

Vestry Minutes from February 13, 2017

Present: Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger, Jeannie Warner, Candice Lindsay, Paul Polzin, Scott Jourdonnais, Karen Shelly, Phil Mediate, Don Gisselbeck, Helen Matveyeff, Jesse Jaeger, Glen Hladek and Tracey Gage

Excused: Ann Suter, John Crowley

- 1) Opening Prayer – Tracey
- 2) Spiritual Reflection – Introductions by all members and identifying what each of us brings to the vestry (skills, gifts).
- 3) **Motion made and seconded to accept consent agenda – approved. One member abstained.**
- 4) Newcomers and Parish Concerns – Terri
Terri read a letter addressed to the Vestry about some concerns. Terri will write a note to the parishioner.
- 5) Finance/ Investment report - Candice
Candy gave an explanation regarding the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss vs. Actual. She also gave a brief explanation about the Memorial Foundation. She informed that the new counting schedule is complete. New vestry members are encouraged to contact Judy and go through training if needed. **A motion was made and seconded to accept the financials as written. Approved**
- 6) Old Business: - Terri
A motion was made, seconded and approved to change the meeting time to 12:15-2:15 on the second Monday of each month. The Vestry retreat is scheduled for March 18, 8:30-2:30.
- 7) New Business: - Terri
Paul Polzin organized the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. **A Motion was made, seconded and approved to use the proceeds from the Pancake Supper, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday Offerings to Emmaus Campus Ministry, and to split the Good Friday Offering (between the Emmaus Campus Ministry and the Church in Jerusalem).**

The Liaison for the various ministries was explained and Paul distributed a list for the vestry to sign up. Social Concerns –Jesse Jaeger; Spiritual Formation – Glen Hladek, Phil Mediate (interested); Stewardship – Paul Polzin; Finance and Personnel – The rector, and two wardens; Communications – Scott Jourdonnais; Holiday Market and Rummage Sale – Tracey Gage; Newcomers – Helen Matveyeff; Parish Life – Don Gisselbeck; Properties – Phil Mediate (Buildings), Karen Shelly (Grounds)

The Food Bank Ministry was discussed. There has been a decline in the amount collected on the first Sunday of the month and there is nobody assigned to take it to the pantry. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to continue with the monetary contribution and to have targeted times to collect the food for the food pantry .**

A question came up regarding another Vestry member needs to be appointed to the Memorial Board. Will be discussed with Memorial Board.

The Parking lot difficulties continue with the students using the lot. It was suggested to notify they would be ticketed or towed if they continue to park there. Opportunity Resources is in need of parking their van once a month on Tuesdays from 12:30-2:30. **A motion was made seconded and approved for Opportunity Resource to use the lot.**

Jesse Jaeger made a request for Holy Spirit to be one of the options for a youth sleep over at the end of April as a part of an education and awareness of homeless teens. This would be in conjunction with Empower Montana and other church youth groups. We discussed various concerns; sleeping under the spruce tree, safety, weather, wanting some biblical teachings, the liability insurance will be from Power Montana, and how Holy Spirit is committed to caring for at risk youth. **A motion was made, seconded, and approved with 1 abstaining for Holy Spirit to be one of the locations considered for the youth sleep over.**

Lori Cordis has been extra busy shoveling and de-icing the sidewalks; Terri suggested we give her a gift card. It was suggested that the vestry pitch in so no money from the church was used. We collected \$150 for a gift card to the downtown association.

Terri asked the vestry to read a couple of times the New Facts in the Vital Practices that had been sent to us. She would like to address these issues at a future time.

(8) Other

- a) The annual visitation Bishop Brookhart is scheduled for March 4 & 5. He will meet with the vestry in the Guild room on Saturday, March 4th at 4:00p.m. There will be confirmations on Sunday, March 5th.
- b) Safeguarding God's Children on-line training needs to be completed by new vestry members by the March meeting. All vestry members need to read and sign off on the bylaws and model policies.
- c) Counting procedures were explained and new vestry encouraged contacting Judy for training.
- d) Tracey reported a homeless person in the bank when taking the Sunday morning offering. Judy to be notified.

Next date for the vestry meeting is scheduled for March 14th, 12:15-2:15.

Respectfully submitted by acting clerk: Tracey Gage

February Rector's Report to Vestry

No report in February for the meeting.
Faithfully,

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger
Rector

February Vestry Ministry Reports

- A) Communications – /Scott Jourdonnais (Judy Parock, Chair)
We took the wonderful video that Elaine Higuera made for the Annual Meeting, showcasing all of the people and events at Holy Spirit throughout the year, and uploaded it to the church website. We used the photo of the church on the rotator to link to the video on the “Vision and Mission” page of the church website. We think it gives people a wonderful picture of all the things that happen at Holy Spirit throughout the course of a year. A link to the video was also placed in the Spirited Times.

Nancy Cooper’s wonderful sung “report” for the choir at the Annual Meeting was sent to the diocese and included in their diocesan newsletter for February. This was a great way to share with the diocese all that our amazing choir does throughout the year. and it also showcased Nancy’s creativity.

We’ve been working with the Compline committee to help get the message out about the monthly service to the parish and the community. The committee wants to have a slightly varied message each month, and we have been using that message in the monthly newsletter, the bulletin, the Spirited Times and on Facebook.

We’ve also been busy developing posters and rotators for the Annual Meeting, the “Warm Hands, Warm Feet” Sock Drive, the Adult Inquirers’ Class, the Advocacy Panel Discussion, the Spiritual Gifts & Discernment Workshop, the “Learning to Walk in the Dark” Book Study, and the annual Blood Drive. We’ve kept the website up-to-date with information about these activities and posted information and photos from the activities on the church Facebook page. Advertising on the church Facebook page encouraged a woman from the community to join the “Learning to Walk in the Dark” Book Study, so it is bearing some fruit. We shared information about these events in our Sunday bulletins and in the weekly Spirited Times.

The “busyness” of the season continues with the start of Lent at the end of February, so we have been working on promotional materials and website rotators for our Pancake Supper, our Ash Wednesday services and the 2017 Lenten Series, “Healthy and Whole: Celebrating Strength through Faith.” We will be updating the website with information about these events, and we have begun promoting them in the Sunday bulletin and in the Spirited Times as well. We’ll be changing out the banners in the church yard soon to showcase the Lenten program.

As you can see, it’s a busy time of the year for Holy Spirit, and we hope that the use of the posters along with our other avenues of communications will help draw people to these events.

– Judy Parock, Chair

- B) Holiday Market – Tracey Gage (Tracey Gage and Diane Rasmuson, Co-Chairs)
No report
– Tracey Gage
- C) Newcomers – (Frank and Beverley Sherman, Jim and Jeanne Clark, Co-Chairs)

The Newcomers group has not met but continues to contact those that are identified as guests, visitors and newcomers, provide Welcome bags, and any other help as asked.

– Frank Sherman, Co-Chair

- D) Parish Life – Ann Suter (Kathy Swannack, Coffee Hours; Anne Cohen, receptions)

Reception committee report: The reception committee provided food and service for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29th. The committee also provided food and service for a memorial reception in January.

– Anne Cohen

Coffee Hours: I have sent out requests for help with the coffee hours for the months of February and March, but the response from the committee and the congregation has been slow in coming. We need help with the hosts for coffee hour during the month of February. The Social Concerns Committee hosted one Sunday, and we really appreciate that this group stepped forward to help.

– Kathy Swannack

- E) Properties – Karen Shelly/Grounds; Phil Mediate/Buildings (Chair is vacant.)

Properties/Buildings Report: No news is good news on the buildings front!

– Phil Mediate

Properties/Grounds Report: No report.

– Karen Shelly

- F) Rummage Sale – Tracey Gage (Mary Tromly, Chair)

Dates have been set for the 2017 Rummage Sale. They are Friday 5 May and Sat. 6 May.

Opening and closing hrs. will be set by the committee at a later date. On Sunday 30 April we will begin the process with a "Congo line" to bring all of our shelving, tables and merchandise up into the Guild Room. I'm looking forward to a good year- not too early to begin sifting and sorting.

– Mary Tromly, Chair

- G) Social Concerns – Carla Mettling (Carla Mettling, Chair)

SCC Meeting on January 9:

The committee discussed possible ways of showing the film Under the Gun., an excellent documentary on how the NRA has been hijacked by a small group of people who work for gun manufacturers. This group, using the NRA, has blocked gun control laws and made it difficult to keep track of gun purchases. Heidi announced a Moms Demand Action on Gun Violence event at Tamarack restaurant on Jan. 19. Gun violence kills our neighbors, as evidenced by a shooting in Lolo this afternoon that resulted in two deaths. A committee member raised the issue of presenting a resolution at the diocesan convention. Resolutions are due 60 days before the convention, which is in October. Dorcie suggested prayerfully considering how to present a gun violence resolution while considering the breadth

of views in Montana. The committee discussed inviting Terri to the next SCC meeting.

Project Homeless Connect has moved from the Methodist Church to the Fairgrounds and will take place on Friday, January 27. Volunteers will sit with clients and go through a checklist to get them what they need. There were 400 people last year. Bus riders will help clients get to the Fairgrounds stop. Orientation is required for volunteers. Lucia is working on publicizing this event within HSP since we've had a good number of volunteers in the past. Also, she is organizing a sock drive for adults at the Poverello. We should bring new or gently used socks, caps, scarves and gloves to church January 22 and 29.

Bob: The dental clinic in Myanmar should be completed by the end of January 2017. HSP raised \$6100 for it. The Blood drive will happen at HSP on Feb. 23, from 2 - 6:15. There will be three stations instead of the usual two. People who went to Myanmar can give now!

Clem reports that SALAM (Standing Alongside America's Muslims) is planning a Celebrate Islam Week, the last week of April. On Friday, 1/20, there will be a workshop on how to help people wearing a hijab if they are being harassed. Soft Landing welcomed our 13th family but the total is now 12 because an Ethiopian family moved to Iowa to be near family. Public schools have been very welcoming. Softlandingmissoula.org has a list of items needed that can be donated.

Jesse reported on the MLK Day celebration, which his group, Empower Montana, is holding on Jan. 16, at St. Paul's. Chief Earl Old Person will be the speaker. HSP volunteers Dorcie, Lucia, and Carla will usher and collect the offering. Empower will hold a diversity training on Feb 12, from 2-5, at Har Shalom. Details are on the Empower webpage.

SCC Meeting, Monday, February 6:

1. Mary Tromly made a pitch for Holy Spirit support of a nursing student at Aaniiih Nakoda College on the Fort Belknap Reservation. The program is brand new, the 13th nursing program in the state. The first cohort of 15 students entered the two-year program last August. Full support for one student—Mary's ideal situation-- would amount to \$28,300 total for two years, but she said partial support would of course be accepted. The committee took the proposal under consideration. A sub-committee will be formed to look into it.

2. Margaret Watson proposed a book group to study *Trapped in America's Safety Net: One Family's Struggle*. This precipitated a discussion with Terri and Gretchen about advocacy and education within the church. Gretchen and Terri shared for the first time that they have formulated a long-range education plan for the parish, which in fact is already being implemented in next fall's book study on *The New Jim Crow*, in the upcoming advocacy panel, and the Lenten Potluck series. One aim of the plan is to get topics which are already the subjects of approved general convention resolutions before the parish for deeper discussion. For example, Gretchen is planning a fall series the criminal justice system. The bigger aim is to facilitate discussion and get people from the political poles to the middle, particularly in this "raw" post-election climate. Jesse Jaeger suggested Gretchen talk

to SCC more about this plan and seek input from SCC members in future planning. What this means for book group discussions (and film and TV showings): run ideas by Gretchen first to see if they can be fit into the plan. But this does not rule out independent book study groups, which presumably could still be advertised in HSP media, and held on HSP grounds, although that wasn't made clear because we didn't dwell on these questions.

3. Jesse Jaeger discussed a proposed Youth Sleep-Out in the HSP courtyard sometime in April to educate attending young people about homeless youth, part of a wider campaign by Empower Montana on this topic. Terri suggested that this idea needs to be approved by the Vestry, and Jesse is already slated to present it to them.

4. Dorcie updated the committee on the continuing discussions on the Hellgate and Parenting Place projects.

5. Terri spoke to the continued interest in Myanmar projects and said some people in the parish believe that fundraising for those projects is taking money away from paying off the HSP deficit and local projects (although Bob pointed out that the dental clinic fundraiser, the only Myanmar fundraiser at HSP outside the Myanmar group of teachers, was targeted at specific individuals likely to give, not the parish in general). Terri said that she believes in the "global faith" mission as an important part of living out one's faith and that it is also important for the church's growth. But she suggested that the Myanmar group make a presentation to the Vestry, as a way of making future Myanmar activities a mission of the church.

– Carla Mettling, Social Concerns Chair

H) Spiritual Formation – (Gretchen Strohmaier, Chair)

Church School and Spiritual Formation:

Spiritual Formation:

- ***Interrupted by Hope.*** We concluded this Advent adult Sunday morning class in January, extending it a couple of weeks beyond Christmas per class request. It was well received. We tried a video format which didn't require participants to do any preparation ahead of time. It also gave wide exposure to a variety of theologians and popular Christian authors. There was interest in exploring the work of Barbara Brown Taylor further.
- **Ongoing planning for Lent** happened during January. Five speakers were secured and publicity began to take shape. Here's what you can expect for the Lenten potlucks:

Healthy & Whole: Celebrating Strength through Faith

- Wed March 8th *Apples, Oranges & Faith* Gary Weisbrich, St Patrick Hospital
- Wed March 15th *In and Out of Darkness: Depression and Faith*
Reverend Deacon Mary Alice Jones & Jim Jones
- Wed March 22nd *Suicide Prevention: QPR* Heidi Kendall, Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Missoula City-County Health Dept

- Wed March 29th *ACEs are Wild: How Adverse Childhood Experiences Affect Our Future*
Teresa Nygaard, Executive Director The Parenting Place
- Wed April 5th *Faith & Resiliency* Reverend Tom King, Chaplain St. Patrick Hospital

Also on April 5th, enjoy live music during the potluck, performed by Joel Makeci and his family, recent immigrants from Congo. They will share songs of faith and inspiration that Joel has written.

Throughout Lent parishioners will be encouraged to take a paper quilt square in the parish hall and write, draw or collage their vision of what Healthy & Whole would look like in our community and our world. Together we'll create a special Healthy & Whole wall quilt in the parish hall.

- **Centering Prayer.** This group began their monthly gathering and they will continue to meet once a month. Folks for HSP as well as other congregations in town are participating together in this contemplative practice led by Willie Hoffer.

Church School:

In January the children participated in Welcome Sunday. Clem Work attended Church School and shared information and photos about Soft Landing the refugees who have recently immigrated to Missoula. The children presented him with supplies they purchased and were donating to Soft Landing. Then the kids worked on art work featuring the word *welcome* in a variety of languages. The art will decorate the Soft Landing office. The children also did a special unit, learning about the disciples and how we are all called to follow Jesus.

– Gretchen Strohmaier, Director of Spiritual Formation

Youth Ministry:

This past month, held youth group and our weekly QUEST classes. At January's youth group, students packed care packages for the homeless. I delivered these to the Salvation Army to supply their teen drop-in center. The transition to having P.J. Willett share the youth director position is going great. P.J. leads our youth groups and other events while I continue to handle the planning and communications. In February we will begin having two youth group gatherings per month. In addition, youth pack and a ski day are planned.

Thanks for your support of youth ministry at Holy Spirit!

– Lindsay Iudicello, Director of Youth Ministry

- I) Stewardship – Paul Polzin (Paul Polzin, Chair)
No report.
- J) Pictorial Directory – Jeannie Warner
Pictorial Directories arrived the week before the Annual Meeting and were handed out after both services that Sunday and on the following Sundays. We will do that

through the month of February. Those directories not picked up by that time will be mailed out to those who had their pictures taken for the directory.
- Jeannie Warner