4 to serve. Simplified meal.

5. Committee reports -

B&G- Jason reports Scott Scharf stepping down from leading Spring & Fall Cleanup, hoping Lew will step in. Jim Croft requested sidewalk access to main door to Bonoff Hall, so people don't have to walk into parking lot to get to main walkway.

Communications - Next steps will be getting videos of sermons, building capacity around video in general. Analytics has taken a back seat, so next focus will be on that, to see what is effective. Projects like *Living Compass*, *Death is a Part of Living* class coming up, and will experiment with marketing these.

Committees can now meet with Jen with their info, and all the methods can be explored to get the word out easily. Staff is knowledgeable about posting things, so knowledge is not all with Jen and Kirsten. Jen putting together some written guidance to committee chairs to show what resources are now available for getting the word out about their events. Jen looking into a resources page to post the information for committee leaders online. All are responsible to updating calendar.

Haiti - Tim reports committee has been meeting to plan Haiti fete in Sept, when Lorenzo comes. Mission remains supporting primary school through Adopt a Classroom approach. Targeted projects - library, summer intern, etc., have been successful, and will be identified.

Health Ministry- Parish health nurse working out well. *Living Compass* coming soon, *Living well, dying well* class planned for November. Health Ministry Committee has new chairs: Tris Critchfield and Liz Davy. Monthly health chats on concussions, Obamacare upcoming. Bill reports that he heard from Listening project that this committee would like some funds allocated this year.

6. Warden's Report Oct 8th, our next scheduled meeting, is the same night as a pre-convention meeting, so meeting will be rescheduled to October 15th.

7. Thank yous Kelly requests that Philip Hamilton and Lisa Neubold be thanked for receptions after 5:30 services all summer. Jason will thank Lisa, (who?) will thank Philip.

Tim requests thanking of Ann Gale, Heidi McNerney, Jen Tarling, Jane Hanley - for all the hard work on website, donation of professional services. Connie will thank Jane. Nancy will thank Heidi. Michelle will thank Ann.

Trainer for Listening project: Ainsley. Frank will check in with Mike Watson and send a gift.

Jim will thank Kirsten for all her pulling together of things for Homecoming Sunday.

Bill Bell says Maine Community Foundation was envious of our Listening Project and our reaching out to every single member.

St. Peter's report from Kelly: Larry Ellison back from sabbatical. St. Peter's Centennial celebration in Oct. Kelly is starting her Fresh Start - a seminar for new clergy - once a month on Wed/Thurs, in Waterville. She started late so she could be in a different group from Tim, who just completed his series.

8. Closing prayer "A Prayer for Peace" by Maya Angelou. Led by Jen Tarling.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

-Minutes recorded by Gretchen Hartley

