St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Meeting of Thursday, December 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Rector, George Arceneaux IV.

In attendance were: Senior Warden Deb Maue, Junior Warden Mark Schneider, Paul Clark, Kelly Clissold, Peter Curtin, Jules Dulski, Thomas Gary, and Gretchen Straw. Also in attendance were: Treasurer Johnathan White, Clerk of the Vestry John Hillman, and Rector George Arceneaux IV.

# Opening prayer and reflection: George Arceneaux (substituting for Chloe Anderson)

## George’s presentation focused on the *Magnificat*.

* + 1. The centrality of the story of the incarnation.
    2. God’s choice of a humble woman to give birth to God’s only child.
    3. The setting, the animals, the star, the astonishment of the shepherds, the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, the spreading of the good news throughout the land.
  + The enormous number of musical versions of the *Magnificat* and the number performed by Kurt Amolsch in his musical travels.
    1. The wonder of this story and the wonder of this season.

# Administration

## Changes to the Agenda—None.

## Approval of November minutes

### A couple of minor changes were discussed but not moved forward.

### Approval of the minutes as originally submitted was moved by Thomas.

### Seconded by Kelly.

### The motion was approved without opposition.

## Treasurer’s/Finance Committee Report

### Jonathan reported that expenses were as expected in November.

### Income was down, but had started to improve in December.

### The value of the investment account increased by $33,540 during the strong November rally. The November 30th balance stood at $514,926.59.

## Stewardship Committee Update

### As of tonight, 22 pledges had been received, totaling $46,000 in pledged income for 2024.

### These pledges were submitted both *via* Breeze and on pledge card*s.*

### As indicated last month:

#### the stewardship campaign will focus on three Sundays in the month of December.

#### there are three statements from parishioners printed in the service bulletins, one per week during the campaign.

#### George has preached on giving.

#### We are determined to keep in mind all three forms of pledging: time, talent, and treasure.

### For 2023, the parish had 60 pledges.

### The Vestry indicated that a “shout out” was in order for Gabriela for her extraordinary work in preparing the stewardship materials.

## Outreach—Migrant Clothes Close

### There have been 260 requests for distributions from the clothes closet.

### There are continuing needs for nutritional items for babies according to Emily Culbertson.

### St. Edmund’s is providing showers and counseling.

### Our focus continues to be on diapers and clothing.

### This project has been intended to be temporary and has been a strong success, and we need the “noise” to die down before we “go out of business”.

### Other outreach?

#### Children’s formation? Abby/Alley

#### Beyond hunger – monthly group – 400 families? – 2nd Saturday

#### Leader’s Network Credit Union?

# Nominating Committee Report: New Vestry members and Wardens will be elected at the Annual Meeting on January 28th.

## Possible Vestry nominees under consideration are:

### Bill Urso

### Jack Cosbey – 8

### Linda Person – 8

### Sue Montgomery

### Howie Anderson

## Possible Warden nominees under consideration are:

### Emily Culbertson

### Luke Laurel

### Rachel & Jason Strietzel

### David Langert

### Jeremy West

# Rector’s Report

## Summary of Rector’s Report

### Worship is going well!

### Formation is going well: “Blaise has been going to town with adult formation. Tough nut to crack.”

### St. C’s Outreach: Bible study is planned to start in January on Thursday evenings.

### Systems Changes:

### Ann has ideas on cost savings by decreasing our reliance on Amazon and Office Max.

* George is seriously considering dumping Ministry Scheduler Pro, perhaps by the end of October in 2024. He feels it is a system that is not worth the cost.

### Upcoming [see V. below]

## Staffing Update: “Ann is up and running!”

## William Bridge’s Transition Model [George led an interactive exercise on this model with all in attendance.]

### From St. Christopher’s, what do you feel like we’re still letting go of?

### Where do you feel we’re in discernment?

### What feels exciting? What new thing is giving this place energy?

# Upcoming events

### 12/17 Sunday – Lessons and Carols (5 pm)

### 12/21 Thursday – Blue Christmas (7 pm)

### 12/24 Sunday– Christmas Eve 4 pm family service; 10:30 pm midnight mass

### 12/25 – Christmas Day 10 am spoken service only

### 01/07 – Epiphany Pageant with Baptism for Baptism of our Lord

### 02/04 – Bishop Visit Chili cook off.

### Late Feb/Early March – Chili cook off

# Upcoming events

### The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm, following prayer led by George.

### A five-minute executive session of the Vestry followed.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hillman

Clerk of the Vestry