



St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Davidson, NC

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING ON MARCH 13, 2023

ATTENDANCE

<i>Vestry Members in Attendance</i>	<i>Also in Attendance</i>
Jean Bonnyman, Senior Warden	<i>Clergy</i>
Mike Sass, Junior Warden	Rev. Carmen Germino
Bob Beckham	<i>Rector</i>
Connor Fulton	Leslie Urban, Treasurer
Matthew Goodson	Patti Rossini, Preschool Director
Annamarie Klemm	
James Kennedy	<i>Unable to Attend</i>
Allison Kratt	Rev. Kevin Lloyd
Cheryl Nealy	<i>Assoc. Rector @ Davidson</i>
Jennifer Nelson Loher	<i>College Episcopal Campus</i>
Joseph Torok	<i>Minister</i>
Danny Wiles	

CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Germino called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

PRAYER/REFLECTION

Rev. Germino began the in-person meeting with Evening Prayer II. Leslie Urban read from scripture.



Rev. Germino explained that although suffering comes, it contains graces and blessings of endurance and character that leads to hope, which gets us through difficult situations and does not disappoint. Paul gave suffering a foundation of grace, although we don't wish for suffering. Grounded in the Lenten focus, we remember that when we suffer, we do not suffer alone. We are reminded that our God knows suffering, personally and collectively. Communities can find hope that does not disappoint.

Jean Bonnyman read the goals of the Vestry:

As the vestry of St. Alban's, we...

- ...pray for each other and our church
- ...participate fully
- ...commit to being a learning community
- ...welcome a variety of opinions
- ...notice and share the joy of this community
- ...are open to change and the work of the Holy Spirit
- ...do business to further our purpose (mission and ministry)
- ...are in an ongoing state of discernment
- ...take faithful risks when appropriate
- ...collaborate to avoid ministry silos and empower the various ministries we support
- ...communicate thoroughly
- ...support our church staff and clergy
- ...gather informally to strengthen our relationships

As we do these, we will serve as role models of faith and service.

INFORMATION

- + Friday, March 24, 2023: Vestry Dinner Offsite
- + Saturday, March 24, 2023: Vestry Retreat
- + Holy week and Easter. See the schedule in the bulletin.
- + Sunday, April 23, 2023: Dedication of new playground.

DISCUSSION

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 13, 2023 meeting of the vestry were submitted for review and were approved by unanimous consent.



TREASURER'S REPORT

- + Leslie Urban noted no significant updates or new financial concerns.

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

- + Guest presenters, Patti Rossini, Preschool Director, and Mike Sass, Chair of the Preschool Board, provided an overview of the preschool administration and operations.
- + On the Wednesday March 8, 2023, Cheryl Nealy, Vestry Preschool Liaison, met with Ms. Rossini, who has been consciously caring as the director since 2016.
- + Progress continues making priorities for kids and finances. The preschool opened in 2001 and has four classrooms sharing space for six classes, serving 68 to 72 children from 9:00 AM to 12:30 AM with hours 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The preschool is characterized by low turnover.
- + The Preschool follows the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) calendar from Labor Day to Memorial Day.
- + The Preschool provides a developmentally appropriate curriculum geared to meet each child's individual needs. Education is faith-based, with weekly visits by St. Alban's clergy.
- + The Preschool Charter notes accountability to the Board, Vestry, and Diocese.
- + In the Post-Pandemic period, the preschool received financial assistance from the church as it was not entirely self-sustaining. At that time, the budget was trimmed as much as possible and three staff positions were eliminated, including the Assistant Director. An Administrative Assistant was added.
- + The outlook for 2023-2024 includes a full two year-olds' class for Monday and Wednesday, as well as Tuesday and Thursday. There are four openings in the three year-olds' class Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The three year-olds' class Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday is full. One opening is in each four year-olds' class with a cap at twelve students.
- + The Preschool is anticipating a budget deficit of less than \$15,000, assuming full enrollment in the two, three and four year-olds' classes. The budget is managed by the same accountant from Davidson United Methodist Church (DUMC).
- + Leslie Urban and Erin Garrett oversee the highest level of finances, and a separate bookkeeper, Andrea Venus, is used. The Preschool Board includes former vestry, attorneys, and other talented individuals. The Church Finance Committee Chairperson, Danny Wiles, monitors the preschool and a yearly financial audit is held in conjunction with the church.
- + Other committees include the Marketing Committee, Program Review Committee led by Dr. Pylipow, Wellness Committee, and Facility Committee.



- + The Preschool continues to be a consciously-run, integral ministry of St. Alban's.

CLERGY UPDATES

Updates from Rev. Germino

- + Rev. Lloyd returned from our Taizé pilgrimage to France safely.
- + There were fifty-six responses to the adult formation survey, representing a good cross-section of ages and tenure at St. Alban's. Responses focused on a primary topic: how do we practice our faith, pray, live out our faith, etc. Jennifer Nelson Loher is the liaison for adult formation as we look forward to responding to spiritual needs.
- + Rev. Germino thanked Connor Fulton and family for representing the vestry at the StAART pilgrimage to the International Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro, NC. Several parish members participated in the organized, impactful visit.
- + Rev. Germino noted a wonderful response to Lent programming, including Stations of the Cross, a holy hike, and a book study, illustrating more engagement than recently seen.
- + Rev. Germino noted an uptick in Sunday School and worship attendance, illustrating the spiritual health of St. Alban's through engagement.
- + Rev. Germino applied for a sabbatical grant to the Lilly Foundation for post-Easter 2024, which is typically ten to twelve weeks. The Diocese expects sabbatical every five to seven years for clergy.

WARDEN UPDATES

Jean Bonnyman, Senior Warden

- + Jean Bonnyman highlighted the upcoming vestry dinner and vestry retreat.

Mike Sass, Junior Warden

- + Mike Sass noted his dedication to the building and grounds as a focus of the Junior Warden, which includes any warranty issues related to the playground if they arise.
- + The Memorial Garden upgrades have been installed and Jean Bonnyman has coordinated trimming the shrubs.
- + The prayer trail has been mulched.
- + Parking safety improvements are in the works.
- + An ADA accessible automatic door opener is planned.



+ Mike Stenhouse and the Facility Director did an hour long tour to familiarize themselves with stormwater flow.

LIAISON UPDATES

+ Cheryl Nealy, Preschool Liaison: Cheryl noted that the frequently-asked questions in the Preschool presentation described the preschool very thoroughly.

+ Connor Fulton, Outreach Liaison: Feed NC is moving in to a new facility, changing how we engage with the ministry by allowing separate registration so that St. Alban's volunteers don't need to host the station. Second, a Rise Against Hunger event is planned. Also, Deacon Valerie Colbert was planning to present an option to partner with Lifeline in Concord. Members would go to a facility to pack food in Concord. Lastly, St. Alban's families are coordinating transportation to church for those who are unable to commute.

+ Matthew Goodson, Children and Youth Ministry Liaison: The Family Ministry Support Team (FMST) met with Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, and Matthew notes a strong committee. Also, a vacation Bible study (VBS) is planned for July 24 through July 27, 2023. There will be more opportunities for interaction with other youth groups and service.

+ Annamarie Klemm, Fellowship Liaison: The Ministry of Fun did a wonderful job decorating for Mardi Gras and Jean Bonnyman provided flamingo gifts.

+ James Kennedy, St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team Liaison (StAART): This Thursday night, by Zoom, Connor will use a video to promote the church, as he coordinates youth for StAART. Also, a book study is being held.

+ No additional Stewardship, Finance Committee or Adult Formation updates were presented.

CLOSING

Rev. Germino closed the meeting with Evening Prayer.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Torok
Clerk of the Vestry