



"Disciples of Jesus, Discipling in love"

VESTRY Minutes- Tuesday, August 13, 2019

Attendees:

The Rev. Joseph Acanfora, Rector
Kerry Bremmer
Philip Chakram
Bill Collins
Mary Edwards, Registrar
Intercessor: Deirdre DiGirolamo

Gayle Fischer, Senior Warden
Andy Harris, Junior Warden
Stephen Klein
Phil Rooney, Treasurer
Tawnia Wheeler

The August 13, 2019, 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 of Colossians 4:7-18 (Week 9 from Colossians Bible Study: *"The Letter's Conclusion: Greetings and Final Instructions"* *Gospel Glimpses, Whole Bible Connections, Theological Soundings, and Personal Implications* (PP 67-74). A few of the key take-aways were:

Gospel Glimpses

It's amazing how God turned Paul around, and how much he used him. He let him endure trials, whippings, beatings, and being thrown out of cities. He had the spirit of God on him to keep on going in spite of the persecutions. He persevered. He had such an anointing and connection with God, living and working in and through Him daily. In spite of this he had his struggle his thorn in the flesh. Paul was a zealot before and after his conversion. His personality did not change, but his belief and conviction did.

As far as we know from the epistles, Demas did not make it through the other side of his struggles. We can hope that he may have found his way back. (Sidebar: There have recently been several high profile Christians in the news recently who have walked away from the faith.)

Onesimus, who sat under Paul's ministry, was an escaped slave who returns to his master.

Kerry brought up the thought that as Paul is writing these letters he is not even thinking that they will one day be part of the Holy Scripture. These are pastoral letters that became scripture. Today, if an apostolic authority writes a letter, and it doesn't contradict all scripture, does it carry the same weight as scripture? There are still prophets today. She spoke of Joseph Smith and Muhammad. Smith contradicts scripture over and over in his writings.



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Joe mentioned that the Apocrypha is not canonical, not necessary for salvation, but it's helpful.

Whole-Bible Connections

Gayle offered that the list of Paul's colleagues included seven gentiles. In Romans when the Jews rejected the Christ as the Messiah, the Gospel was given to the gentiles to make the Jews jealous. It will circle back to them, and today many Jews are finding faith in Christ as Messiah. We Gentiles are grafted in. Paul makes the distinction, saying "my people of the circumcision," vs. "Gentiles."

Theological Soundings

While he, Paul, was in prison what looked to be gospel inhibiting circumstances produced more gospel advancements than if Paul had not ended up in prison. Paul's letters were going to become scripture. They were copied, passed around, first regionally, and then sent to places on ships. A new synagogue worship style was developing in the first century after the fall of the temple, as animal sacrifice became a thing of the past. Jewish worship evolved to something that mirrors what we do pre-eucharist. The people gathered, said the Shema prayer, sang songs of praise and psalms, read from scripture, someone expounded scripture, and they gathered for a meal together. Our Christian worship (prior to the eucharist) is similar to what happens today in a synagogue.

Tyler spoke about N.T. Wright's book: "Paul: a Biography." Takes the Epistles and Acts and fleshes out Paul.

Bill Collins shared his thoughts on Phillipians 1:12-13. "I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ."

There were and are many unnamed saints. We know very little about most of the apostles. In order for the Gospel to spread, many hundreds of people had to reach out and spread the word. The lesson for us today is to make ourselves available to share the Gospel.



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Joe shared about a book he is reading titled, *“I Once Was Lost: What Postmodern Skeptics Taught Us About Their Path to Jesus”* by Don Everts and Doug Schaupp. This book is about how to relationally reach out to the lost. He suggested it would be good for us to read and study this book for the remaining vestry meetings of 2019.

- 1. Welcome new vestry member:** We welcomed Tyler Aberle back to the vestry to fill in the vacancy left by Mary Lockett’s move to California.
- 2. Finance and Building Update:** Phil Rooney shared the current status of income and expenditures and the DFJ/Building Fund Track. Our incomes continues to come in around \$46,000 per month and current expenditures are around \$43,000, so we continue to track lower than our monthly income. As it now stands, we need to have another \$192,768 in order to pay for remaining expenses before we take occupancy of the new church building. We are continuing to pray that the Lord will meet these needs as He builds His church.

We have a \$25,000 grant offer from the Matthew 25 Initiative of ACNA, in which we need to raise matching funds to unlock these funds, dollar-for-dollar. We currently have close to \$4,000 in the kitchen fund. Joe is planning to give a series of sermons on stewardship starting in September, and is hopeful that we’ll be able to take full advantage of this grant.

Phil is speaking with various vendors to get quotes for various services we will need at the new church building. This includes insurance, security, phone, internet, fire monitoring and trash removal. For the insurance we would be looking for property and casualty, and would be comparing several companies in order to get the best rates. One insurance company we spoke with asked if we have a security team in place. Mary stated that she is attending a one-day church security seminar at a Presbyterian church in Centerville on September 21. Phil said that there may also be an online security course sponsored by insurance companies that several of us could take, which would help us lower our premiums.

Mary suggested that perhaps we could have a short term campaign called “Buy a Chair and a Spare,” to outfit the sanctuary. New padded chairs would cost about \$35.00 each if we purchased 200 of them. We would encourage people who are able to purchase a chair for themselves, and another for a guest.



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Gayle is now onboard for signing off on ACH and checks while Phil is away on vacation.

3. **Update from Bylaws sub-committee:** Kerry gave a report on our most recent meeting and the progress of the sub-committee. Gayle Fischer joined us for the meeting and helped bring clarity to a few items that still needed to be resolved. The by-laws are being compiled in a final draft and will be available to the vestry at our next meeting for review and approval.
4. **Update and discussion from clergy search committee:** We are down to four candidates. The committee plans to begin interviews in the next week or so by phone. Abigail Klein was added to the committee to fill the vacancy when Emily Rusch resigned.
5. **Approval of Building Use Policy: Funeral Guidelines Appendix:** Stephen Klein shared the completed Funeral Planning Guide and Worksheet with the vestry. Tawnia Wheeler made a motion that the guidelines, as presented, should be approved. Kerry Bremmer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
6. **Other: New Church Kitchen:** Mary Edwards voiced her concern regarding the announcement in the Apostles News for a used refrigerator, freezer, or dishwasher to outfit our new kitchen. She feels that if we are building a commercial kitchen, then we should have at least a commercial refrigerator. Most household refrigerators are too small to the serve the needs of a church. She is offering to provide financing for this purchase. Joe suggested a website for procuring commercial items called www.webstaurantstore.com. In the meantime, Joe is saying that we will start with what we have and upgrade when we can.

Willow Welcome: The Willow Welcome will be on Friday, August 23. Anita Aberle is coordinating this event, and we will be soliciting volunteers from the congregation to help.

Upcoming meetings for 2019: 9/10, 10/8, 10/22, 11/12, 12/10

Adjournment: Tyler moved to adjourn the meeting. Stephen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.