

St. Boniface Episcopal Church
January 19, 2023 Vestry Meeting Approved February 18, 2023

Evening Prayer

Blessing of the new Golf Cart - Prior to the beginning of the meeting the Vestry gathered in the courtyard for the blessing of the new golf cart by Asst. Rector Nikki Seger.

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 6:17 pm.

Roll Call

Vestry Members Present - Gino Fellin (Senior Warden), Randy Thomas (Junior Warden), Justin Miller, Beverly Parker, Judy Stickler, Zerbe Sodervick, Phil Baker, Larry Patton, Prill Nugent (Zoom), Holley Schroeder (Zoom)

Vestry Members Absent - Charlie Pettengill, Marjorie Floyd

Other Attendees - Wayne Farrell (Rector), Nikki Seger (Asst. Rector), Suzanne Barksdale (Treasurer), Joe Master (Director of Business and Finance), David Eichlin (Secretary)

Introduction of Guests - Rita Valenti-Piovane, Kay Goodman (Candidates for the Vestry Class of 2025 via zoom)

Senior Warden Report - At the invitation of Larry Patton, I attended the lecture by Taylor Ranch on Racism held at the Church of the Palms. Taylor touched on the history of racism from the Civil War to the Civil Rights movement and its influence on our lives today. The parallels between politics then and now are unmistakable. Through politics of violence, the black community was kept from realizing the benefits of the Constitution. In fact, the Constitution was amended to codify such abuses. That is what the non-violent movement of the Civil Rights Era, through Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King took head-on. Non-violence is the heart of our democracy, the vote. Over the past 50 years, Modern Cynicism has been growing. A cynicism in which the appeal for votes is based on resentment of the government. A government that white members of the society believe turned its back on them. One where you run for office vowing to tear down the government and not provide a positive plan for anything else. A desire to see the breakdown of government. It's a product of the long cultivation of doubt in our government and a backlash to the civil rights movement. We saw it erupt on January 6, 2021. Interestingly, terms such as "Critical Race Theory", "Woke", and "Politically

Correct” are sarcastic evasions meant to avoid interaction. They end the conversation, which is what they were designed to do. We certainly have our work cut out for us if we have any chance of overcoming the prejudices of racism. As Taylor stated, “race is Freedom’s Gate, at times it’s being pushed open and others it’s being pushed closed. We need to do our part to push it open. Taylor said, “the divide between us will be permanent if we don’t see each other as people”.

As we move forward with our Strategic Plan, we are poised to make a difference for all the marginalized members of our community. On to the pressing matter of the budget and our pledge drive. Our current pledge drive has a shortfall of approximately \$102,000.00. If the remainder of the pledges are realized (approx. \$74,000) then we are looking at a shortfall of approx. \$36,264.00. The Executive Committee along with Finance have worked hard on the new FY23 budget and have pulled resources from many locations to try and get us to the balanced budget required. We continue to reach out to those that have pledged in the past but have not yet. It is very encouraging that a plurality of the pledges are an increase from last year. Evidence of the shared belief in our mission. Unfortunately, we have also lost many of our previous pledgers to death, moving, etc. Now comes the difficult part of the vestry’s leadership and responsibility to provide oversight of the budget and look for ways to make budgetary adjustments to bring the budget into balance. To that end, the Executive Committee has provided a few pathways to bridge the gap which we will discuss at our meeting. I ask that everyone take a good look at the proposed budget and come with ideas, insights and recommendations for closing the deficit.

Junior Warden Report -

Hurricane Ian

Contact contractor (Shue Kaufman, 941.302.1017)

Develop a plan/scope of work that addresses Ian repairs, Parish Hall renovation and roofing needs

Contacted Scott Kauffman (Shue-Kauffman) regarding a possible contract to conduct/oversee the repairs for Ian. A meeting with him has been set up for January 31.

Columbarium

Meet with Tony Wilson to determine plan (repair, rebuild or relocate)

Establish a funding source

Wayne and Randy met with Tony Wilson who provided a complete briefing on possible solutions. Estimated costs and determination of the scope of work is now needed.

Lighting

- Determine Tasks to move ahead

- Contact vendors

- Contact installation vendors

A follow-up with the equipment vendor will be done to verify prices. A meeting will be held to determine an installation vendor and associated costs. Information needs to be obtained regarding the ability to support the new lighting.

Parish Hall

- Develop a plan

- Merge with lan repairs

The project needs to be addressed to see if we can incorporate this project with lan repairs.

Exterior Painting

- Contact possible vendors

- Establish funding source

Drainage

- Contract with a civil engineer to determine the best plan

- Determine if the retention area can be used

Clean dumpster area

- Review water bills with Sarasota County to assess possible issues.

- Community Center kitchen issues

- Healing mission doors have been installed

Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the 2023 Parish Budget - Suzanne

presented the proposed 2023 budget which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. The goal is to present a balanced budget which can be adjusted up or down depending on income and expenses during the year. Most of the church income is from pledges. After discussion regarding the budget a motion was made to approve the proposed 2023 budget, seconded, and approved. Suzanne thanked Wayne for his help in the development of the plan due to his earlier background in the business world.

Gratitude Commission - Follow-up phone calls were made to parishioners who had not pledged for the 2023 year. Since it was difficult to talk to some, a letter is being sent, signed by Vestry members, as a follow-up to the phone calls. Also, some vestry

members offered to make additional attempts at reaching out to those who have not responded.

Strategic Planning - Justin reviewed the Strategic Plan Tracking sheets. Each committee needs to meet and review the milestones for each of the 3 designated target areas. It was noted that nothing is on the St. Boniface Church website yet regarding the Strategic Plan for parishioners to see. This will be remedied as of this coming Monday. It was also noted that the church website is not user friendly and can be difficult to navigate. It was asked about the people who signed up to be part of each target area during the roll out luncheon and getting them involved. Justin said that because only initials were used, and not full names when signing up, it has been challenging to determine who the initials belonged to.

Electronic follow-up addendum: A follow-up from the Vestry meeting Thursday - and looping our Strategic Planning Committee friends as well:

- All Strategic Planning documents are being hosted on [Google Drive](#). Anyone with the link should have access.
 - There are 4 sub-folders: one for each of the Targets and a general folder for the Plan itself.
- Each of the committees needs to identify a "facilitator". Those individuals will work with the clergy, Vestry leadership, and myself to ensure regular updates and forward progress.
- Specifically, there is a "tracking" spreadsheet of all Strategic Plan milestones available [here](#). Our next steps as Committees are to begin to identify how those milestones will be accomplished, specifically:
 - Who will lead efforts for each Milestone ("Lead(s)")?
 - When is the target completion date for each Target ("Deadline")?
 - What funds might be needed to accomplish each Target ("Budget Needs")?
 - And columns for regular updates, as well as final outcomes as each milestone is met (to share with each other and the congregation on a regular basis ("Updates" and "Outcomes")).
- As soon as I know the facilitators for each Target, we'll come together to draft public-facing documents for dissemination. You can email me those individuals as soon as they're known.
- At the next Vestry meeting, please have it your goal as a committee to have completed at least the Deadlines for your strategic plan goals - bonus points for those who have ID'd Leads and Budget Needs.

Assistant Rector Report - Here are the highlights relating to my work since our December vestry meeting:

Attended the usher refresher training and the lector/vested minister training. I rejoice that we have so many talented lay folk engaged in worship at St Boniface.

Attended a Commission on Ministry (COM) meeting. I am enjoying getting to know those invested in leadership at the diocesan level. I am also surprised at how many are in the discernment process in this diocese. Currently, there are three from St Boniface that are in active discernment (Cynthia Sand, Beverly Dame, and Annie Stanford). There are canonical requirements that the vestry may be a part of regarding their discernment. I will make certain that the vestry clearly understands your role in this process as each moves along.

Attended the seating of Bp Scharf at the Cathedral.

Continue to lead Thursday Bible Study and noon Holy Communion (3-8 attendees, on average).

Mentoring session with the Rev Suzanne Hood (Associate Rector, Christ Church, New Bern, NC)

I rejoice in my second Advent and Christmas and Epiphany season at St Boniface. I certainly know more people by name and also understand the rhythm and pace of this season.

Daily, I give thanks to God for the opportunity to be here with Wayne+ as my colleague, the staff, the retired clergy, the vestry and other strong lay leaders, the congregation and our visitors. It is a holy privilege.

On a personal note, Jennifer and I spent time between Christmas and New Years with my family on a visit to Baton Rouge. It was lovely being with them. My father remarried during that time.

Rector Report - Wayne presented 3 guidelines for use of the new golf cart. They are
1) Maximum speed of the vehicle is 15 mph. 2) It is only to be used on church property.
3) Seatbelts must be worn and only used by licensed drivers. A motion was made to accept the guidelines, seconded, and approved. Insurance in the vehicle will only cover staff and volunteers, many who help with beach parking. 33 people attended the Epiphany eve service. There was a blessing of a civil marriage on January 1. It is a prayer book liturgy and is approved to be done in the context of a Sunday service. Music at Christmas was exceptional under James' guidance. 502 people attended the 3 Christmas services which was an increase at all 3 over 2021. This number does not include those who may have been watching through streaming.

Old Business - There was no old business.

New Business - There was no new business.

Acceptance of minutes of December 16, 2022 Vestry Meeting - A motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded, and approved.

Vestry minute-for-ministry topics - Gino volunteered to present to the congregation. Topics to be presented are the approved budget which will be presented at the annual meeting, date of the annual meeting, and update on Strategic Planning.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Calendar items:

Boniface Artists Group - 1st exhibit - Sunday, January 22 11:30 - 3:00

Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 29 after the 10:00 service in the Community Center + meeting for Vestry immediately to follow in the library.

Baptism - Sunday, February 12, 10:00 service

Evensong & Recital - Sunday, February 12, 5:00 pm

Vestry Retreat - Friday, February 17, home of the Farrell's (pm)

Saturday, February 18, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at Dayspring

Ash Wednesday services - 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 6:30 pm, and 12:00 noon on the beach.