

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church**  
**Bishop's Committee Minutes**  
August 16, 2023

**Members Present:** Father Jim Said, Tim Grino, Katy Hilts, Mike Kennedy, Anne Davis, Charlee Mitchell (attended by phone), Melinda Sowers, treasurer, and Tina Lamb, clerk. Susan Burt was absent.

The Bishop's Committee met at the Plainfield home of Mike Kennedy.

Father Jim opened the meeting with member sharing time at 7:04 pm. He also noted that fifty-five people attended the Waycross Retreat the prior weekend.

**Approval of Consent Agenda and June Minutes:** Katy moved to approve; Tim seconded. All were in favor of approval.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Checking: \$55,327.28
- Savings: \$190,935.51

Melinda created bank account number 20545, Credit Card Payable, to draw funds out to pay the credit card bill unreconciled.

Anne moved to approve the treasurer's report and Mike seconded. All were in favor.

**New Business**

- **Village Hub:** Anne stated that the first committee meeting was held, with much productive discussion. Out of this came the plan for Jim and Anne to meet with the Reverend Canon Kristin White. (Mentioned in the Hub discussion: When Bishop Jennifer visits Good Sam's in November, we can pay to use the library at Harris after the service, for the Committee to meet with her, as needed.)
- **Adult Formation:** Melinda said she was curious about what plans are for fall. Jim is looking at a couple of options through Virginia Theological Seminary, one of which is video based. Pub Theology is also being looked at, again. Jim described a Bible Uncorked option that was offered at a prior congregation. The Doubters and Skeptics series was also mentioned as programming to revisit.
- **Lay Eucharistic Visitors:** The committee discussed this practice that entails lay people taking communion from the altar on Sundays to Good Samaritan people who can't come

to the service. We have four communion kits, plus Jim's. This was a pre-Covid ministry, also. Anne suggested re-launching.

- **Brianna's Maternity Leave:** Admin Bri has volunteered to work extra hours prior to her due date (early November); we would need to approve these. We can pay her for extra hours for 2 – 4 weeks, including for bulletin prep. Barbie is willing to work extra hours during Bri's absence, as needed; however, she is paid at a different rate. Barbie would be asked not to exceed 40 hours per week, total. We should be well situated. Jim will investigate diocesan maternity leave rules/restrictions. Possible necessary budget adjustments were discussed. Voting on changes can happen in September if needed.

## Old Business

- **Ideas to help Jim learn more about each congregant—talents, etc., aka Cottage Conversations:** The committee agreed that plans need to be made. These can happen in homes, parks, etc. Strength/talent/personality assessments could be a focus, e.g., the enneagram. Charlee recommended going through the Discernment Committee and taking the parish profile into consideration. "Who we are...can be the focus of the meetings," Melinda suggested. Relationships can be strengthened/deepened in the process. Including stewardship in the broader conversation was also discussed; Katy noted that Natalie Rodriguez has agreed to chair the stewardship committee. They will be meeting soon to work out details. The committee agreed to come to the September meeting prepared to discuss making these plans for October. Stewardship meetings will be planned and offered on multiple dates for congregants—probably three or four (perhaps four in person and one on Zoom). Tim recommended that they happen before fall break, or possibly before and after.

Katy noted that a new Bishop's Committee clerk will need to be lined up due to Tina Lamb's resignation. An announcement will be made in church, seeking interested individuals, perhaps after Nancy gives announcements. Tim volunteered to do so on August 20<sup>th</sup>. It will then be included in written news. Interest can be communicated to the Bishop's Committee, Jim or Bri.

## Ministry Liaison Reports:

Tim talked about Connections; there are four people on the team. Jennifer Moore has taken over Community Connections and has sent out an interest survey. Deb Ruckman has enlisted more people for greeters, who will be working both exterior and interior stations. The welcome table will be left up for sign-ups for programming after service. A new member welcome event will be held September 10<sup>th</sup>. Nanci and Jen are brainstorming giveaways and shirt orders. Our newcomer brunch is September 24<sup>th</sup>. Jim noted that we are also looking at ordering hats.

Tim also said there were seven attendees at the recent mental health committee meeting. On September 9<sup>th</sup> there will be an Out of the Darkness Walk at Military Park; the committee will participate, and announcements will be made to the church. A mental health committee survey will be sent out soon. The next meeting will include planning for 2024. Bri needs to be notified that this is a brand-new group that may not yet be on her radar; Lisa Kennedy founded the committee and Pam Stachler is spearheading the walk.

Mike said that Becky Weidner wanted to share that Kate Atkinson accepted the co-lead role of the Outreach Committee, taking over for Beth Hannon Penny. She will begin in October. This committee has recently accomplished a wide range of programming that included serving six meals to 19+ people at Family Promise, donating \$500 worth of products to Sheltering Wings, and assembling 30 treat bags for ALPHA and Harris teachers. They noted that storage of supplies is a challenge currently, in terms of access. Jim and Mike discussed potential options for freeing up accessible space, including for the Angel Tree for Christmas season. There are chairs that the school corporation may be able to move out, to free up space. Mike will reach out to Regan Huff about getting the chairs moved from behind our racks.

**BC Schedule for Sunday Worship Coverage:** All Sundays are covered except for Christmas Eve, on which there will be two services. The Christmas pageant will be on 17<sup>th</sup> of December.

#### **Vicar's Report:**

By the numbers...

Measures and Benchmarks as of **August 16, 2023**

- Number of people in “base”: (members and regular participants): **338 (230 adults, 108 children/youth)**
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): **19**
- Rolling attendance last **6 weeks: (90, 97, 106, 100, 90, 94)**
- Year to date average Sunday attendance: **101**
- 2022 Total Average Attendance: **86.6**
- 2022 Previous year given: **\$151,616.16** 2022 Number of Pledges: **56**
- 2023 Amount pledged: **\$163,658.12** 2023 Number of Pledges: **57**
- 2023 Amount given YTD: **\$111,802.69**
- Vicar's newcomer connections: **3 (Betsy Humphrey, Mark and Andra Walters)**

Mike Kennedy closed with prayer at 8:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Lamb, Clerk