The Episcopal Church

Church of the Holy Spirit

St. Marks Bishop's Committee

Vestry Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2018

Present: Rev. Kelly Sundberg-Seaman, Kate Donahue, Kate Laucks, Katie Patten, Dick Osborne, Anne Hunnewell, Lew Overaker, Deb Holland, Joan Bowers, Wayne Twombley and Paula Hancock.

Absent: Rev. Deacon Maryan Davis, Angie Criscuolo, Kathy Lennox, Barbara Brooks, Richard Bennett, Bea Thibeault and Shannon Inkel.

The meeting opened with a Scripture reflection at 11 AM.

**Minutes:** Anne Hunnewell made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Lew Overaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes were from January -September 2018.

**Renewal Works:** The renewal works committee met with other churches in the diocese. There was a sense of excitement at the meeting. We did well on our Renewal Works survey. We received 30 responses or a 60% response rate. We will have a conference call to discuss the responses.

**Wardens Report:**Deb reported that both burners in Sherrill Hall and St. Marks have been serviced at a price of $179/each. There were some repairs needed. A circulator in one of the burners needed to be replaced at a cost of $950. St. Mark's has a maintenance contract with Dead River Company. The Sherrill Hall elevator has been repaired.

Dick Osborne has talked with a local contractor to get an estimate for repainting the CLC building. The estimate is $20,000 to remove paint down to the wood. He will wait on the estimate until the Vestry has decided if this work will be completed or placed on hold. With the different configuration of buildings and change in property care the conversation about property care will be different.

**Facebook:** Katie Patten has created one Facebook page for Church of the Holy Spirit and St. Marks. The information on the page is correct. We can add information and pictures to the page. We will create contact information so people in the Plymouth/Ashland communities and the wider area can get in touch with us.

**Clergy Report:** Joan Bowers, Winnie Hohlt, Rev. Deacon Maryan and Rev. Kelly have been completing pastoral visits over the past several weeks. We have a large print newsletter to leave with our visitees. Diocesan Convention is Saturday, November 3 at Christ Church in Exeter. Lew and Kathy Lennox are our CHS delegates. Chris Hunget a new parishioner at CHS and a school psychology major in the PSU Master Program is our youth delegate. Ruth Harlow is our delegate from St. Marks. We are blessing a civil marriage (the weekend of October 27-28). We will have a funeral for Donna Lee. We will baptize one person at our All Saints Day service.

**Stewardship:** The Stewardship letter is still being created. The theme this year is “Being rooted in Christ's love. God gives us more than we expect or imagine.” Stewardship Drive Kickoff will take place on Sunday, October 28.

**Finance Committee:**Dick Osborne, Deb Holland, Bea Thibeault, Becky McElroy, Ned McElroy, Paul Wilson, Richard Bennett and Wayne Trombly have been asked to form a Finance Committee. The committee will meet in person or online. All financial recommendations will be sent to Vestry/Bishop's Committee members ahead of monthly Vestry meetings. The Committee will work on the budget for 2019. It is hoped that the Diocese can see a preliminary 2019 budget by December 1. They will look at our budget and financial issues both short term and long term. Both congregations are showing a $1,000 deficit. A 20% drop in pledges will continue. A possible $10,000 deficit is not alarming. It may take 2-3 years for our finances to stabilize. The Mission Resource Committee will have $110,000 in grant monies available in the next year. Both congrgations can apply for grants for funding for mission as well as funding for service to our communities. The grants will be exhausted by this summer. Our congregations are thriving. No one is trying to shut us down.

**Christian Formation:** We continue with the Crazy Christians discussion group at Holderness School on Wednesday, November 7. For Advent Joan Bowers will chair a discussion group reading Fleming Uthridge's book that digs deeply into theology. We hope to invite members of the surrounding churches. During Advent, Church Publishing will offer a discussion group focusing on Michael Curry's 7 Steps of Love during coffee hour. One Wednesday evening in December we will have a cookie swap. We will invite our extended congregation who are not able to worship with us on Sunday morning. On Tuesday, November 20 St. Mark's will host a Community Thanksgiving Service. We will invite the Plymouth United Church of Christ (Congregational), Plymouth United Methodist Church and the Roman Catholic Church. Ash will put together a pick up choir for the event for anyone coming ½ hour before service. There will be an ECW book sale in Plymouth. There will be an ECW bake sale on election day in Ashland.

**Holderness Project**: The Holderness Trustees and Bishop are pursuing another plan for our “new church” on the Holderness campus. The present plan includes expanding the present Holderness Chapel. There will be a new entrance road. The proposed chapel will be on two levels with a welcoming door. The building will be handicap accessible with bathrooms, a workable worship area, meeting rooms, an adequate Sunday School area and water in the building. We will have dialog with the architects of the new building.

**Adjournment:** The meeting ended in prayer. The meeting adjourned at 12 noon. The next Vestry/Bishop's Committee Meeting will be Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 11 AM at Sherrill Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hancock