

# **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting**

June 16, 2015, 7 p.m.  
Farmer Hall

**Vestry Members in Attendance:** Gary Naegel, John Armstrong, Steve Domienik, Lucinda Embersits, Kristen Garnett, Cathy Golden, Amanda Hayward, Rebecca Rastetter, Louise Beecher, Alan Miller, Art Criddle, Cathy Golden, Mark Auletta, Colleen McHugh.

**Absent:** Art Criddle

## **Opening Prayer**

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the May 19 meeting were approved as amended. The motion was made by Cathy Golden and seconded by Alan Miller.

### **2. Treasurer's report.**

The May treasurer's report was approved. Gary Naegel made the motion, which was seconded by Rebecca Rastetter.

### **3. Traffic and Pre-School**

Cathy Golden reported that the church's pre-school staff had expressed concern about weekday traffic that turns into St. Andrew's parking lot from Church Lane. Children who exit the school from to go to the playground can find themselves in the path of cars and trucks whose drivers would not be expecting to see them.

Golden said Pre-School Director Anita Spear was seeking permission to re-route traffic while the pre-school was in session. The possible steps she was contemplating would not cost the church any money and would not affect the church on Sundays.

It was agreed without a formal motion that Spear should meet with the Building and Grounds Committee and Sexton David Mikus to work out some specific plans.

### **4. Committee Updates**

- **Building and Grounds: Kitchen Renovation**

Alan Miller, who is heading the project to renew Farmer Hall, reported that developing a plan to renovate the kitchen was complicated because of the many rules governing a kitchen deemed “commercial.” Although re-creating St. Andrew’s kitchen as simply a “warming kitchen” would involve meeting far fewer regulations, the vestry agreed that a kitchen with the capability of cooking food was needed.

Miller said the staff at a kitchen supply store he had visited in Wallingford had strongly advised him to hire an engineer experienced in working with commercial kitchens. He said the engineer would help the committee overseeing the renovation to develop a floor plan, an equipment plan and answer questions when a town permit is sought for the work.

The vestry gave permission to go forward with developing and engineering plan for a commercial kitchen. Gary Naegel made the motion and Mark Auletta seconded.

- **Hospitality Committee**

Mark Auletta was thanked for coordinating the church picnic, which was held June 14 at the Surf Club. Father Steve Domienik said that asking a volunteer to step up to coordinate specific events rather than seeking an official hospitality chairman might be the way to handle hospitality concerns in the future.

Auletta said that \$150 worth of food left-over from the event was stored in the church’s freezer. Domienik suggested that it be used for Wednesday night suppers at the Surf Club during the summer.

- **Music Committee**

Amanda Hayward reported that music had been arranged for the church’s summer 9 a.m. services.

- **Outreach Committee**

John Armstrong said that new members were being sought for this committee. An additional volunteer chaperone also was being sought for the youth mission trip to Niagara Falls July 5-10.

- **Stewardship**

Father Steve Domienik said that an ad hoc committee should be created now to prepare for the stewardship drive that will occur in September. Kristen Garnett, who helped chair last year’s drive, said she would start contacting potential volunteers.

- **Sunday School/Church Groups**

Father Steve Domienik reported that an ad for a new Sunday School director had run in The Source and the previous week and was also slated to appear in the classified section of seven other shoreline newspapers. He said one resume already had been received.

He reported that eight shoreline clergy had joined together to write a proposal to the diocese asking that money from the diocesan mission society be used to hire a newly-ordained curate who would serve as a youth minister for the various congregations for two years, rotating among them. There was a possibility that the minister could be kept on for a third year, if the money was available. However, Domienik said that no decision had yet been made by the diocese on the request.

- **Welcoming Committee**

Kristen Garnett reported that she had found people willing to serve on this committee, but noted that the committee needed to set up a better record-keeping system. Colleen McHugh volunteered to work with Kristen. It also was suggested that vestry members take turns welcoming visitors to Sunday services.

## **5. Lawsuit/Boy Scouts**

Father Steve Domienik reported that St. Andrew's had been brought into a lawsuit brought by four men who claimed they had been molested in the 1980s by a leader of a Boy Scout Troop that met at the church. The suit was originally filed against the Boy Scout Council and the United Church of Christ, with St. Andrew's being brought into the case by the UCC to share in the liability. Domienik said the matter is being handled by the diocese's attorney, and St. Andrew's does not have to pay him. The Boy Scout Council also has money to pay for damages levied against chartering organizations such as churches that sponsor troops. The council's coverage would apply to the cases brought by three of the plaintiffs, but not the fourth, Dominik said. A motion has been made to dismiss the case against St. Andrew's, he said.

## **6. Interim Rector**

Vestry Warden Gary Naegel reported that seven members of the vestry and the congregation had interviewed Jenni Matheson, a candidate for the position of Interim Rector, on the evening of June 7 and that the consensus vote after the meeting had been unanimously positive. Matheson lives in Roxbury with her husband, who is also an Episcopal priest, but will commute to Madison from the couple's second home in Waterford. She will work at St. Andrew's on a three-quarter time basis.

The vestry voted to approve a letter of agreement between St. Andrew's, the diocese and Matheson. Mark Auletta made the motion and Lucinda Embersits seconded.

Although Domienik's last Sunday at St. Andrew's would be July 5, Naegel said that Matheson would start her duties at St. Andrew's Friday, July 17. He said a letter announcing her appointment would be drafted and sent to parishioners.

## **7. Transition Team**

Vestry Warden Gary Naegel reported that Maureen Peitler-Lederman, vicar at St. John's Episcopal Church in North Guilford, had been named consultant to the parish Transition Team charged with seeking a rector for St. Andrew's.

Naegel said, however, that procedural rules and administrative changes at the diocesan level will prevent her from meeting with the Transition Team until August 13. Meanwhile, the Transition Team members will meet on June 17 to better get to know each other, he said.

## **8. Father Steve Good-Bye**

Father Steve Domienik, who is moving to a new parish in Michigan to be closer to his family, ended the meeting by bidding good-bye to the vestry. He said he felt the parish was now in a "really good place." The experience of serving at St. Andrew's had been a very good experience for him overall. He said although he was excited about his new position, he was also sad about leaving and would miss his Madison friends. He pointed out that under church rules, a priest is not supposed to be in contact with his former parish for a year after leaving.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Louise Beecher, Vestry Clerk