



Holy Family Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes August 23, 2023

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

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

Celebrating Little Wins

- Chris Beldin shared an opinion by Mark Gungor that discusses the role of church members in the community. “As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it’s important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can’t serve from your sofa. You can’t have community of faith on your sofa. You can’t experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa. Christians aren’t consumers. We are contributors. We don’t watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church.” Thank you, Chris, for sharing this inspiring viewpoint that brings the importance of coming together to participate in Christ’s family to the forefront.
- Bethany Paden, along with others, reminded us also that as much as we miss church togetherness in multiple church activities spent together in fellowship and worship throughout the week, there has been a massive worldwide shift in how humans interact with each other. To embrace opportunities that can challenge traditional times of gathering is going to be in the best interest of church growth. Somehow, Episcopalians will have the creativity to meld two seemingly different viewpoints into one viable outreach for people in the world today who need Christ more than ever.
- For an Eagle Scout project Matthew Beard installed pavers to the Columbarium and did a massive weed cleanup around the parking lot sheds. Thank you, Matthew!
- Cathy Scott was welcomed as guest clergy for Fr. Bruce’s while he was on vacation last Sunday. The congregation was in good hands while Fr. Bruce had a well-earned rest with family. Thank you, Cathy!
- The broken tree was removed at the south end of the parish hall. A big thank you to the anonymous helper who assisted in that service to our church family.
- Birthday Cake Bundles – Jolene Johnston reports that 25 bundles will be available by Sunday to help families celebrate important life events with traditional cake and candles. Thank you all for graciously donating. And thank you Jolene for organizing this outreach!
- Renewed outreach ministry with the Missionaries of Charity has been started. This important outreach to homeless women by donating necessary supplies is a terrific opportunity to show Christ’s love.
- A big thank you to Chris Beldin for pulling weeds and taking such gentle care of our parish property.

- Doors have been fixed although all parishioners must be careful to continue to shut doors properly so they can lock completely to keep the building safe.
- Locking mailbox has been ordered to also help with security.
- Jessica Largent mentioned a new visitor, Matt started listening to the podcast for a while and viewed our on-line services. He decided to visit in person! He travels a lot so might not visit every week.

Parish Gossip Chain

- Two valuable members of our congregation, Bob Murray and Tina Vawter, have chosen to worship elsewhere during this time in their religious journeys. We wish them the best and would like them to know that they will always be welcomed back with open arms.

Old & New Business

- Plans for Sunday's Town Hall Meeting: Kristine Cantor volunteered to host hospitality with help from Bethany, Jolene, Fr. Bruce, and Cathy. Details on preparations were hashed out and jelled. Fr. Bruce will start with prayer and history of land and incorporate the next steps. Dan Chillemi will discuss the involvement of Travis Tucker and financial dynamics. Ben Paden will cover the importance of parish finances while Bethany Paden covers the real estate aspect of the proposed sale. She will include action items and follow up questions any parishioner might have.
- There was discussion that parishioners felt this sale was a great surprise and forced on the congregation when other options might be more viable. Senior Warden Tom Clines reminded everyone that the vestry 2 years prior voted on the sale and was mentioned in the minutes at the time. All on the vestry at that time were doing their due diligence in providing the most profitable income stream to be able to be in a position of financial health to support the growth of Holy Family going forward. Ben Paden as our treasurer believes that this sale is an opportunity not to pass up, even if Holy Family was in a great financial position. This sale will open the church to the community by way of our access to the city trail and give the people of Fishers awareness of Holy Family in the vicinity of their backyards.
- The Ministry Fair will be September 10th to encourage volunteering among the congregation with tables set up to promote various outreaches the parish has. Thank you, Kristine Canter, and the rest of the stewardship committee for taking this event and spearheading it as a promotion for all the great activities and committees that one can be a part of at Holy Family.
- 10 people per Vestry member, are they getting contacted? Some members has contacted them but not every month, Kristine Canter mails out "Happenings at Holy Family" and "What's going on month at a glance." She said one parishioner has replied with thanks, so it's worth it. Ruth Everett mentioned that she would contact them by text and she usually got great responses.
- Survey Update with Bethany Paden tallying up all the responses of participants. To help validate people's heartfelt entries, effort will be made to incorporate ideas that people gave. Being able to take constructive criticism and work to make our church home better to all is part of our cornerstone "All are welcome" which includes the "salty" comments. A big thank you to all who participated in giving and receiving the information necessary to help Holy Family grow in unity and understanding. How can we serve people better now and how do we focus on Christ's purpose?

- Checking the Bulletin – proofreading. Jessica Largent volunteered to help Fr. Bruce check the Bulletin. A big thank you to Jessica!
- The Strategic Plan for Holy Family will be updated by Annual Meeting 2024.

Focus Goals from Vestry Retreat - Reports

- Bethany Paden will be developing policies and job descriptions for comprehensive and meaningful roles that people will be able to adhere to without tripping over details that aren't mentioned in the current explanations.
- Bethany will also finish our concerns forms and develop a parish process for handling concerns.
- Fr. Bruce is concentrating on Evangelism and seeing fruitful efforts with increasing responses to the weekly podcast. Thank you, Fr. Bruce, and Ben Paden, for that outreach to the community!
- The Finance and Budget committee – Senior Warden, Tom Clines, reported that the committee was postponed for this month and that there is a new member, Jacob Spangler, that has recently joined – Welcome Jacob!
- Stewardship- Kristine Canter and Jessica Largent. Fr. Bruce will be firing up that committee during the month of September.
- Buildings and Grounds – Fr. Bruce reports that freezers are being repaired next week. Lorri and Fr. Bruce are the ones participating in the committee. Kristine Canter asked about the paper plates over the drains to prevent smells from the sewer.
- Adult formation –Will be by led by Fr. Bruce while the Bible Study will be led by the Canters on the Gospel of Matthew both will be Sundays at 9:00 am.
- Children and Youth – Katie Hamon and Jolene Johnston and Ruth Everett will start Sunday, September 10th.
- Jolene Johnston has made connections with the Hamilton Humane Society. During the month of September Holy Family will give donations to the Humane Society that will be blessed at the Blessing of the Animals Service. Then the children will have a field trip to give the animal donations that have been blessed.

Finance and Budget

- Treasurer's Report – Ben Paden, planning to Open Alms soon.
- Some changes are occurring in financial software that will be updated to help become paperless. Ben Paden is providing the software to keep Holy Family viable.
- Thank you, Ben, for volunteering and updating our financial vision.
- Fr. Bruce reported that he is meeting with the Diocesan Finance Committee, and they currently pay the Chase mortgage but now wants Holy Family to pay some of the interest.
- Bethany Paden made the motion to approve the June minutes, Kristine Canter seconded the motion, and all voted "AYE" and motion was passed unanimously.

Rector's Report

- After School Art Program – in partnership with St. Michael's, Noblesville, and St. Francis in Zionsville, is in the planning stages now. It will start sometime during the school year. Holy Family will host once a week for 6 weeks with a professional art teacher that will be no cost to us. It will be through a Diocesan grant. Still trying to figure out when to offer it.
- Music and Meditation resumes at the beginning of September. Typically scheduled during Sunday of every month.
- Evangelism and Parish – Please say hi to people you have missed over the summer. Kristine Canter asked if we had a welcome committee. All Vestry members take turns at being welcome to the parish. Vestry person of the week whom the people can come to.

The meeting ended with compline led by Fr. Bruce at 9:01 p. m.

Next Vestry meeting is Wednesday September 20th, 7:00 p.m.