



"Disciples of Jesus, Discipling in love"
VESTRY MINUTES- Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Attendees:

The Rev. Joseph Acanfora, Rector
The Rev. Nick Braunschneider
Kerry Bremmer
Philip Chakram
Bill Collins
Mary Edwards, Registrar
Intercessors: Renee Carpenter &
Diedre DiGirolamo

Gayle Fischer, Senior Warden
Andy Harris, Junior Warden
Stephen Klein
Annie Patterson, Guest
Phil Rooney, Treasurer
Tawnia Wheeler, Absent

The January 28, 2020, meeting of the vestry of Church of the Apostles came to order at 7:15 P.M. with opening prayer, singing, and a devotional discussion from Session 6 of Book study "I Once Was Lost."

Guiding Scriptures:

Mark 4:14-20

⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word,¹⁹but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

1 Corinthians 3:1-11

3 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit, but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? ⁴For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings? ⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the



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one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.⁸ The one who plants and

the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.⁹ For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

What do the authors have to say about "freedom," "wonder," and "prayer" in understanding the organic nature of the path to becoming a Christian for postmoderns?

Wonder is connected to humility. We recognize the stages, but we can't make people move through them. We build relationships. The Spirit moves people.

Freedom is less pressure to get "it" done, it's a process that is about building relationships. Don't drag them through the doors of the church. Show honor and respect to people. Acknowledge where they are at. Letting the Spirit be in the process, letting the process be the process without me taking it over.

Prayer undergirds it all.

How does Doug relate crossing a threshold to his son's learning to read? Making the connection from seeing the letters (thresholds) to being able to read a sentence (being a new creation in Christ).

How do the authors relate "getting lost" to being lost? Being "lost" can depend on your perspective and personality. You can be lost without realizing it, by being caught up in what is going on and not realizing something is missing. Getting lost in the stuff of life.

"Lost" may be an accurate description of non-Christian friends from our perspective, but it may not feel like lostness to them. We can't know what each threshold feels like for the person going through it. But we can ask, and listen."

How does the Mark 4:14-20 passage enlighten our approach to evangelism? We can sow, but we cannot reap. That is not our job. We can help prepare the soil, removing stones and rock, and weeds. Making the way easier for them to receive. Seeds are sown to all places, to the soil and casting everywhere. You can plant again in another season and maybe the seed will take then. During different parts of our life, we may have been a number of these soils.



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Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-11 - with regard to how Paul describes his and others work among the Corinthians, how can we relate what he has to say to both the Mark passage, and the lessons of the 5 Thresholds?

We may not be there for the whole time. We do our part in a person's life, but someone else may be there for the harvest.

- 1. Finance/Building: Update from Treasurer & Finance Committee.** Phil presented a comprehensive budget package since it was the end of one year and the beginning of another, and the first time that Nick is with us.

December was a good month, in spite of the post office delaying the delivery of our mail to our new address. The Lord is on our side. We continue to not spend as much as we have budgeted for.

Lender is holding the final \$60,000 of our loan until our final punch list has been addressed and final invoices come in.

We are hoping to extend the period of the construction loan, during which we pay interest only on our loan through the end of 2020, which will be about \$15,000/month.

2020 approved budget is \$744,000, a considerable amount more than last year.

The Building Fund money collected, so far, is \$2,772,000. We have spent \$6,594,000 on the project, and the bank is lending us \$3,211,000, so far. So, we are currently \$519,000 in the hole in what we spent on the building versus what we've been able to come up with.

Designated Funds – careful to be a good steward of the funds for various ministries and missionaries. Current Designated Funds list needs to be approved by motion by the vestry.

Joe gave a report on the final punch list including the retaining walls surrounding the property, and the sewer and former water connection. We are still in discussions with the county about the retaining wall.

- 2. By-laws Committee Update:** Kerry introduced the revised draft of the by-laws to the vestry and suggested that Annie Patterson responded to questions for discussion. There was an extensive discussion about what is required to be a "member" of the church, versus an eligible voter. The motion for final review and approval of the by-laws has been delayed to the next vestry meeting on February 11, 2020.
- 3. Transition of rector update:** The installation service for Nick Braunschneider is scheduled for March 29, which will be Joe's final service with us.



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- 4. 2020 Vestry Nominations:** Outgoing vestry members are Gayle Fischer, Andy Harris, and Mary Edwards, along with the temporary appointment of Tyler Aberle.

Some possible candidates for nomination to the vestry are Andrew Blount, Bonnie or Kevin McKiernan, Jane Campbell, Scott or Pauline Morey. Others? Sue Edwards, Pete Lukschander, Annie Patterson

- 5. Upcoming events hosted by Apostles:**

Winter DOMA Clergy Luncheon: 2/4
Heartsync Basic Training Seminar: 2/7-2/8
Apostles Annual Meeting: 3/15/2020

- 6. Inquiries from other churches desiring to rent space.** We are continuing to consider it, but putting off the decision for a few months.

Proposed meetings for 2020: 2/11, 2/25, 3/10, and Annual Meeting: 3/15

Adjournment: Kerry Bremmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Tyler Aberle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.