



**The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist**  
**Post Office Box 441 / 307 Federal Street**  
**Milton, Delaware 19968**



[www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org](http://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org)

**Vestry Minutes for The Episcopal Church of St John the Baptist**  
**December 18, 2019**

**Present:** Jill Malloy, Sharon Lamando, Father Tom White, Scott Kresge, Clara Escobar, Jean Skocypec Ted Palmer, Mark Owen, Tom Sombar, and Ed Stout

Meeting was called to order by Senior Warden Jill Malloy.

Opening Prayer was given by Father Tom.

**Acceptance of October Minutes:** Motion was made by Sharon to accept November minutes and seconded by Scott, all were in favor. Jill mentioned the annual meeting notes from committees were clipped together and there were no official minutes taken.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Tom gave the treasurer’s report. (Copies attached). Scott questioned why one of the accounts was not closed and that we may be subject to additional fees for a low balance. Tom said there is no reason not to close the account. Jill mentioned, and many agreed, that this account should be closed. Tom will close the account. Father Tom commented that all mail should be delivered to the church’s mailbox. This was in response to receiving rental property rent payments.

The budget for 2020 was presented by Tom, and Jill questioned why the format was not in the agreed format that Father Tom created. Tom responded stating this is the format in which he was comfortable with using, as it is an accounting format and he is reluctant to change the format as it has been used for 50 years.

Tom suggested the budget be reviewed and approved by vestry. Jill asked if we wanted time to review the budget before approving and revisit in January. The acceptance (contribution) to the diocese was \$8500 for 2020. This is an increase of \$500 from 2019.

Jill asked what the loose offering was for the Bishop’s visit. Tom reported he has always added \$125 - \$150 to what was collected. This year he gave \$310, inclusive of the additional \$150. We collected \$160.

A motion was made by Ted to accept treasurer’s report, minus the budget for 2020, and seconded by Sharon, all were in favor.

**Priest Comments:** Father Tom reported the prayer services were not attended as we hoped, but those in attendance have provided very positive feedback and attended regularly. Father Tom comments that he visited our home bound members, taking cards and poinsettia’s. The members are doing well. Father Tom talked about the prayer candle and how meaningful it has become to members during Mass.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Property:** Jill mentioned that Jerry is not taking the role of property chair and he does not have the availability to commit to Property. However, he is happy to serve as a reference for questions or issues as well as to do work that may come up on an as needed basis. He just does not have time to

coordinate with contractors. Jill asked for suggestions on how the committee should run. Scott mentioned it would be good to have a small committee of a few people and identified Jerry could be part of the committee, but not as chair. Jill spoke with Robert Konnyu and he is willing to participate in the committee, but they are not around for a few months. Scott mentioned he is available to schedule his time at church around times when contractors would need access to the church. Mark stated he has time to make phone calls to contractors but does not have time to be at the church during the day because of work constraints. Several Members mentioned they are available to be at the church for planned or unplanned work and projects. Mark said he can be the point person to coordinate the committee and run point. Theo was mentioned that he might be available for the committee. We have a larger pool of resources than we previously thought, and this group will be helping Mike with anything related to the rental property.

Jill also mentioned that her idea is to separate the property's committees into two individual committees. One for the church and one for the rental property. Mike McNamara has agreed to continue serving as point person to the rental property. Jill told Mike that he would not need to attend vestry meetings and a small report on small items would be accepted. He is welcome to attend meetings, however, if he chooses.

**Church Security and Safety:** The question was raised asking if we need this committee or if it should be part of the property committee to simplify. All agreed this committee is now under Property.

**Parish Communications:** Mark reported that we are going to be ordering a new front door mat. The money has been donated, but we need to agree on a background color. Father Tom, Scott and Mark will discuss.

**Outreach:** Clara reported that the Cookie Walk was a huge success and thanked everyone who participated. There was \$1500 collected and clearing \$1200 in profit, after expenses. Last year we cleared \$800 in profit. Next year the outreach committee will concentrate more on cookies and less on candy and trees.

The angel tree gifts were delivered, and food were delivered today. Clara has a list of items that were delivered. (attached). Total for 9 baskets \$641.89, approximately \$65 per food basket with plenty of food for multiple meals.

**In-Reach:** Father Tom announced that Sheila Robinson must give back the chair position at this time. She and John are still more than happy to be involved but they must step back at this time. Father Tom further suggests we combine and jointly work Outreach and In-Reach. Jean and Clara suggested working the teams together.

**Youth Ministry:** Jill reports that Sunday school is struggling with attendance. After the first of the year, she will be working with Odette Frankum on trying Sunday School.

**Music/Worship:** Scott reports there has been an upgrade to the organ software. Scott is purchasing this software and donating this for the church. This will be a rollout through 2020.

**Kitchen Teams:** Sheila is stepping down as Team Lead. Jill asked for people to come forward, there is no response as of now. Jill is working on revamping the teams to even them out, with exception of the choir team.

#### **Old Business:**

**Dogfish Race** – Sharon spoke with the Mayor who mentioned he was reluctant to begin discussions until the spring. Jill proposed we call the meeting by asking the Mayor, Police and Representative from Dogfish to meet at SJB. Mark further suggested we invite representatives from Seaside Striders to meet at the church. All agree that we need to 'police' our own parking lot. Father Tom will speak with the Mayor.

**Guidelines for Hall usage** – Jill and Tom met and there is nothing formally written for guidelines of Hall usage. Mark was asked and agreed to work with Jill and Sharon on creating the guidelines. Jean

is going to check with the Garden Club to see how much they pay for rental usage of another church. UCC Church pays approximately \$75/Sunday and this has not gone up since the original contract signing.

**Lighting of the Stain Glass** – Jerry supplied a proposal from Nickle for \$2300, in which, they would furnish and install 2 LED flood lights controlled by photocell. Sharon added that we ordered 2 additional lightbulbs to illuminate the stained glass in the front of the church. With the increased nighttime services, there is an increased desire to have the stained glass illuminated. Clara asked if there could be a switch to turn this off during Good Friday service. Father Tom recommended we obtain additional estimates and ask Jerry if he could ask Nickle for a switch. Clara agreed we need an additional estimate before we put this to the congregation.

**Wharton Street Property** – Ted tried to call Judy Gregory, but she is on vacation. He mentioned we need to have a copy of the original mortgage. Current loan interest payment is \$711.33. The loan balance is \$47,053 and matures in May 2026. The current interest rate is 5.5%. Judy advised Father Tom at the IWC conference that we should re-finance the loan. Her suggestion was to apply to A&D for a longer term and lower interest rate, approximately 2%, resulting in a lower monthly payment. The current loan is with WSFS. Ted will review the application with the Diocese.

#### **New Business:**

**Trash Containers** – Ann Pratt is giving up the job of taking care of the trash. Jill is looking for volunteers to take care of the trash and recycling. Sharon volunteered to do trash containers and suggested finding someone for the recycling bins. Theo was suggested for recycling and will take yard waste.

**Cleaning Staff** – Father Tom suggested we give the cleaning staff a bonus and a weekly raise. Tom recommended we give the cleaning staff a bonus and Sharon recommended we give them a raise of \$120 per cleaning. Jill asked if we can afford giving the staff a raise, Tom said we could. Sharon made a motion to give the cleaning staff a raise of \$120 per cleaning. Ted second the motion and all were in favor.

Clara made a motion to give a bonus of \$25 for the additional weekends the cleaning staff worked in December, Sharon Second the motion and all were in favor.

**Christmas Bonus** - Jill requested Father Tom and Scott step out of the room so the vestry could discuss Christmas Bonuses. Tom Suggested bonuses of \$500 to Father Tom, \$250 to Scott, \$50 to Rebecca and \$50 to Scott and Angie. Ted made a motion for the suggested amounts. Sharon seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Artwork** – Father Tom discussed artwork presented by Barney Lane's son, Rob. Rob and his business partner have an artist friend who creates pieces of sacred art for churches. She and Rob met with Father Tom and Jill to discuss a concept drawing of a piece of a statue that this artist would make. Rob and his business partner would provide the seed fund of \$8,000 for this artist to begin work and supply a 21 – 25-inch bronze replica of the final statue, if we were willing to sign the contract then and there.

This piece of art would be a life-sized bronze sculpture of Jesus being baptized by St. John the Baptist. There was discussion of placement of this sculpture, vandalism and other concerns. One being the cost of the sculpture is between \$40,000 and \$80,000. The vestry does not want to move forward at this time and will send a letter thanking them.

**Asylum Seeker Project** – Jessica Clark and Debbie Goebel would like to do a press release stating St. John the Baptist's support and quoting Father Tom with regards to the Asylum Seeker Project. The concern is that if we allow this project to be announced and sponsored fully, we open ourselves to numerous people asking for sponsorship and that is not our policy. The press release states St. John the Baptist is in full support of the project. The vestry decided the press release should be written in such a way that doesn't connect to the policy.

**Pledge Results** – Tom reported that he has received 25 pledges returned totaling \$46,730. This represents 8 pledges increased and 7 we have not heard from yet. He anticipates having 32 signed pledges returned. He needs to separate the volunteer sheets and distribute them.

**An Executive Session was called:**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Sharon made a motion to adjourn, Clara seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Next meeting will be held January 15 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Owen, Clerk of the vestry.