



The Missioner

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
Washington & 11th Streets, Lockport, IL 60441
815-834-1168 www.stjohns-lockport-il.org

Volume 22, Number 9

September 2015

“Who is this *Bishop’s Committee*, and does the Vestry know about them?”\

Well, friends, it is that time of year again when we begin to ask for nominations for Vestry—or for people who might be interested in serving to speak to me about their interest.

However, given that we have tried to be intentional about invitations to serve on Vestry, and have made attempts to communicate process, procedure and expectations; there still seem to be some questions about all of it. So, it’s my hope that this article will offer a bit more clarity, and hopefully answer some questions, as well as assuage some misconceptions.

First off, you may wonder “What is a *Vestry*, anyway?” This is a fair question, because not only do we take for granted the terminologies in the Episcopal Church—but we forget that many of them are extremely outmoded. This is not to mention the fact that there are even many “Cradle Episcopalians” who aren’t really sure what some of this stuff means.

So, as it turns out, a *vestry* was literally the place where the ministers would ‘vest’ and put on their robes and such for the church service. Years ago, then, along with the Wardens of the church, there were other people who also became stewards of the church and an advisory group to the priest—these people would meet for conversation in the vesting room, and were therefore referred to as a “*Vestry*.” And while the term is outdated and pretty opaque, the purpose of the vestry is to conduct the temporal business of the congregation, as well as serve as an advisory board to the priest.

Now, to add to confusion of terms—you may have heard us referring to the vestry as “the Bishop’s Committee.” This isn’t necessarily an attempt to update terms, or even a new thing, really...but still it can be confusing. However, rather than this title “Bishop’s Committee” being one that has connection to old church terminology—instead, there are some important reasons for its usage, and, in this case, the title actually explains what the group’s role actually is...

Here’s how this works. In the Episcopal Church, our denomination has a set of governing rules called *The Constitution and Canons*.” There is a longer title, but this will suffice. Anyway, this body of rules is reviewed and reworked through democratic process by the General Conventions of the Episcopal Church. Along with the Constitution and Canons for the whole Episcopal Church, each diocese (or geographical area which is overseen by a bishop) also has its own Constitution and Canons which are in accord with the mains set for the whole church, but provide some specific clarity for each diocese. So, when we refer to something that is “canonical” it refers to either the rules for governing the diocese, or the whole Episcopal Church.

Within these rules, we have certain rules for how congregations are to be organized. And while there are a number of requirements, and designs for organization of authority—I’m just going to focus on the two kinds of statuses that a congregation can have. These designations are known as “Missions” and “Parishes.” Effectively, the Mission congregation is one which has been organized with leaders, and a worshipping congregation. Often the Mission is financially reliant on the Diocese, and by default the *Rector* or Administrative Authority for a Mission congregation is the Bishop. However either a priest-in-charge, or a vicar may work “vicariously” on behalf of the bishop in that congregation. Likewise, just as the priest in a Mission congregation is not “*Rector*” so also the leadership committee is not a “*Vestry*” but a “Bishop’s Committee” because they also serve under the canonical authority of the bishop.

A “Parish,” then is literally an incorporated Religious Non-Profit organization. Normally a parish is financially independent, and the leadership (Vestry, Wardens and Rector) have more autonomy in their authority. Certainly

Message from the Vicar—Con't from Page 1

there is a lot more to these designations, but for the purposes of this article, this should suffice. If nothing else, hopefully it clarifies the reason that our leadership team is technically called a “Bishop’s Committee,” and I am the “*Vicar*” at St. John’s.

Now, with all of this stuff in mind, I’d like to clarify some misconceptions about our selection/election process. Recently the concern was brought to me regarding why it is that we no longer hold a vote for Bishop’s Committee (*Vestry*) at Annual Meetings. What was inferred here, I think, was that I am somehow manipulating the selection process and only allowing people who are of like mindedness to me to serve in leadership. . . .whereas, the reality is far less interesting. So, here are the reasons, in no particular order.

Reason 1) Sufficient time for invitation is given, but roles continue to be filled only through personal recruitment. We begin advertising openings and invitation to serve normally around September (like we’re doing here). Through outlets like the newsletter, weekly e-bulletins, Sunday announcements, and personal invitation, we try to invite people to consider serving, and even try to explain the expectations of the role. Because our Bishop’s Committee follows the recommended 3-year term structure, we normally have about 3 openings each year, and candidates for these openings are confirmed officially at the Annual Meeting of the congregation which happens either in January or February.

What has happened each year is that our open invitations have not regularly been accepted, whereas openings on the Bishop’s Committee have been filled only through personal contact. And, once we have found candidates, we no longer seek out other candidates on an individual basis—even though our open invitation to the congregation continues, and no new potential candidates surface.

Reason 2) Leadership positions should not be left to chance or circumstance to be filled at the Annual Meeting. The congregation should choose their leaders. Leaders should be concerned with the concerns of the congregation, and able to represent the needs of all of the people. So, the selection of leaders should be taken seriously, and done with intention. With this in mind, I don’t think that waiting until the Annual Meeting to accept nominations from the floor is the best way to fill the roles in leadership. For one, those present at the Annual Meeting are only a part of the whole congregation. So, not only do people who are not present not get to accept nomination, they also do not get voice or vote about a nomination. Likewise, there is the possibility that a candidate who would fulfill the role well is not present. In such a case, that person could neither be nominated, nor could they even be considered.

It would be irresponsible to my role, and that of the existing leadership not to make an effort to fill open positions if there have been no responses.

Reason 3) Mission congregations do not have authority to elect by vote members of the Bishop’s Committee according to Diocesan Canons. While there isn’t any on-going provision for how to continually fill leadership roles in a Mission congregation; the canons are clear that Mission congregations appoint leadership, which is then affirmed by the “Ecclesiastical Authority” (meaning the Bishop or Standing Committee when there is no bishop). Obviously this is not how Mission congregations as old as ours have functioned—but, as we try to get things clarified in our structure at St. John’s so that we might move to Parish status, it is important to keep these things in mind. Now, operationally, this is not how we do things. We invite people to consider, and because people do not volunteer, we end up recruiting people for our leadership. And, really, I’m noting this so no one thinks I’m doing something shady by not contriving some form of election process.

Alright. Well, if you’ve not fallen asleep from reading this, let me congratulate you on your fortitude. This is not light material. However, I do think it important that we understand not only what is needed, and asked of people in this congregation regarding leadership—but I also want to make it clear that our process is one that is transparent, and also necessary. With that in mind, I do encourage you to think about whether you, or someone else might be a good fit for our leadership team. And if you have an idea for a nomination, or are interested yourself, please contact me. I’m also open to questions and concerns that people may have—so, please take advantage of checking in with me if you need clarity.

Thanks!

Fr. Matt Humm+

Worship & Formation

Regular Schedule—Resumes



Well friends, with the summer coming to a close, at St. John's we're looking to everything that fall brings. Beginning after Labor Day weekend, our regular schedule gets under way. September 9th marks the start of our new evening worship and formation services. Church School returns on September 13th, the Senior Choir's annual summer break comes to a close and Youth Group resumes their monthly gathering on the 3rd Sunday each month.

If you have any questions about dates, times, or events, please refer to the calendar; weekly e-bulletins; or contact us at the church office.



The 2015-2016 Church School year begins on Sunday, September 13 at the beginning of 10:30 AM service. Introducing a new, interactive and enriching curriculum to 3 - 11 year old children: **"Holy Moly."** This bi-weekly offering (on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month) will be held in the Parish Hall. Led by two instructors, children will be dropped off at the Parish Hall prior to the 10:30 AM service. Instructors will bring the children to attend Communion.

What is Holy Moly? Every Holy Moly lesson follows a four-part sequence: Discover, Relate, Connect, and Create. Each week, kids watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, read their Bible Storybook or Bible, and try a creative leaflet activity.

Schedule this Month: September 13 & September 27

Contact: Ellen Hill (630) 408 - 2541 after 4 PM, Sunday - Friday.



Wednesday Evening Formation

I know I've already written a really long article already for this newsletter—but, I also wanted to make another pitch for Wednesday evenings. As I've been explaining, Wednesday evenings at 7 pm will be used for formation which will include learning about a number of things in our faith and tradition, but also worship.

Anyway, our first discussion will be on Wednesday, September 9th. The focus of this discussion will be our *Music* and *Liturgy*, as follow-up and conclusion to the discussion we had in May, facilitated by Dent Davidson.

Our goal on September 9th will be to review the discussion that we had back in May, talk a bit about music and liturgy and their proper roles in worship—and finally, we will outline our Goals and Expectations for our music and liturgy at St. John's.

This is an important conversation. It's my hope that by providing some understanding for the role of music and liturgy that we will be able to have a constructive conversation about our worship, and begin to develop some sense of our identity at St. John's.

~ Fr. Matt



Worship & Formation - Con't from page 3

Youth Group - Fun and Fellowship Continue - All are welcome!



St. John's Youth Group had a great summer! A lot of our kids got to go to camp thanks to the generosity of the parish's support. They had an absolute blast and are still talking about it!! They can't wait to go back again last year and I'm sure they would love it if you asked them about their experience. In other news, the youth group held a very successful **bake sale** over two weekends this summer. The group brought up to me that they wanted to raise money to help St. Barnabas, a struggling WI church, receive a new roof and they all stepped up and made it happen. The bake sale brought in roughly \$623!! A big thanks to all those who supported us! We held a thank you coffee hour this past Sunday with cereal and waffles to show our appreciation.



We are starting a new school year now and will be welcoming a new wave of members that are entering the 6th grade!! We are very excited to have them join the group and are looking forward to learning about them and hearing what ideas they have. Overall this has been a very fun summer with cookouts, ice cream and games and we are now looking forward to what this new school year has to offer. If you want to know what else the youth group is up to, take a look at our **new youth group board in the Parish Hall**. If you are interested in volunteering to help, whether it be with one event or all of them, *please contact me*. We are looking to start integrating new volunteers as well as new kids and grow this amazing group! So any interest at all please don't hesitate to call me.



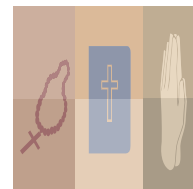
See you **Sunday, September 20th at 6:30 PM**, as we resume our normal meeting schedule (3rd Sunday each month.) Thank you all for your continued support!

~Kimberly McElheny
(815) 302 - 9844

All are invited to join **Centering Prayer** at 8:00 AM each Saturday morning in the church. Contact: Charity Humm

What is **Centering Prayer**? Centering prayer is a popular method of [contemplative prayer](#) or [Christian meditation](#), placing a strong emphasis on interior silence.

Interested in **Centering Prayer** and exploring *this method of silent prayer in more depth*? **Assessing level of interest here at St. John's to continue the monthly, evening gathering or some other format (retreat?, seasonal offering?, theme?)**
If interested, contact Nance Rohloff. Thank you!



Vestry News

At the August 12, 2015 meeting, the Bishop's Committee (Vestry)...

Accepted the reports presented.

Heard...

- The finance reports for the month of July. Pledge income remains below anticipated revenue, and as of the end of July, our adjusted deficit is essentially the same as projected for this time.
- As per Bishop's Committee request a letter was sent to the congregation regarding bringing pledges up to current date. Response appears to be quit minimal.
- We had 2 baptisms in August. And Fr. Matt continues to prepare materials for the upcoming Wednesday Evening Formation services. Bishop's Committee was reminded of the expectation that people in leadership should have Level 1 Training in Keeping God's People Safe (KGPS). Fr. Matt led a training at the beginning of August, and encouraged B.C. members to check diocesan calendar for training opportunities.
- The Sexton position remains open, with a search continuing. In the meantime, B.C. members have agreed to help with cleaning the facilities until the position is filled.
- Church School will begin Sept. 13th, with a new curriculum (called "Holy Moly"), they will meet in the hall at 10:30 am, and kids will join the congregation for Eucharist.
- Youth Group Bake Sale raised over \$550 (as of the meeting). Creekside Cares food drive provided 28 bags of food from St. John's.

Discussed...

- Direction regarding building proposal, and the B.C.s wishes for continuing our discussion about facilities and plans.
- Possibility of a Parish Picnic later in the Fall.
- Art Pesavento and Tom Boyle will help lead Pledge Campaign with the help of the Finance Committee.

Took Action...

- By general consensus, B.C. agreed that remaining money from last year's "One to Grow On" campaign should be combined with this year's upcoming campaign to replace the Atrium roof.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the vestry is for Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

St. John the Evangelist

July 2015

Receipts and Disbursements

Activity for the Month

St. John's **Total Expenses exceeded our Total Income** ("Net Ordinary Income") by **\$1,056**.

Total Income was approximately \$2,965 below forecast for the month. This is due primarily to pledge income being below anticipated revenue by \$2,660.

Total Expense (\$15,055) for the month was approximately \$1000 above forecast. This is due primarily to greater than usual maintenance costs including supplies (approx. \$400). It should be noted that pension premium, property insurance, and medical insurance were all due during the summer months.

Thus, Total Expense year to date is \$102,899 before non-budgetary expenditures and adjusted "Net Ordinary Income" (**DEFICIT**) *expenditures* is an approximate loss of **\$26,380** versus the forecasted deficit of approximately **\$21,619**. There were not any non-budgetary expenses during the month of July. Non-budgetary expenses so far :

- \$1,500 to support children from St. Johns attending Camp Chicago
- \$2,250 for altar vestments
- \$1,000 for concert expense
- \$ 697 Youth Group workshop

The estimated deficit at end of July with these adjustments is approximately \$4,800 less than anticipated in budget 2015. So as of the end of July our **adjusted deficit is \$21,580 (essentially the same as the projected deficit for this time)**. In looking ahead, unless revenues improve in the coming months we will in all likelihood have a greater than anticipated deficit for the year given the current trends of revenue. The revenue/expense reports clearly indicate that we have done a good job in keeping expenses for the most part below the anticipated level. Revenue shortfalls in giver of record and pledge income are the primary reasons for concern.

Year-to-date transfers illustrate the reality that we have dipped into contingency funds for more than \$17,000 as of the end of the July (including a \$4,000 transfer this month to help cover expenses).

Banking Account Activity

The First Midwest Bank Operating Account balance as of the end of the month was \$3,460.09.

Outreach



All are welcome to join the fun during 2015 CROP Hunger Walk
 Where: Dellwood Park, Lockport at band shell When: September 27 @ 2 PM
 CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by religious groups, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Find out more / donate? [Click Here!](#)

Morning Star Mission - Lunch Servers Needed! Please consider signing up for 1 or more of the openings available on September 12, October 10, November 14 and December 12. Sign-up at the back of church. Thank you!



Lockport Food Pantry - September Schedule of Suggested Items for Donations

Sept 6: flour & sugar Sept 13: instant mash potatoes
 Sept 20: tuna fish Sept 27: pork & beans / any canned bean

Thank You!

Parish Life

**Note of Gratitude
 for continued service to the mission here at St. John's...**

- Grubby Sunday Helpers:** Leona Davies, Mike Graziadei, Carolyn & Doug Hall, Chris, Ellen, Elizabeth, Hannah, & Sarah Hill, Charity, Fr. Matt, Galahad, Gareth & Tristan Humm, Steve Masters, Peri O'Connor, Wendy Stewart and all other helpful hands.
- Daughters of the King:** Ruth Johnson, Julia Matile, Susie Meehan and Wendy Stewart.
- Youth Group:** Rob Brennan, Kim McElheny and Marlene VanKuiken



**RUMMAGE SALE
 SAVE THE DATE**

Mark your calendars and save your "stuff." The Fall Rummage Sale is scheduled for October 23 and 24. We will need many helpers the four days before and on the days of the sale.. We always have fun. Contact Judy Broud to help.

September Lectionary

Date	1st Lesson	Psalm	2nd Lesson	Gospel
September 6	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Psalm 146	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
September 13	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 116:1-8	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
September 20	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Psalm 54	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
September 27	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	Psalm 19:7-14	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50

September Birthdays

Steve Masters	9/5
Michael Barndollar	9/8
Rob Brennan	9/10
Carol Phillips	9/12
Eric Wilson	9/16
Guy Alton	9/18
Marc Worst	9/19
Sanda Renner	9/21
Tomas Boyle	9/24
Ken Porter	9/26
Tom Drake	9/27

Website: www.stjohns-lockport-il.org
 Contact us: 815-834-1168
office@stjohns-lockport-il.org

Those for whom prayers have been asked:
 Sara T. & Melissa G.
And all those with terminal illnesses, their families, and those caring for them.

*** Please contact the office if any of the above information changes.*

Some Helpful Resources For Daily Prayer

For Daily Prayer	www.missionstclare.com
For Daily Reading	satucket.com/lectionary
Episcopal News	www.episcopalcafe.com http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens
Facebook	St.John the Evangelist Episcopal Church-Lockport, IL
Diocesan Website	episcopalchicago.org
National Church	episcopalchurch.org
Parish Connections	stjohns-lockport-il.org
Twitter	@forwardinchrist

September Anniversaries

Peggy & Darren McCarthy	9/1
Art & Beth Pesavento	9/4
Kelly Zurek & Curtis Barndollar	9/5
Jason & Sara Hall	9/14
Thomas & Joyce Moore	9/16
Thomas & Kathryn Pouk	9/25
Dwayne & Catherine Hall	9/28
Gregory & Pamela Carter	9/30

Important Dates to Remember

September 2	Daughters of the King at 10:30 AM
	Prayer Shawl at 11:30 AM
September 5	Centering Prayer at 8 AM
September 8	Standing Committee at 12:30 PM
September 9	Lockport Prayer Warriors at 10:30 AM
	LHAMA Lunch Mtg at 11:30 AM
	Resumes—Evening Eucharist & Formation at 7 PM
September 12	Centering Prayer at 8 AM
	Morning Star Mission Meal Svc at 10:30 AM
September 13	Church School at 10:30 AM
September 16	Daughters of the King at 10:30 AM
	Prayer Shawl at 11:30 AM
	Vestry at 6:30 PM
September 19	Centering Prayer at 8 AM
September 20	Youth Group at 6:30 PM
September 26	Centering Prayer at 8 AM
September 27	Church School at 10:30 AM
	2015 CROP Walk @ Dellwood Park at 2 PM

Staff

The Rev. R. Matthew Humm, *Priest*
 Kyndel Trejo, *Organist*
 Jill Crisman, *Church Secretary*
 Open *Sexton*
 Robert Meehan, *Sr. Warden*
 Leona Davies, *Jr. Warden*
 Susan Meehan, *Clerk*

Vestry Members

Rob Brennan 16	Marlene VanKuiken 17
Lee Moarn 16	Tom Boyle 18
Art Pesavento 16	Scott Ruphard 18
Roberta Beaudoin 17	Wendy Stewart 18
Steve Masters 17	

Open, *Sacristan*
 Ellen Hill, *Christian Education*
 Open, *Ushers*
 Rob Brennan, *Marketing*
 Lee Moarn, RN,BSN,FCN, *Health Ministry*
 Wendy Stewart, *Daughters of the King*
 Lillian Hensley, *Hospitality*
 Julia Matile, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Formation (Resumes Fall 2015)
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Mission Statement of
St. John the Evangelist Church

“The mission of St. John the Evangelist Church is to incarnate our Baptismal Covenant as we worship and praise God through the Sacraments of the Church, proclaim the Gospel in word and action, promote Christian fellowship and spiritual growth, and encourage all members to live their lives for the benefit of all God’s people.”



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