



# Holy Family Episcopal Church

## Vestry Meeting Minutes June 21, 2023

Attending: Fr. Bruce Gray, Senior Warden Tom Clines, Junior Warden Bethany Paden, Chris Beldin, John Manuszak, Gary Synder, Jessica Largent, Katie Hamon, Betty Bogeman, Jolene Johnston, Sharon Naatz

The meeting was called to order approximately at 7:10 p. m. with prayer led by Father Bruce.

### Celebrating Little Wins

- A big, huge Thank You to Jolene for shouldering the Mission Trip with in-person leadership. All enjoyed the mission to help others in need. The young ladies that went with Jolene on the trip, 16-year-old Sophia and 13-year-old Alexa Paden. Great Job Jolene!
- Jolene's Vestry Report is as follows: This year Holy Family led its 5th Youth Ministry Exchange summer mission trip and included students and adults from four churches and three states (IN, TN, and WV). The group served for a week in Wheeling, WV. Holy Family sent two students and two adults to participate. Participants worked at a soup kitchen, homeless support organization, and an urban farming initiative. They were also able to participate in an art project led by another program that brings various art forms to all regardless of their ability to pay. Throughout the week, the mission trip crew shared several forms of worship: portions of the Daily Office from the Book of Common Prayer, Examen, and two Eucharist services. They also had plenty of time for fellowship through personal, daily interactions and a fun day at a local resort. Overall, the trip was very successful, and relationship building between the parishes continues.
- Brief Description of any Needs or Concerns: Increased participation by youth group members would be appreciated. Support from the parish was good in terms of financial donations and "care card" submissions. Continued promotion of the trip and its impact on youth is important. A mission trip presentation will be scheduled for the parish in the fall once Sunday school resumes.
- Three Holy Family members graduated high school and are attending college in the fall. Fr. Bruce attended the graduation parties. Many parishes would love to have so many seniors celebrating a joyous occasion such as graduation. We wish them well on their respective journeys to adulthood!
- Hamilton Southeastern Equal Rainbow Tea at Holy Family raised \$1,200, and much praise was given to Evelyn Asmus who was one of the art winners. Participants said, "Meet at Holy Family where magic things happen!"
- Thank you to the Boy Scouts for cleaning and picking up trash on the grounds of Holy Family. It was a timely effort as the celebration of Spark Fishers is coming at the end of June and the church grounds needed sprucing up to get ready for the fun.
- The importance of having Holy Family Outreach during the Spark Fishers event as an Evangelism opportunity because it touches the lives of neighbors like Ashley and her daughter Charlotte who attended last year with their pet collie. Just this past Sunday both came with Charlotte's father and could continue to join us. That is celebrating a Win!
- Father's Day Brunch was highly appreciated, and everyone loved the good-natured rivalry between the Brothers of St. Andrew and Daughters of the King. They both are terrific in Holy Family's opinion!
- The dead tree has finally been taken down and now we have extra firewood.

## Parish Gossip Chain

- No parish gossip this month.

## Old & New Business

- Discussion concerning the Purchase Agreement regarding development of Holy Family's acreage near the trail ensued. Some points that were important were that Tucker has exclusive rights on any sale for approximately one year at which time a new agreement can be developed with the same appraisal that happened for the first agreement. This appraisal was for approximately one million dollars. And there was an option that instead of outright payment, that Holy Family could have a percentage of ownership to generate any additional funds that would occur from that ownership.
- At the Warden's meeting that Fr. Bruce attended there was a question of what we do with the mound of dirt out in the parking lot that is surrounding a light pole. Does Holy Family want to keep this intact or get rid of it? It was decided that it should be included in the Town Hall Meeting. Also, a concern to be discussed is that will additional lighting cause an irritant to neighbors. But there might be a way to shield the light from going across the street and just light the parking lot area.
- When to have the Town Hall meeting, it was decided to be on the 10am service of August 27<sup>th</sup>. The Boy Scouts and the Gardening Group should also be included as they are involved in the Purchase Agreement details. Chris Beldin and Michelle Arfman measured the garden area that totaled 0.57 acres. Thank you, ladies!
- Also included in the Town Hall meeting should be an aerial picture of how the new area will look. Of course, this is still in the preliminary stages and many changes could be made. Including the congregation in this early phase is to give them a general idea of where and what is going to be for sale.
- Exhibit A on the Purchase Agreement is blank at the current time. It was determined that it is an adjustable part that will be in flux until closer to the final purchase. There was confirmation that the developer would cover the cost of any changes to the parking lot, outdoor worship center and retention ponds.
- The trailer is now insured and safer from theft with wheel locks attached.
- A Presentation meeting for a new software program, Venuely, was given last night with Fr. Bruce in attendance. This is a great resource to reach out to the community to rent space at Holy Family. It is a non-profit organization that gives various templates and options that are official looking and professional without the headache of trying to build ourselves. Fr. Bruce was impressed with the software, he felt that all his questions were answered and that they had a mission to serve churches needing this help. How the company gets payment is that a small fee is collected from the renter to access the site and Holy Family can host 100% discounts on legacy groups or functions for the church. There is a power point presentation that the members of the Vestry or anyone interested can see to access all the features the software has. It was brought to the attention of the Vestry that there needs to be a lead time to make reservations so that proper preparation can occur without diminishing our resources. The posters will include a QR code for renters to scan to access the site for physical advertising. This is a great alternative to the Town super expensive web site access to rent out Holy Family space. Our only restriction

from the software developer is that we avoid work arounds so the renter can get space without paying a fee.

- New Women's Ministry Group for Holy Family female congregation members is forming but needs leadership currently. It will be less formal than Daughters of the King whose members must have membership and chapter demands and rules on participation. There are some who want to keep the DoK chapter but there will be a new ministry that will be able to minister to the more informal female parishioners. An ECW (Episcopal Church Women) ministry might be an option as they are very tolerant and more inclusive than DoK. Vestry would have to approve funds for this additional ministry.

#### Discussion of each of the five proposed initiatives in the 2008 HFEC Strategic Plan

- Tom Clines discussed Warden's building of the Children's Ministry. An important part of this is the Mission trip that happens every year. This outreach helps form young people's identities of being someone who helps others. Many opportunities like feeding the homeless with soup kitchens. These Missionaries of Charity can give credibility to people who have been burned by a church in the past. Fr. Bruce shared a story of an anonymous parent whose child did not eat one item in their lunch each day. When the parent inquired why the child didn't eat it, the child replied that they were saving it for someone who is homeless on the street wanting something to eat. That speaks a lot about how Holy Family is shaping tiny minds to love and include others.
- Outreach is a Strategic Goal of Holy Family, and it speaks to who we are as a parish. Examples that could be mentioned include Estate planning, Finance teaching, Giving tree opportunities, finding things that children need and supplying that. Also, Kindness rocks for others to discover on the trail. To help tidy up the Holy Family grounds, there could be "Adopt a Weed" where you grab a weed when outdoors and take it home to throw in the trash.

#### Finance and Budget

- A big Thank You goes out to Betty Bogeman who has been treasurer for at least 20 years. The new treasurer will be Ben Paden who is currently training with Betty for a smooth transition. Thank you again Betty for keeping Holy Family afloat for all these years! Welcome aboard Ben Paden may the funds be with you!
- A motion was made to approve 100% of apportion through June, of the approximately \$75,000 left, the Finance committee wants to tag \$50,000 to buy up some high yield, variable term (3 or 6 month) treasury bills. The finance committee consists of Dan Chillmi, Tom Clines, Charles Foreman, Wade Nickels, Pete Mullhall, Betty Bogeman and will include soon Ben Paden. Vestry member Gary Synder moves to use \$50,000 to invest in treasury bills. Chris Beldin seconds the motion. All in favor said Aye (all Vestry members present) and the motion was passed.
- Betty Bogeman opened a checking account for Holy Family at Huntington Bank. For opening an account there was a \$1,000 gift that was given to Holy Family. Gary Synder made a motion to move the \$1,000 to the General Fund. Tom Clines seconded the motion. All in favor said Aye (all Vestry members present) and the motion was passed. The General Fund total is now approximately \$3,500.

- There were no deficits to the books as one anonymous parishioner fulfilled a large pledge this month that helped the Holy Family balance.
- Holy Family's Old National account is still open due to some connections with the diocese and getting some deposits.
- Fr. Bruce was at the Diocesan Finance Committee, and they currently pay the Chase mortgage and Holy Family pays the interest now and then but will pay them back once the land is sold. Fr. Bruce wants to talk to the Finance Committee to start a capital campaign that would allow Holy Family to pay off the loan in 2 years.
- Betty Bogeman reported that we are currently at the projected mark on the payback timeline, and everything is going according to plan.
- There are plans underway to have a big celebration to honor Betty Bogeman and her tremendous volunteer effort as treasurer these many years.

#### Stewardship

- The Stewardship Committee did not get to meet this month.
- Still planning a Ministry fair in August
- In church survey was up and running and was tested by Vestry members. Great Job getting the survey set up Bethany Paden!

#### Rector's Report

- Starting a new plumber search as the current plumber doesn't keep in contact with Cathy Gray and is unreliable. This is for the water supply in the garden area.
- Garden participants gave the parish a treat with free garlic available.
- A request was made to have increased security and watchfulness on locking all outside doors and not propping them open to allow anyone to come in at any time. Our resident tutor, Susie Beard was the sole adult in the building and was approached by someone who entered the building when it should have been locked. This put Susie in a vulnerable position, but she did get out safely to be with the parent of the child she was tutoring.

The meeting ended with compline led by Fr. Bruce at 9:02 p. m.

**Next Vestry meeting is Wednesday August 17th, 7:00 p.m.**