

Vestry Minutes

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford, Ohio

October 2, 2018



Present: Sara Palmer, Rector; Bob Benson, Sr. Warden; Elaine Brandner, Jr. Warden; Jim Michael, Treasurer; Stacey Peterson, Clerk; Vestry Members: Martin Ganev, Mila Ganeva, John Harper, Peter Lindsay, Hugo Olaiz, Chris Shoker and Debbie Williams; Guest: Bonnie Kretschmer

Absent: Lisa Herrmann and Diana Uhlman

Spiritual reflections Debbie led an opening prayer and a discussion of chapters three and four of *The Art of Transformation* by Paul Fromberg.

Agenda for 10-2-2018 Meeting: Unanimously approved – Elaine moved and Martin seconded.

Approval of 9-11-2018 Vestry Meeting Minutes: Unanimously approved with Elaine's corrections. Bob moved and Elaine seconded.

Rector's Report – Sara Palmer

- **Pastoral visits:** Sara updated Vestry on parishioners with health issues.
- **Student Ministry:** Pete is going to attend Diocesan student retreat October 6-7 in Columbus. Seven students are participating in Student Bible Study; three of them are new. Old Testament prophets are being studied. Sara has met with one new student.
- **Staffing:** Kathy Kuehnle, the new administrative assistant, is doing well putting together the bulletin and the Triad among other tasks. Several parishioners have helped out.
- **Liturgical planning and presiding:** Sara met with the Worship Committee to plan services from September 20 through Epiphany. There were 140 people at church Sunday, October 1, with the Choraliars singing and Miami's Family Weekend. Holy Trinity will host an area confirmation service in next Spring. There will be seven confirmands from Holy Trinity.
- **Vestry orientation:** We'll hold an orientation session for new Vestry member Lisa Herrmann.
- **Adult Forum:** Sharon Seidel, Keira Hassel and Lila Mason will share their faith stories this semester. Peter Williams will lead a Religion and Politics session. Sara led a discussion on Amos and will talk about the art of writing sermons.
- **Diocese of Southern Ohio:** Sara hosted six Rector colleagues at Holy Trinity September 13.
- **Outreach Commission:** The group is supporting the coat collection effort. Sara has asked colleagues at Religious Communities Association to share information on the coat collection at their churches. Mary Rezaian has been helping spread the word around Oxford.
- **Professional development:** Sara attended the first Healthy Congregations class in Delaware, Ohio, titled "Thoughtful leaders in anxious times." She's finding that many congregations are facing same struggles as Holy Trinity.

- **Vacation time:** Sara will be off October 4-14, but will preside Sunday, October 7. Teri Thornton will preach October 14, and a pastor will be on call the entire time Sara is out.

Hosting combined Vacation Bible School in Summer 2019 – Bonnie Kretschmer

Holy Trinity joined the Oxford Vacation Bible School partnership two years ago, which includes Oxford Presbyterian, Faith Lutheran and Oxford Methodist churches. It runs one weekend in mid-July on Friday night from 5 to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sun 10 a.m. to noon. Each session includes a meal, crafts, games and stories.

Oxford Presbyterian Church hosted last year. There were 10 groups of five kids led by trained leaders with high school and middle school helpers. The curriculum was purchased two years ago, but last year the group developed its own curriculum. Churches provide monetary support, but last year much of those contributions wasn't needed and was returned to the churches.

Holy Trinity is being asked to host the summers of 2019 and 2020. We don't know the 2019 dates yet. Besides needing to use classrooms, decorations go up the week before. There's a presentation – usually musical – at the beginning of Sunday service. Then kids do games and crafts and then have a meal.

A motion was made to host next summer – Chris moved and Mila seconded.

- Bonnie said we'd need Holy Trinity volunteers; the parish has sent four in the past.
- Other churches would handle the Friday and Saturday meals and the main dish on Sunday.
- Parishioners would bring potluck dishes for the Sunday meal.
- Group leaders have done safe church training in their churches and had background checks.
- Holy Trinity congregation would be invited to join the Sunday meal.
- There would be 40-50 kids and almost that many adults in the program.
- Holy Trinity contributed \$300 last year; only \$11 of that was used.

Vestry unanimously approved a motion to contribute \$300 for the 2019 Vacation Bible School. Chris moved and Elaine seconded.

Replacing insulation on the large air handler on the alley – Elaine

Cats have ripped up the insulation on the air handler in the alley. We have a \$4,330 estimate from CIS to replace it with insulation that's more cat-proof. The work will take three days.

Vestry approved a motion to replace the insulation – Chris moved and Bob seconded.

Oxford Presbyterian Church youth groups – John

Jake Smithers is the new coordinator of the middle and high school youth groups at the Oxford Presbyterian Church. Dick Nault, John and Sara met with him recently. Faith Lutheran Church is also involved.

- There are boys and girls in the groups.
- There may be a retreat in the Spring. (Vestry members suggested having mission trips.)

- John said Saturday, November 10, Holy Trinity families and the youth group will be invited to go to Butterfield Farm. Holy Trinity will host this outing.

Request was made to contribute \$500 to the Oxford Presbyterian Church's Youth Ministry. Jim said he has noted it, and it will be part of next year's budget.

Organizers for Lessons and Carols dinner, December 9 – Sara

We will need one or more people to organize the December 9 dinner. A suggestion was made that we find a way to accommodate more people so more nonparishioners could be invited. Discussion ensued. Bob said the issue couldn't be resolved at this meeting.

Problem of keys and doors being left unlocked – Bob

In the last month, church doors have been left unlocked at least three times. Part of the problem is that VPOMs may be inadequately trained or handing their duties off to untrained people. There are also many keys distributed among church members. Other points were raised, including:

- The front door to the church is in bad shape and will need to be replaced in the near future. This has been discussed with the architect, along with how to make the steps safer.
- Opening and closing the building is quite difficult.
- We need to replace multiple doors in the older part of the church.
- Sara will get a list of people with keys and will work with Wardens on how to proceed.
- Elaine will compile a list of doors with problems that need to be budgeted for.

2018 September Financial Report – Jim

Jim said that it's time to think about budget issues for next year. He also noted the following about the Income and Expense Report for January through September:

- The cash problem from last month is worse. We have a nearly \$12K of negative unrestricted fund balance.
- We have less than \$45K in the bank (all restricted).
- Expenses have been going up gradually, while pledge income has remained flat.
- It was suggested that information be provided to parishioners on the number of people pledging at various levels.

Vestry unanimously accepted the September Financial Report – Martin moved and Bob seconded.

The meeting was adjourned following a prayer led by Bob.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Peterson

Stacey Peterson, Clerk