

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting, November 9, 2023

Opening: The meeting opened at 7:10 pm with a prayer.

Diocese Convention:

Bryon gave a report on the Diocesan Convention. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was stressed throughout the meeting. Also, reparations were discussed but no conclusion was reached. Wellness was connected to discipleship. A position for discipleship was established and a Cannon was elected to the new position.

Clergy Report:

Jon+ attended a Credto conference last week. Priests are given the opportunity to attend this conference every ten years. It addresses how the priest are doing as far as financial, spiritual, physical, and mental health are concerned.

Ann+ presided over a baptism, wedding and funeral in one week.

Don Stone's funeral is this Saturday.

Warden's Report:

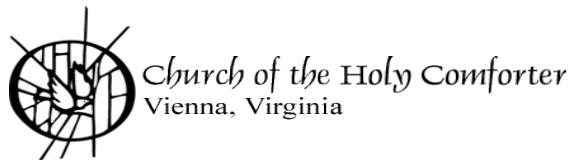
Two people have agreed to run for the Vestry positions next year. There is a desperate need for a Register. So far there is one person who has agreed to be on the Safety and Security Committee.

Capital Campaign update:

Solar Project: The City of Vienna has approved a code that allows stand-alone structures like the one that the church is proposing. The church now has to submit a request to install a stand alone solar structure. We are waiting on the form which will allow us to apply for a grant from the Inflation Reduction Act which will cover 30% of the cost of the solar panels.

The church can apply for a grant from Fairfax County to help cover the cost of the solar project. Installation could start around the end of March at the earliest and will take 16 weeks to complete.

Music Classroom: Two bids have been received to construct the new music classroom. Both were higher than expected. A summary sheet was provided that detailed information on what has been spent so far on the Music Classroom, how the two bids compared to each other, and an analysis of the Capital Campaign to date. This cost will not leave any campaign funds available to replenish the Capital Replacement fund. However, it is possible that the church will receive money from the Employee Retention Credit that could be put in the Capital Replacement fund. There was extensive discussion about alternative plans to help reduce the cost. All had some drawbacks to the proposal. It was suggested that we try to get at least one more bid. It was pointed out that we are spending to develop new items on the campus but



not putting any money aside to maintain the facility. It was decided that a meeting would be held within a week to further discuss this project and come to a decision on the way forward..

Treasurer's Report:

Cash on hand is good. Pledge receipts for the month of October were under budget and loose checks were over budget. Cash receipts were over budget. Expenses were under budget. Net income for the month was negative. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of October. It was seconded and approved.

Standing Committees and Program Updates:

Stewardship Committee: So far there have been 78 pledges. The average pledge is higher than last year. I have spoken to some small groups and the results have been positive. I would like to implement a process for year round pledging instead of the two or three months at the end of the year.

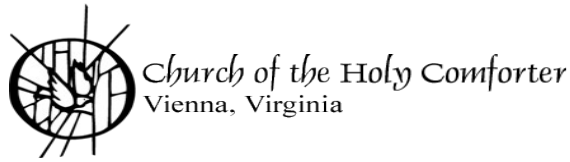
Building and Grounds Committee: Work is ongoing to re-do the large Holy Comforter sign along Beulah Road. Two invasive trees have been removed and one more is scheduled to be removed. Earth Day is planned for April 21, 2024. Repainting of the white lines and yellow curbs in the parking lot was discussed as a Men's project next Spring. The hot water pump for the boiler servicing McGill Hall may have a bad bearing. An Energy Audit Rebate from Dominion Energy is being pursued. More work is required to reduce the clutter in the undercroft.

Fellowship Committee: There is a need to establish a parish-wide composting initiative. Inexpensive games need to be purchased for outdoor social events. The Fellowship Committee will cover the cost of dinner for the 2nd Saturday Family Services in 2024. thirty-eight people have signed up for the Family Service on November 11.

HCEP/Youth Ministries/IONA Fund: HCEP: Black out shades have been installed on the windows of the vintage wing. An interim document has been created that outlines access/door safety protocols during HCEP hours.

Youth Ministries: Confirmation classes had their first field trip when they worshiped at Antioch Baptist Church in Fairfax Station. The beach trip may be more expensive this year. The park changed the method to reserve a space and the group didn't get a space with the lottery. They are looking for other lodging arrangements. Eleven teenagers have signed up the next year's mission trip. More are expected. The Greens Sale starting November 26 will be their first fund raiser.

The High School Sunday School teachers are at full strength. One more is needed for Middle School students. They are currently recruiting youth to go caroling for parishioners and to deliver meals and gifts to Mount Carmel. Every second Sunday of the month, the youth assist FACETS delivering meals to the homeless. The teens provide hard boiled eggs and water. Soon they will provide warm clothing.



Children's Ministry: There were 65 participants at the Pumpkin, Potluck & Prayer event. This ministry is sponsoring a Thanksgiving food drive for FACETS. A mailing list of parents for young children is being made.

Communications Committee: QR code stickers are being finalized. They will be for giving and newcomers and placed on the backs of the pews. A photography ministry is being initiated. The next Vestry Corner will be on the work of the ECW.

Outreach Committee: Holy Comforter was represented at the Five Talents event and the Smaritan Ministry Gala. At the Gala, we provided two baskets valued at \$300 each for auction. We are awaiting the arrival of a new Afghan family. The announcement for the annual grants has been published. The deadline is December 31. The committee is seeking new members.

Finance Committee: The proposed 2024 budget was passed out. The Capital Replacement fund was budgeted at half of what is needed. Funding for the Youth Ministries position was not funded. Compensation was raised 3%. There was discussion about the budget which will be voted on at the next meeting.

Adult Faith Formation: The Living Compass Wellness Circles have started with two groups. There are ten participants. Two groups are on hold as not enough people have signed up yet. There are seven participants in Episcopal 101. The showing of "Philadelphia 11" is Saturday. Thirty-one people have signed up.

Advent Quiet Morning is December 9 from 9am-12 noon. Retreat leader is Colleen Thomas, - co-host of "Opening Minds, Opening Hearts" podcasts for contemplative Outreach.

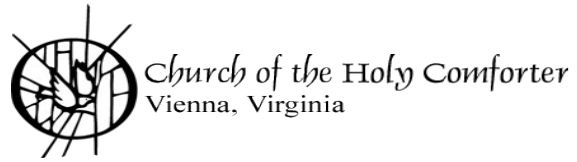
Global Action for Peace, Development, and Sustainability will hold a bazaar on December 9 from 12 noon – 4pm. This is a non-profit organization, started by our Afghan refugee friends, which supports women and children in Afghanistan.

Future programs: Biblically oriented study of Philippians starting Jan 11. Book Study in Lent for 5 evenings -The Night is Long bu Light Comes in the Morning: Meditations for Racial Healing. Earth Day - plan to have services outside. "The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life" is a six session program for individuals who are in their 70's and 80's. The Bishop will be coming in May.

Endowment Report: The report shows the current value of the different funds in the Endowment fund. Money is available to the church from the general fund.

ECW/Pennywise: The Giving Table will be in the Narthex from November 18 thru December 10.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.



The meeting ended at 9:35 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Fitzsimmons
Register