

## Holy Spirit Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Members present via Zoom: Mark Dvarishkis, Clem Work, Rev. Terri Grotzinger, Warren Gartner, Mary Beth Jourdonnais, Holly Swartz, John Crowley, Pat Cole, Audrey Murray, Tanya Lodahl, Kara Hanson, and Caitlin Sherman.

- 1) Opening prayer led by Audrey
- 2) Consent Agenda
  - a. **Motion to approve the consent agenda items, seconded, approved.**
- 3) **Motion to nominate Pat as a second Vestry member to the Memorial Board Foundation, seconded, approved.**
- 4) Parishioner concerns and correspondence
  - a. Two letters were sent to the office and another directly to Clem with concerns about the new screens in the church.
    - i. One talked about a bad memory the parishioner had in a previous church with screens that Terri will address with that person one on one.
    - ii. Overall, the concerns seem to be coming from shock and the size of new additions.
    - iii. Some comments from the discussion to bring the new vestry members up to speed with the process of bringing the screens in:
      1. Warren sees them as a way to “add pictures to the book” and that could also help when we ask outside groups to come in and make presentations. Perhaps our next step that could help allay fear is to draft protocols for the use of the screens.
      2. Tanya brought up concerns about how much the screens block views of the stained-glass windows.
      3. Audrey hopes that the screens can be used to link us to the broader Episcopal Church. Perhaps livestreaming events such as the installing of the next Presiding Bishop.
      4. Mark suggested that they could be a tool to aid newcomers in navigating our services and using the screens could also help us reduce our paper usage.
      5. Clem reiterated a point made by Pat over email that they can be used to magnify things that are hard to see from everywhere in the church, like baptisms.
      6. There are times that Terri would like to be able to show the congregation things during sermons, but the size of the space makes that unfeasible.
    - iv. **Amendment to the Vestry Minutes from Dec 8<sup>th</sup>: the submitted minutes did not reflect that John voted no to the installation of the screens in the church.**
    - v. More people will need to be trained on the system, not just James, and it will need to evolve into a new ministry.
- 5) Financial report

- a. Currently our income is slightly ahead of the budgeted projections and spending is right on track.
  - b. Mark made the decision to hold off on moving money from the Memorial Foundation to the Vestry while the Stock Market is down, and global situations are so unstable.
  - c. ~\$95,000 that was in the Vestry's checking account was sent to DA Davidson to be invested.
- 6) Old Business
- a. Due to time constraints, items discussions on the planning committee, the landscape master plan, table purchases, and the pictorial directory were deferred to the next meeting.
  - b. Rio Grande Border Ministry
    - i. The first pilgrimage is underway, and Clem has gotten one excited message from Glen Hladek about everything they've done so far.
    - ii. Planners are meeting next week to work on the June 1<sup>st</sup> fundraiser.
    - iii. Audrey says they are also exploring ideas of how to have a presence at the convention.
  - c. Technology upgrades
    - i. The wifi network now covers the entirety of the church complex robustly and the much faster internet only costs about \$15 more per month.
    - ii. The electricity availability in the church was also upgraded.
  - d. Parishioner check-ins
    - i. Warren will reach out to Judy to get a list of contact information and then divide those up amongst the vestry members.
    - ii. Are these calls looking for information or just checking in? Both really
    - iii. Are we calling all parishioners or just people who we haven't been seeing very much of? Holly pointed out that some people may be put out getting this type of call when they are regularly attending church in person.
    - iv. We are still trying to reconnect after the tumult of the last two years. This could be a way to help people connect to the Vestry so they know who they can go to with questions or concerns.
- 7) New Business
- a. **Motion to nominate Mark as Junior Warden, seconded, and approved.**
    - i. Warren did offer to back Mark up whenever possible.
    - ii. This coming Sunday, in line with the guidance and practices of the county health department and school systems, masks will not be mandatory except when singing. There will no longer be a sign in sheet at the door. Consecrated wine will be distributed to those that want at communion via intinction by a layperson.
- 8) The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for April 13 at 5:30 pm via Zoom or maybe in person.

Respectfully submitted

Caitlin Sherman  
Clerk of the Vestry

## **March Rector's Report to Vestry**

No report. Rev. Terri continues on medical leave.

## **March Assistant Priest's Report to Vestry**

No report this month.

Submitted by: Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier

## March Vestry Ministry Reports

### A) Communications – Clem Work (Judy Parock, Chair)

Planning has been underway through February and into March promoting the start of Lent and our Lenten programs. Here are the highlights of what has been happening this past month:

- **Website Updates:** A number of updates to our website have taken place this past month. They include:
  - **Creation of Lent Landing Page:** The website homepage has been updated with an invitation to participate in our Lenten programs. Including rotators for each of our Lenten events and a general invitation to our Lenten Sunday services, we also have a panel on the homepage entitled, “Lent at Holy Spirit,” inviting the reader to join us at Holy Spirit for the Lenten journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It links you to the Lent landing page where our offerings from Ash Wednesday services through the Lenten Program and other resources for enhancing the individual Lenten experience are listed, all in one location on the website. The sidebar on this page will be used to list our Holy Week and Easter services, once those services are set. Closer to Easter we will create a Holy Week and Easter services landing page as well. This is an easy way for a visitor to the website to connect with all the various Lenten activities at Holy Spirit this Lent. A complete description of the Lenten Series is included on this page. For a person looking on the Worship page of the website, we’ve included a link in the sidebar to the Lent page and our special programs during Lent. We will include a link to our Holy Week and Easter schedule on that page as well as soon as those services are set. For a visitor just looking at the events on the Calendar of the website, clicking on the event on the calendar takes you to a more detailed description of the event as well. We’ve tried to provide multiple ways for a person to access information about our Lenten programs and activities.
  - **Solar Panel Project featured on Creation Care Page:** After being provided with a bird’s eye view video of our solar array, we decided to include that video on the Creation Care page of the website, along with the description of the solar panel project provided by Clem Work and Kent Watson in their press release about the project. Both items make a very nice addition to the page.
  - **Upcoming Project:** Audrey Murray of the Social Concerns Committee asked us about creating a page on the website that is dedicated to our partnership with Rio Grande Borderland Ministries. Since we are currently using all the pages that the website allows us, we will need to make room for this page by choosing a page on the website to give up. Elizabeth Serviss, our webmaster, has been in touch with Audrey about the content for the page, and Audrey is currently working on a draft which will be sent to Elizabeth soon.
- **Events at Holy Spirit:** A number of events were planned for February and March. For each of these events, I created a poster, a rotator for the homepage of the website, an event image for Facebook and an image to use on the app and on the Google My Business site to promote the event. Those events included the following:
  - The 2022 Lenten Series set for March 9-April 6
  - The Creation Care Winter Walk on February 12
  - “Holy Family, Human Family” presentation on February 27
  - Ash Wednesday services on March 2
  - Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday on March 6
  - The Creation Care Journaling Workshop on March 19

In addition to these events, we had Bishop Marty Stebbins here on February 20, filling in for Rev. Terri while she recovers from her surgery. We wanted to make sure that the congregation was aware of her visit, so we promoted it in our weekly e-newsletter, the Spirited Times, and posted her visit on our church Facebook page as well.

– Judy Parock

- B) Holiday Market/Outdoor Fall Festival – Caitlin Sherman (Marva Gallegos)  
No report.  
– Bob Wattenberg, Chair
- C) Parish Life – Mary Beth Jourdonnais (Kathy Swannack, Coffee Hours; Anne Cohen, receptions)  
**Reception committee report:** There were no receptions this month.  
– Anne Cohen

**Coffee Hours:** No return to after church hospitality is planned at this time.  
– Kathy Swannack, Coffee Hour Coordinator

- D) Properties – (Margaret Borg and Kevin Borg, co-chairs)  
**Properties/Buildings Report:** Clem Work, Kevin Borg and James Gartner strung many yards of internet wire to the sacristy to improve the internet strength in the church. Jim Clark and Clem Work built the platform needed for the video station in the back of the church and with the help of Gary Swartz, installed it in the back of the church. J & M Electric did the electrical installation necessary for the TV monitors. Acoustic Vision installed the TV monitors and other equipment in the church.
- E) Rummage Sale – Holly Swartz (Marva Gallegos, Chair)  
The Rummage Sale has nothing to report this month.  
– Marva Gallegos, Chair
- F) Social Concerns – Audrey Murray (Jim Wiley, Chair).

**Social Concerns Committee Report  
From Meeting on February 7, 2022**

The meeting opened with prayer led by The Ven. Dorcie Dvarishkis.

11) Update from Habitat for Humanity (Bob Brewer, Heather Harp)

The Committee received information on changes in Habitat for Humanity’s approach to helping end homelessness in Missoula, including their decision to use a Community Land Trust mechanism to reduce the cost of homes for potential buyers (this involved putting land in a trust, thus eliminating the cost of the land from the cost of the home).

Bob Brewer also asked for our annual donation to Habitat, which we will consider at our March meeting. As in previous years, Bob and Lani will match our donation, up to \$1,000.

12) Report on Borderland Ministry of the Diocese of Rio Grande (Audrey Murray, Clem Work)

- Clem Work has developed a script for our first “Learning Session,” to be offered on Feb. 27 in the Parish Hall, after church. “Holy Family, Human Family” compares the asylum of the Holy Family in Egypt with the stories of Central Americans and Mexicans stuck at the southern border.
- The March Pilgrimage (March 6 to March 12) will continue as planned, and the group originally scheduled for January will make their pilgrimage in late March.

13) Community Ministries (Dorcie Dvarishkis)

- Parenting Place  
Parenting Place - Prevent Child Abuse National has opted to discontinue the PCA-Montana Chapter, so Parenting Place and the Family Tree in Billings are working to

reorganize into more of a statewide coalition to bring ACEs and parenting education training rooted in more communities in the state.

- Hellgate High School

A'Lisa Scott will be coordinating a team of folks willing to help add a fresh coat of paint and some creativity to the FRC room.

- MIC-Common Good

One Deacon from the southern part of the state was welcomed as a participant in the second *Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization* session, so we look forward to learning about her experience as a person of color participating.

#### 14) Ongoing Project Updates:

- Feb 3 Blood Drive – Our winter blood drive was as successful as it could be, with all available slots filled; unfortunately, personnel restrictions at the Red Cross limited the number of donations that could be drawn.
- Poverello Sock/Hat/Glove Drive – off to a good start with over one full bin even before the first Sunday; see more below
- Sacred Ground – No report.
- Alms Sunday - The planning spreadsheet is out for the group's use. We need to firm up the monthly coordinators and lock in the Sundays past March. Monthly coordinators should communicate with the church office to firm up the Sunday and prepare communications for Spirited Times and the service leaflets; please let Dorcie know if any assistance would be helpful.

#### 15) Budget Update (Jim Wiley)

The 2022 Budget was approved at the Annual Meeting, and the allocation for Social Concerns is apparently \$9,505, which will be distributed as described in last month's minutes.

Spending to date includes \$500 for the Fergus County Relief Fund and \$300 for the Palomas Women's Coop/Shelter.

#### 16) Creation Care

Events schedules include:

Feb. 12 1:00 pm Winter Walk at McClay Flats

March 19 1:00 pm Journaling workshop and craft

April (date to be determined) workshop or tour on native plants

April 22? Earth Day participation with Missoula Urban Demonstration event - hope to have a booth

May 15 Following Church service, Repeat of Container Gardening Workshop

June 18 Repeat of trip to Packer's Meadows at Lolo Pass to see Camas bloom

Warren has talked to Gretchen about inviting St. Paul's parishioners to join us at these field trips and events.

Kate Laney is also looking into getting us started as a recycling site for old medicine bottles, dental supplies and makeup containers.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for **March 1, 2022**, returning to our normal "first Tuesday" schedule.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

– Jim Wiley, Chair

- G) Spiritual Formation – Nancy Errebo (Gretchen Strohmaier, Chair)  
See Assistant Priest's report.

**Youth Ministry:** The youth group is coming along slowly but steadily. There is a group of five youths that are consistently coming to the group. All the kids have mentioned bringing a friend, but as of yet have not been able to work it out with their friends' schedules. I still think this is the best avenue for increasing numbers. When it comes to what we got up to in February, I must admit it was not much. We missed a couple weeks due to sickness, all of us caught something over the course of this past month but are all back to tip top shape ready for the spring. That is all I have to report for now. Let's having a fulfilling Lent.

– Lewis Myers, Youth Director

- H) Stewardship – Pat Cole (Barb Hosier, Chair)  
Stewardship Committee did not meet this month, so I have nothing to report to the Vestry for March.  
– Barb Hosier, Stewardship Chair

- I) Creation Care Ministry – Warren Gartner (Karen Simons Gartner, Chair)

**Creation Care Agenda  
17 February 2022 noon Via Zoom**

Present: Karen Simons Gartner, Warren Gartner, Sue Lowrey

Opening prayer : Karen

1) 4 areas of focus

a) Holy Spirit Sustainable practices

i) Solar power for church

Produced over 1000 kWh over 6 weeks this winter

Need educational programming and/or signage. Ideas:

- (i) Clem said that the company that did the work is willing to do a walk through with us and other churches. Warren will check with Nancy Errebo to see if we can set up a tour for dioceses convention this fall.
- (ii) Look into a "session" on solar at the convention - possibly an Urban Nature hike.
- (iii) Creating a banner - Terri has OK'd funding and Warren will contact Kirk with Lance's suggestion.

b) Getting info to members to help them live more sustainably.

Paraclete?

Kate to write about Solar Panels at home for March

Lance to write one for April about solar panels at church

Warren is sending articles on the field trips.

Karen will send an article about container gardening day.

Container gardening day - May 15.

Kate to find plants,

Sue to arrange compost

Karen has started plants .

We will ask people to recycle their containers by bringing them back.

Warren checked at church and we need more containers. Lance offered to look into getting more.

c) Community voice

- (i) Warren will contact MUD people about Earth Day to see if we can get a boot



- (ii) Sue brought up having a Creation Care “booth” at the Holiday Market with the following as possibilities for “green gifts”
- (iii) Recycled jars with labels for kitchen or craft use
- (iv) Re-usable shopping bags
- (v) Upcycled rugs
- d) Fun opportunities
  - (a) Winter hike with Warren - about 13 people, went well.
  - (b) March 19- Nature journals
    - (i) Gretchen has pulled out paper and coverings
    - (ii) Angie Morasco will help with drawing
  - (c) April - native nursery tour - Sue
    - (i) 2nd or 30<sup>th</sup>
  - (d) Missoula Fort - though they charge a \$50 group fee
  - (e) Taser gardens - Kate to find out more
  - (f) Labyrinth
  - (g) Milltown dam
  - (h) Iron shield creative - Warren to find out cost
  - (i) Travelers Rest tour
  - (j) Lee Metcalf
  - (k) Possibly a group camp out? Sue will check out options
  - (l) Any ideas or contacts from Kent? Warren will contact
  - (m) May 15 - container gardening
  - (n) June 18 - Camas

Next meeting March 17, 2022

– Karen Simons Gartner

### **Social Concerns Committee Report From Meeting on March 1, 2022**

The meeting opened with prayer for the Ukraine led by The Ven. Dorcie Dvarishkis.

- 1) Report on Borderland Ministry of the Diocese of Rio Grande (Audrey Murray, Clem Work)
  - “Holy Family, Human Family,” our first effort at a “learning session” was a success! Using a script prepared by Clem Work, with help for several others, we had an attendance of 36 parishioners, all of whom appeared quite attentive. Many thanks to all who participated.
  - The March Pilgrimage (March 6 to March 11) is off next Sunday, and the group originally scheduled for January will make their pilgrimage March 24 to March 29.
  - The current plan is for a combination info/fundraiser on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Details will be worked out starting March 21 (Zoom at 1:00 PM), but the idea is to share stories and video as we request additional parishioner support.
  - Clem informed us that The Rev. Terri would be signing the 2022 Covenant this week, and the \$1,000 approved by Vestry would be sent to RGBM this week.
  - We need to plan for a Table/Booth at the Diocesan Convention in October (in Missoula), and also try to get some time on the Agenda for the Convention. Jim Wiley will make initial inquiries.
  
- 2) Community Ministries (Dorcie Dvarishkis)
  - Parenting Place  
Parenting Place Sunday will be March 27.
  - Hellgate High School

No update.

- MIC-Common Good

Dorcie will continue to forward information emails, either through Jim or directly to Committee members. Please remember the May 19 event to celebrate the founding of Common Good.

3) Ongoing Project Updates:

- Sacred Ground – Our first Sacred Ground event will be coming to an end shortly, and the response among participants has been very positive – based on the joy in sharing and learning. Lucia emphasized the fundamental shift in how one sees the world and our role in society as the most important learning she has experienced. Glenn praised the entire group for their efforts and perseverance!
- Alms Sundays – Plans for the coming months are as follows:
  - March – Parenting Place (March 27) and ERD
  - April – several opportunities related to Holy Week and Easter
  - May – RGBM (May 22) – preview for June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - June -- Habitat (tentatively June 12) – Pat King to check with Bob Brewer
  - July – All Nations Health Center (tentatively July 17) – Dorcie to check with Gretchen and Dave Strohmaier
  - August – Creation Care (date TBD)

4) Budget Update (Jim Wiley)

Two additional Butterfly Grant requests were approved by email vote since the last SCC meeting:

- Support for the Rocky Boy Nation bookmobile, \$300 from Butterfly Grant Funds plus \$200 from State/Diocesan Funds
- Support for Soft Landing, \$250 for after school and education programs

5) Creation Care

Turnout for the Winter Walk was good... and Creation Care is now focusing on how to tie into the coming Diocesan Convention. Possible areas for focus include:

- Information on solar power
- Sponsoring walks during Convention
- Other ideas will be welcome

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for **April 5, 2022**.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.