

## Holy Spirit Vestry Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2017

Present: John Crowley, Jesse Jaeger, Don Gisselbeck, Jeannie Warner, Candice Lindsay, Paul Polzin, Terri Ann Grotzinger, Helen Matveyeff and Tracey Gage

Excused: Glenn Hladek, Ann Suter, Karen Shelly, Phil Mediate, and Scott Jourdonnais

Guests: Carla Mettling and Jim Wiley

- 1) Opening prayer – Terri
- 2) Carla and Jim from the Social Concerns committee presented concerns and desire for support regarding a nursing program at Aaniiih Nakoda College in the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. It is a two-year AA nursing Indigenous program to promote indigenous persons to go into nursing. They need funds to help support the students, as they are unable to work during this time due to the full time commitment as a student. They have also presented this to the wider church in Helena and have been asked to present to the diocesan convention in October. They are looking for an endorsement from the vestry for pursuing this ministry. They have invited the Director of Nursing Dr. Lavern Parker and the President Dr. Carol Falcon-Chandler to join them at the convention. The financial needs are approximately \$15,000 per student, however any amount is welcomed. They are looking for grant support as well. Several members asked questions such as; what does endorsement mean? What is our policy? How do we manage it and can it be revisited in 2 or 3 years? What are we committing to? Is it coordinating with other tribal colleges? Carla spoke of Assistant Bishop Gallagher being pleased that it was a request from the school. Carla and Jim were thanked for the presentation and the vestry will discuss and get back to the committee.
- 3) Administrative matters – Jeannie made a motion to accept the consent agenda, it was second and passed.
- 4) Terri read a thank you note from a Camp Marshall scholarship recipient. Newcomers to Holy Spirit through July 5, 2017. Kate Laney, Isabel Graff, Dorothy Manicke, Kirby and Barbara Christian. There was a brief discussion regarding a young adult program, Jesse is to follow up.
- 5) Financial report provided by Candice. The plate is over the budget believing related to people who have pledged in the past didn't pledge however are putting the pledge in the plate on a regular basis. Elizabeth or Judy will follow up with these parishioners. Jesse motioned to accept financials it was seconded and passed. Candy voiced difficulties she is having with the new ECF/State Street company. The quarterly information is coming to late, noting the biggest problem will be in December. The account representative needs to be contacted. Terri to contact with Paul and Candy present.
- 6) Old Business –
  - a) Myanmar/advocacy policy development- Jesse, Don, Glenn and Jeannie to work to draft a policy to help guide the Vestry on decisions regarding social justice ministry (to address the kinds of questions raised in item 2 above). Jesse will develop some draft language for the policy. Terri explained the insurance availability for international travel from Church Insurance.
  - b) Safeguarding God's Children- all vestry have completed
  - c) Update on Native American Ministry – Paul would like to be assured that the college complies with the licensing requirements for nurses.

d) Terri updated the vestry on the process for selection of a new bishop. Noting that most of the representatives come from Eastern Montana. She explained the need for diocesan deaneries to elect people for the nominating committee.

e) Follow-up/next steps from the retreat- some policies have been drafted. We need look at long-term and short-term renters (potential use of our buildings). Paul is going to start the stewardship process in a couple of weeks. Currently we do not charge for AA/NA meetings. Jesse expressed a need to first talk about strategic planning. Terri and Jesse to meet and form a small group to begin strategic planning that would assist the vestry.

7) New Business

a) Finance Committee – John look at insurance coverage

b) Properties committee – Paul to check with Margaret Borg (buildings and grounds chair) for annual review of buildings for inventory purposes

c) Freezer/Refrigerator replacement – Paul to speak to Margaret Borg (buildings and grounds chair).

7) Other – The 10:15 service will be held outside due to heat.

Mutual Ministry review- Paul explained the need to have a process for the vestry and rector to review each other (known as a Mutual Ministry Review) as a means of shared accountability, reflection, and documenting accomplishments and desires for the future.

Next Meeting: August 14, 2017 12:15

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Gage, Junior Warden

Acting Clerk of the Vestry

## July Rector's Report to Vestry

The Vestry agreed to not have a regular meeting in June and instead held their annual retreat. This report covers the period from our May meeting to the July 10 meeting.

**Pastoral ministry:** visits with parishioners and concerned family and friends continues steadily, a few facing end of life journeys. Pastoral visits were made to twelve parishioners and several relatives, several on more than one occasion in the past month. I expect this level of pastoral need to remain steady.

**Worship:** along with regular liturgical planning for Sunday worship services, prepared with the Rev. Dorcie Dvarishkis for Baptism on Pentecost (Hudson Rose Nederhoed, granddaughter of Mark and Dorcie Dvarishkis). Offered Eucharist for the Altar Guild at their regular meeting.

**Newcomers:** I had two lengthy visits from newcomers who are interested in finding out more about our particular faith community and getting more involved. They bring wonderful energy and see us with fresh eyes. Reach out to get to know those you haven't met – they are worth it and a great gift!

There were the usual number of regular meetings with Staff, Diocesan Clergy, and the Wardens. I attended both Clericus meetings in Polson; and worked with the Wardens to prepare for the Vestry Retreat.

More recently, I met with various clergy and laity regarding the Bishop Search that is now getting underway after the Bishop's announcement of his retirement on November 1, 2018. There is much to be done and on a rapid time frame over the next 18 or more months. Our Deanery Delegates/Delegates to Diocesan Convention will be meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> to prepare for a Deanery meeting on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, where 1 clergy and 1 lay person will be elected from the Deanery to serve on the Nominating Committee for the Bishop Search. I have decided that I will not be putting my name in for serving on the Nominating Committee to be able to care for the many pastoral and ministry needs of HSP, and will instead offer support as needed (i.e. offering potential candidate names and such). Note that Pru Randall of our parish currently serves on the Standing Committee of the Diocese, the governing body that will oversee the entire Bishop Search process. I will let you know more about the Search Process as information comes to us.

Please pray for Bishop Brookhart and the Diocesan Staff during this time of transition, for the process and those who will be giving much of their time and effort to guide us through it, and for candidates who hear God's call to serve this diocese as Bishop in the years ahead.

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger  
Rector

## July Vestry Ministry Reports

### A) Communications – Scott Jourdonnais (Judy Parock, Chair)

Much of our work for the Communications Ministry this past month has centered on the creation of a new website for the parish. We hope to have it “live” by the first of September. We have been evaluating the content of each of the pages of our current website with an eye toward streamlining that material, and we are also looking at how we want to organize the flow of the website. We have two audiences in mind for the website. One is people who are searching for a new church home and the other is people who are already here and are looking for next steps to get more involved or who just need information about church events. The purpose of each page on the new website is to offer information, followed by a “next step” or a “call to action.” It is much more interactive than our current website, and we are very excited about that. As more people are using handheld devices, e.g., smart phones or tablets, this website will be easier for them to view and to navigate. We have had to create new graphics and photos for this website, and we have subscribed to a new program called “Snappa” which has been a big help in doing this. The cost of the program is \$120 per year and is well worth it.

We worked with the Education for Ministry folks to create a postcard for them to help solicit interest in the new Education for Ministry group forming in the fall.

We continued to promote church events. Our Pentecost celebration, the Meaningful Movies series, the Myanmar informational meeting, Garden Tour, Vacation Bible School, the Summer Church Potluck, Summer Choir, and the Church Picnic were all promoted through the Sunday bulletin, the Spirited Times, and the church Facebook page. News releases to the Missoulian also promoted the Garden Tour, Centering Prayer, and Vacation Bible School to the community on the Religion page. The office created posters for the Pentecost celebration, the Meaningful Movies series, the Garden Tour, Vacation Bible School, the Summer Church Potluck, and the Church Picnic to promote these events and featured each on the website rotator and calendar. We also created Facebook events for the Meaningful Movies series, the Wildflower Walk, and Vacation Bible School, inviting members of the parish to participate in those activities. Our sandwich board sign was also utilized to promote all of these events as well.

Photos from our Pentecost celebration were posted on our church Facebook page, and we shared a few of those photos with the national church as well. They posted the photos from Holy Spirit in their album of Pentecost celebrations from across the country which attracted interest from folks outside of Montana.

– Judy Parock, Chair

### B) Holiday Market – Tracey Gage (Tracey Gage and Diane Rasmuson, Co-Chairs)

No report

– Tracey Gage

### C) Newcomers – Helen Matveyeff (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 – Don Gisselbeck (Kathy Swannack, Coffee Hours; Anne Cohen, receptions)

**Reception committee report:** There were no receptions held during June.

– Anne Cohen

**Coffee Hours:** Summer Coffee Hours are continuing throughout the summer with our Sexton Lori Cordis taking care of the set-up and setting out the treats and beverages and Tracey Gage and Helen Matveyeff buying the cookies. Our thanks to them all.

– Kathy Swannack

E) Properties – Karen Shelly/Grounds; Phil Mediate/Buildings (Margaret Borg and Kevin Borg, co-chairs)

**Properties/Buildings Report:** Repairs were made to the sound system which has improved the sound from both the lectern microphones and the wireless microphones used by the clergy. Our next step is to see how we can expand the current system to add more microphones and an audio-visual feed to the parish hall. The freezer unit on the kitchen refrigerator has ceased to function.

– Phil Mediate

**Properties/Grounds Report:** The rock pile in the parking lot has been cleaned up. The dwindling flowers will be removed from the sign bed and pots in the next couple of weeks. No new plantings will be completed until the irrigation is improved so that hand watering will not be needed regularly, but only during especially hot, dry periods. A request is in to Joe Chalmers to upgrade the pot irrigation. I have been pulling weeds and picking up trash in the parking lot about once a week. I can't keep up with the weeds along the fence so will ask Sean Sandeau to spray them.

– Karen Shelly

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

No report.

– Mary Tromly, Chair

G) Social Concerns – Jesse Jaeger (Carla Mettling, Chair)

1. Jim and Carla, accompanied by Mary Tromly, visited Aaniiih Nakoda College (ANC), on the Ft. Belknap Reservation, saw its nursing program, and met President Carol Falcon-Chandler and Director of Nursing LaVerne Parker. They were very favorably impressed with the College, Nursing Program, and people running these, and would like HSP to give financial help to this nursing program, as a project of SCC. Jim also went to a meeting of the Montana Diocese's Native-American Task Force in Helena to garner its support of ANC's nursing program and that of other churches and the bishops. Bishop Gallagher already expressed her support of this project when Jim, Carla, Dorcie, and Anita had lunch with her, prior to the college visit. Terri has also given the go-ahead to this project, so Dr. Parker and possibly Dr. Falcon-Chandler, will describe their nursing program at the Diocesan Convention in Helena on October 7 and then do so again the next day in church at HSP, October 8<sup>th</sup>.
2. Lucia reported on the Back to School Book Drive, part of the Back-to-School Bash on August 17<sup>th</sup>. She has gotten donations from many sources already, including many MIC partner churches, Fact & Fiction, the Book Exchange, and Missoula County Public Schools central administration library, where various school libraries put their discarded books. SCC members will help Lucia select and sort through the hundreds of books in her basement, set up for the event at the Salvation Army Building, help children select their free books, and take down afterwards.

Lucia also reported about the last meeting of the Advocacy Planning Group. Gretchen will write up a template for bringing up issues and taking them to the congregation.

3. Several of us spoke on MIC's doings and HSP's participation:
  - a. Lucia said MIC is in charge of Family Promise now and FP is running much more smoothly. Anita & Jim will talk to Teri, Casey Dunning, and others to see how it is going and if we want HSP to reconnect and be a partner church again for Family Promise.
  - b. Carla spoke about the manpower-type program that "Missoula Works," a group within MIC, is getting off the ground. The idea is to get parishioners to hire Missoula Works employees, who are unemployed and sometimes ex-offenders, to do their yardwork and house repair projects. Bob Deaton wrote the piece publicizing and explaining this program in the *Spirited Times*. It's a very worthwhile endeavor that deserves HSP support.
4. Clem updated us on the Myanmar Teachers Project. Instead of an October and January trip, there will just be one or two trips in January. October was too soon for them to get organized. There will be meetings in late July to discuss the trips further.
5. Carla encouraged SCC to support the summer series of "Meaningful Movies." The next one is Wednesday, July 12, "A Bold Peace," about the demilitarization of Costa Rica. The last of these will be shown on August 9<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
6. Dorcie reported on the progress of the Parenting Place and Hellgate projects. The process of finding out about service opportunities and prioritizing them for presentation to the Vestry and HSP parishioners is complete for the Parenting Place and nearly so for Hellgate. Dorcie will present these to the Vestry in July or August.

SCC's next meeting will be on August 7<sup>th</sup>. We will take a vacation in July.

– Carla Mettling, Chair

H) Spiritual Formation – Glenn Hladek/Phil Mediate (Gretchen Strohmaier, Chair)

**Spiritual Formation:**

**Book Study:** *Trapped in America's Safety Net*. Margaret Watson facilitated this 4-week book study group for adults with 6 – 8 participants. Participants learned about the loop holes within the social service network that traps families in a cycle of poverty.

**Camp Marshall Sunday.** In May two teens shared during worship about the significance of their experiences at Camp Marshall and folks roasted marshmallows in the courtyard after church. Many members donated to support the scholarship fund for kids attending camp.

**Mother's Day.** A team of church school children shared music, readings, prayer, a slide show and a report about a recent service project with their church family at the Mother's Day worship service.

**Centering Prayer** continued at its monthly meeting time and plans to meet through the summer as well, only changing to an outdoor location for the summer months.

**Labyrinth Walk.** A group of 7 participated in the labyrinth walk at Red Sun Labyrinth in Victor on a Saturday in May. It was a picture-perfect opportunity for prayer, meditation and reflection.

**Teacher Meeting.** Hosted a thank you lunch for the Church School teachers in May and solicited their feedback about the changes that were made to Church School this year. Participants gave helpful and constructive feedback about the program.

**Publicity for EFM.** Met with Julie Benson and worked on some new publicity ideas for EFM.

**Garden Tour.** First tour was rained out. Tried an alternative date and had 6 folks tour 4 different local gardens.

**End-of-the-Year Church School Party.** Turning the Wheel Missoula came the first Sunday in June and facilitated a creative movement party for the Church School kids. We had strawberries and ice cream out on the lawn in honor of Pentecost.

**Flower Walk.** Steve Shelly hosted another flower walk up the saddle trail in the Rattlesnake. A variety of participants enjoyed this Sunday afternoon outing together in early June.

**Vacation Bible School.** Thirty volunteers came together to provide transportation, music, snacks, crafts, games, supervision and God's love to nineteen children. About half of these kids came from regular Holy Spirit families while the other half were friends, neighbors and kids from the Family Promise program. It always feels like a huge privilege to spend a week with these children welcoming them to church life and giving them our best. This week-long program really is a church-wide effort, pulling volunteers from both services and from a variety of age groups from 13 to 80 years old. The week wrapped up with a Friday evening potluck and one more chance for children to experience the giant inflatable slide and jump house.

**Meaningful Movies.** Carla Mettling and the Social Concerns Committee are hosting a series of documentaries this summer on several Wednesday evenings. They started their series in June. Each film highlights a different social justice topic. Participation has been enthusiastic and robust.

**Men's Small Group.** Planning and outreach has begun for a small group for men. Phil Mediate is interested in facilitating this effort.

**Planning.** Efforts have begun to plan and coordinate a theme for fall and to begin scheduling adult classes for the next school year and beyond.

– Gretchen Strohmaier, Director of Spiritual Formation

**Youth Ministry:**

No report.

– PJ Willett, Director of Youth Ministry

l) Stewardship – Paul Polzin (Paul Polzin, Chair)

No report.