

MAY 2022

The Old Sloop's Log



Our Covenant

We the members of this congregation welcome you with gladness into our lives. We renew our covenant of faith and offer you our support, encouragement and love to the end that all of us may grow in the boundless mercy of God. By loving and being loved, forgiving and being forgiven, serving and being served, let us go forward together with courage as Christ's disciples glorifying God by being fully alive.

Open and Affirming Statement

We the members of the First Congregational Church of Rockport are called upon to love one another as God loves us, freely and unconditionally. Therefore, we covenant to be an Open and Affirming congregation welcoming persons of every age, ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, nationality, ethnicity and immigration status into full membership and participation in our community life and ministry. We embrace and support those who experience rejection and exile from spiritual community and commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice.

*A Monthly Publication of
The First Congregational Church of Rockport,
UCC, The Reverend Derek Van Gulden, Pastor*



Beloved,

Our church has a long history of supporting local, national, and global mission/out-reach projects. Last year alone we helped support over twenty different non-profit organizations locally, on the north shore and globally. The support came in the form of monetary contributions as well as volunteer presence. Along with all this support and work we, as a congregation, pray weekly for our siblings throughout the world. This is a powerful form of mission work, a mission of prayer.

Why, you may ask, am I talking about all these good works when the Outreach Committee gives us this information ever year at the annual meeting? Good

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question and there are a few reasons I want to take the time to chat with you about outreach/mission work.

First, many people believe that mission is a one-way street, that we give they receive and that is the end of it. This is far from the truth; mission is all about receiving from those you serve, allowing them to witness to you as you witness to them. If you have never experienced this talk to Jay and all those who volunteer at Open Door, the Grace Center, Action, Family Promise North Shore or one of the youth or adults who volunteer at Cathedral on the Common. It has been my experience that I always receive much more than I give.

Second, some people believe that you must go to another country or state to do “real” mission work. This is not true either, there are plenty of opportunities right here in our community. Talk to a member of the Outreach Committee for a list of organizations we support or if you know of something jump in and get involved. If you don’t have the time to give prayer is a powerful way to do mission. I am more than happy to help anyone get started.

Third, you must have money to do mission work, false. Prayer does not cost a thing. Prayer is a powerful form of mission/outreach. If you don’t know how to start give me a call or join us on a Friday afternoon at 4pm via Zoom for an Old Sloop Prayer time. Together we pray for individuals, issues, and all of God’s created world.

If you are not involved in an outreach project, think about getting involved. The return on your investment is far better than anything else going today. Contact either a member of the Outreach Committee, Jay Reed, or myself. You will be amazed at how it will change your life.

In closing let me leave you with these words from one of my favorite Theologians, Henri Nouwen, *“When the giver receives and the receiver gives, the circle of love, begun in the community of the disciples, can grow as wide as the world.”*

Shalom, Rev. Derek

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY

May 1	Worship Service at 10:00 am: Masks optional except when
singing	
May 8	Mothers’ Day: Worship Service at 10:00 am
May 15	Worship Service at 10:00 am
May 22	Worship Service at 10:00 am/Common Cathedral Boston
May 29	Worship Service at 10:00 am
May 30	Memorial Day

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Save the Date! Old Sloop Sail-cebration Sunday, June 26, 2022.

Greetings All,

June is going to be quite a month this year! Even in this era of Covid/Variant Pandemic, we have much to celebrate and enjoy together. Living through this historic, global pandemic has presented countless challenges, losses, and life changes for all of us. None of this has been easy. We have experienced all this as individuals; as families; in our homes and work; in our lives together in the communities of Cape Ann; and yes, in our life together as a congregation.

This June, as we "sail" into Summer, we have these SPECIAL Saturday and Sunday events to anticipate and celebrate with a sense of appreciation for having come this far, together; for times now; and in the days ahead —to share with expressions of faith, amazement, and rejoicing!

Sunday, June 5	Pentecost Celebration of Old Sloop Friendship, Membership, & Discipleship
Sunday, June 12	Celebrating CE/ Faith Formation
Saturday, June 18	Old Sloop Yard Sale! 6 Locations- WOW!!
Sunday, June 19	More In-Person Worship & Joy/ Father's Day and Save THIS date!!...
Sunday, June 26	An Old Sloop Anniversary Sail-cebration

anniversaries: -

30 Years of **Phil Swanson's** Ministry of Music at Old Sloop

25 Years of **Kristina Martin's** Ministry of Music

10 Years of **Derek van Gulden's** Ministry at Old Sloop's helm!

On the 26th, we will worship, in-person and virtually, at 10:00AM and then, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, we will host a festive "Open House Party on the Church Green." A light lunch, a great cake and flowers will be accompanied by music with Phil Swanson's Jazz Band. The 12 School Street Singers will offer their music, too. We will share stories, poems, and TRIBUTES.

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Then, during the late afternoon, soon after the Blessing of the Fleet in Gloucester, we will gather at the Gloucester dock of the historic "Schooner Adventure" for another time together, with words and song at 5:00 pm. At 5:30 pm, 60 of us will be able to board this historic schooner for a Sunset Sail of Gloucester Harbor, enjoying a light, delicious supper and time together until 7:00 pm. This event with sea and sunset, will be a historic Old Sloop marker in our life together. What fun, both to celebrate, and to document this event.

We are now warmly inviting contributions and volunteer participation for these events, the greatest cost is \$2,500.00 for the sunset sail on the historic Schooner Adventure. At this time, almost half has been generously given. Would you like to contribute? Your contribution will be gratefully received! Please make out checks to the First Congregational Church of Rockport - UCC with a memo notation "Old Sloop Sail-ebriation."

We will be extending invitations for our June 26th Worship and "Open House on the Green" to many Rockport/Gloucester Cape Ann friends, colleagues, family, and friends. Rotary members, shop keepers, neighbors, other congregations and clergy, musicians, sailors, artists and artisans, will all be invited and welcome.

The focus for our Old Sloop Sunset Sail will of course first be Pastor Derek, Phil Swanson and Kristina Martin, but we will also be celebrating our members, staff, families and friends of the church. We hope you can join us!

Please let us know, soon, if YOU would like to be with us on our Sunset Sail on the Schooner Adventure. Passengers are limited to 60, so boarding passes are first come first served. Please save the date and do respond by return email with subject marked "Sail-ebriation" and send your message to office@oldsloop.org by May 15th."

Tune in to all that June has in store for us. We honor ALL that Phil, Kristina, and Pastor Derek contribute to our life together. The special tribute events enjoy support from the Old Sloop Church Cabinet, Trustees, Diaconate, your Old Sloop Fleet, and we hope you, too, can join in the fun!

Yours sincerely, the Sail-ebriation Lead Team,

Kevin Love, Liz Rice Smith, Jill Carter, Bruce Coates, Walter Vining, Wendy Woodbury

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OLD SLOOP PRESENTS UPCOMING PERFORMANCE



Friday, May 20 at 7:30pm – Martyn Joseph with opener Antje Duvekot

Martyn Joseph is a unique and mind-blowing artist. Take everything you think you know about singer songwriters....and rip it up. For one man and a guitar he creates a performance with a huge far-reaching sound that is energetic, compelling, and passionate. Be it to two hundred people or twenty thousand, he blows the crowd away night after night. He is gifted with the rare ability to speak to the soul with his expressive and poignant

lyrics. He has a career spanning 30 years, 32 albums, over a half a million record sales and thousands of live performances. Social justice has an essential presence throughout his music, which has been recognized with various humanitarian awards and plaudits.

Opener Antje Duvekot is also a compelling live performer. She has played some of the country's top festivals including The Newport Folk Festival, Mountain Stage, and the Philadelphia and Kerrville Festivals. Internationally, she's headlined The Celtic Connections Festival in Scotland and the Tonder Festival in Denmark. She's won some of the world's top songwriting awards, including the Grand Prize in the John Lennon Songwriting Competition, the prestigious, Kerrville (Texas) "Best New Folk Award" and the Boston Music Award for "Outstanding Folk Act".

Tickets for this concert can be purchased in advance for \$12 from the Old Sloop Presents website at oldsloopresents.org, at John Tarr Store in Rockport, at The Bookstore of Gloucester, and at the church following worship on Sunday, May 15. The suggested contribution at the door is \$14 for adults, \$5 for those age 18 and under, and \$28 for families.

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.

The newly designed Old Sloop First Congregational Church of Rockport website is loaded with photographs, information, events, and recently, the addition of blogs. The following is a link to the blog written by Kristina Martin about watercolor artist and longtime FCCR member, Marilyn Lincoln. [Whatever Catches Her Eye - Old Sloop](#)

The paintings of watercolor artist,
Marilyn Lincoln
by Kristina W. Martin



Whatever Catches Her Eye
March 17, 2022

Online services gave Kristina Martin the opportunity to become better acquainted with Marilyn Lincoln, and to create a video featuring some of her magnificent paintings.

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WEEKLY EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
STORY TELLING**

3:00 p.m.



**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
BIBLE STUDY**

5:00 p.m.



**THURSDAY MORNING
BOOK GROUP**

9:00 a.m.



**FRIDAY AFTERNOON
PRAYER SERVICE**

5:00 p.m.



**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP IN PERSON AND ALSO VIA
FACEBOOK/YOUTUBE/CHANNEL 68 AT 4 PM**

10:00 A.M.



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CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES

CABINET

MEETING MINUTES APRIL 24, 2022

Special note: This meeting was held during the COVID 19 pandemic while social distancing kept the members of the cabinet from being physically together. Cabinet members attended using the Zoom video conferencing facility.

Handouts: (sent by email before the meeting): Agenda, Draft Minutes of the March 20 Cabinet Meeting, Year to Date Operating Summary and Cash and Investment Summary

Present: Kevin Love, Moderator and chair; Bruce Coates, Treasurer; Susan Lillis, Membership Committee, Jack Reed, Stewardship Committee; Karen Hurst, Christian Education Committee; Jay Reed, Treasure of Mission Funds and Outreach Committee; Bob Cannon, Music Committee; Jill Carter, Diaconate and Flower Committee; Joe Chambers, Board of Ushers; Barbara Sachs; Fred Witte, and Geof Lyon, Clerk and recording secretary

Action, Discussion, and Follow-up Items

Declaration of a quorum, opening prayer, approval of minutes.

Moderator Kevin Love observed that a quorum was present. He called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Geof Lyon led the assembly in prayer,

The minutes of the March 20 meeting were approved as submitted by voice vote.

Old Business

Ten Year Anniversary update: Kevin reminded us that we all got an updated letter about the June 26 event. Bob Cannon pointed out that the Adventure is committed to being a platform for environmental education, which coincides with one of the church's missions. He suggested that we ask them to update us about their activities during the sail. Kevin will speak to Liz Rice-Smith about this.

Church COVID Policy: Geof Lyon reported that the Old Sloop Presents concert with the relaxed COVID protocols went OK. No changes to the current policy were suggested.

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Stewardship Idea: Barbara Sachs said that the idea is a shop local promotion, which would encourage church members to shop in Rockport. Shop owners would give us a percentage of sales. The Stewardship Committee plans to survey businesses to find out what would work for them. A motion was made that the cabinet support the Stewardship Committee's plan to engage with local businesses. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Jack Reed indicated that the Stewardship Committee has identified three restaurants about hosting fundraisers. The church would get a percentage of revenue based on number of church people showing up.

Forward Ventures Team: Jack said we have gotten four people to offer to host yard sales. They hope to get to six. Also, we will meet with our agent to explore the possibility of another cellular antenna array.

New Business:

Rockport High School field trip: Geof reminded us that before the pandemic, the Rockport schools used Fellowship Hall for an annual spring choral workshop. Patti Pike has asked permission to use Fellowship Hall for this year's workshop on May 27 from 8:00am to about 11:00am. A motion was made we approve the request. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Family Promise plan for occasional housing of homeless families: Jay Reed reported that Family Promise North Shore Boston (FPNSB) has asked if we could host families one at a time on an occasional basis. This program will try to help families that are waiting to be accepted into the Massachusetts shelter program. We would host the family the night preceding their appointment with the state, so it would only be a Sunday night – a Thursday night. Candidate families are all vetted by Northeast Family Program in Lawrence. FPNSB hopes to start the program before the end of June. The church would be on call for a month at a time. We would use the classrooms next to Fellowship Hall, and we would provide the same sort of monitoring and support as before. Jay is not sure whether the family would need meals. It might be that we just need to provide overnight hosts and assist the family in morning. There were many comments in support of doing this.

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Office Reports

Treasurer: Bruce Coates referred to the reports he had sent by email earlier in the month. Revenue is over budget by \$4,707, but expenses are over budget by \$9,022, so net income year to date is behind budget by \$4,315. The investments made up some ground. They were up \$19,678 for the month of March and have now lost \$57,512 year to date.

Treasure of Mission Funds: Jay reported that the balance of the Outreach treasury is \$10,600. Last month we sent \$500 to the UCC for Ukraine relief. The Easter offering of \$850 will also go to the UCC for Ukraine.

Committee Reports

Diaconate: Jill Carter reported that Rev. Derek attended a recent workshop on the spiritual aspects of liminal space: the spaces between what was, what is, and what will be. We no longer do some things the old ways and we are finding new ways of being the church. Jill pointed to the videos Phil and Kristina made for virtual services as an example. Vibrant Faith team has received a grant to hire a professional videographer. We expect to return to traditional communion next Sunday. There will be membership gatherings May 15 and 22. Several new members who did not have the opportunity to attend membership gatherings during the pandemic are participating. We plan to receive new members on Pentecost, June 5.

Trustees: Geof reported that work on the Main Street façade continues. Window Woman will begin their work May 5. The Trustees are alarmed about the expense of heating oil. The price has increased. but so has usage. Some thermostat problems have been identified and fixed.

Christian Education/Faith Formation Committee: Karen Hurst reported that the Safe Church Policy is being reviewed again. A new version will be brought to the cabinet in May.

Music Committee: Bob reported that there has been tremendous progress on renovating the music office. The project is led by Kristina with contributions from others. The project secured significant funding from the trustees.

Membership Committee: Susan Lillis reported that Membership is working on welcome cards and name tags and hopes to encourage the use of name tags. They have begun tracking new visitors in PowerChurch. They are working on

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the best ways to follow up with visitors. With community events resuming, they are considering how to increase the visibility of church programs.

Flower Committee: Jill hopes everyone loved the Easter flowers. She expressed her preference for colors to traditional white lilies. We learned that a list of donors was printed but we ran out so not everyone got one.

Other business: Joe Chambers inquired about potluck dinners and coffee hour. Coffee hour is handled by the Team for the Welcoming Ministry of Hospitality, which is a subcommittee of membership.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Date of Next Cabinet Meeting:

The Cabinet will next meet on May 15 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Geof Lyon, Clerk

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

DIACONATE

MEETING MINUTES APRIL 5, 2022

Subject to Approval

Present: Camilla Ayers, Co-Chair; Laurie McKenna, Co-Chair; Jill Carter, Kate Desmond, Andrena Huntsman, Liz Rice Smith, and Pastor Derek van Gulden. Pastor Derek opened the meeting with prayer. The meeting was held by ZOOM due to the circumstances of the Covid Virus pandemic.

Minutes from the March 1, 2022 meeting of the Diaconate were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report.

Pastor Derek noted that the week after Easter, he will be on vacation. He has asked Liz Rice-Smith to preach on Sunday, April 24. The Church Office will be

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closed on both Monday, April 18, and Tuesday, April 19, then open on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday that week.

Pastor Derek reported on his many pastoral visits over the past month, in-person and via email, ZOOM, and telephone. He is able to do more in-person visits now that congregants are more open to visits at their homes and in nursing homes, being more comfortable in terms the pandemic.

Pastor Derek told about attending a 3-day course with other pastors called "Stepping Up for Leadership," during the Spring of 2021. He also spoke about more recently attending an ecumenical workshop with our UCC Association, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, on the theme of spiritual aspects of "liminal spaces", the spaces between what was, what is, and what will be. He observed that through these years of change, the Trustees followed CDC guidelines in developing our response to the Covid pandemic. In addition to shortening the length of our worship service, we monitor the CO2 levels so we know when to open more windows. We continue to practice social distancing, but the wearing of masks is now optional during worship except when we are singing. Pastor Derek said he relies on the recommendations of Phil Swanson and Kristina Martin in regard to singing protocol.

Discussion was held regarding the changes in church life and activity, from no longer able to do things the old way and to finding new ways of "being church." One example of our "new ways" is the videos that were developed by Phil Swanson and Kristina Martin for our use in virtual and streaming worship, and how much they were appreciated by the congregation. Pastor Derek further noted that our congregation's Vibrant Faith Team, in working with the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ/SNEUCC, has received a grant to work with a professional videographer to make a video featuring intergenerational aspects of our life as a congregation.

Living Memorial Fund.

Camilla noted that as of March 31, 2022, the balance in the fund is \$22, 216.81. Gifts have recently been received in memory of Ruth Goodick. The Deacons send notes expressing gratitude for the gifts to each donor and also notify the family of the person memorialized.

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New Business.

Deacon's Duties/Recruiting of Scripture Readers

June - Camilla Ayers

July - Liz Rice Smith

August - Jill Carter

Sacraments/Communion & Baptism.

On Sunday, April 3, Andrena Huntsman assisted during the baptism of Harrison Michael Needham. Communion will be offered during worship on Sunday, April 10. Andrena Huntsman and Jill Carter will arrive at 9:30 a.m. to be at the front of the Sanctuary and at the Narthex to pass out the small containers of elements for Communion. Communion will also be served at the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 14 and on Sunday, May 1. Individual servings of the elements will be offered at the Maundy Thursday service. The more traditional serving of Communion will be held in May. Deacons will be in touch via email to determine who will prepare and serve the elements on May 1.

On-going Business.

Worship Moments.

On Palm Sunday, Laurie McKenna and Camilla Ayers will offer our Deacons Moment during worship. For new members of the Diaconate, Camilla Ayers shared an account of the vote the Diaconate took to invite and schedule all of our congregation's committees to offer Worship Moments.

Re-cap re: our Sunday, April 3, 2022 Gathering for Joining/Membership.

The first gathering in our four-session series was well-received. Three people who are already church members are participating, along with members of the Diaconate, the Membership Committee, and Pastor Derek. Focus during the first two sessions is sharing of faith journeys, as people prepare for membership. If during this series we have only participants who are already members, we will have a kind of "covenant renewal" ceremony on Pentecost, in which all members of the congregation will have an opportunity to celebrate their covenant of membership with others in the congregation. This will be further discussed at the May meeting of the Diaconate.

Old Sloop Fleet.

Activity Summary re: the Crews for Notes & Cards, Rides, Calls & Visits,

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Flowers, Sharing Food, Acts of Kindness & Other Miracles will be offered at the May meeting of the Diaconate.

Christmas-in-July/Re-Gifting Auction Update for this FUN FUNDRAISER!

Sunday, July 17, in the Sanctuary after worship, Pastor Derek will be our auctioneer for a Re- Gifting Auction to raise money for some costs of our Old Sloop Fleet. Everyone will be invited to donate wrapped items and bring them to the church as mystery gifts. Folks will bid, without knowing what they are acquiring! Pastor Derek has auctioneered at similar auctions in other settings and encourages people to use a sense of humor when selecting items to wrap and donate! Promotion of this event will begin in May. This event was originally scheduled for Three Kings Day/Epiphany in January but was postponed due to a Covid spike.

June 26 Celebration of the Congregation:

“Old Sloop Sailing into Summer & Beyond!”

June will “host” a remarkable array of in-person worship and special events this year:

Sunday, June 5: Pentecost/Joining Sunday for new members with Covenant Renewal Sunday,

June 12: Special Sunday for Christian Education/Faith Formation Sunday,

June 19: Rain date for Old Sloop Round-the-Town Yard Sales Sunday,

June 26: Congregation Celebration: Old Sloop Sails into Summer & Beyond!

The June 26 celebration will be a threefold event. The festivities will acknowledge all our congregation has experienced during the pandemic and will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Pastor Derek’s ministry with us. The worship service will lead off these observances. An “Open House” and light lunch will follow on the Church Green with music by Phil Swanson’s Jazz Band, the 12 School Street Singers, and others. At 4:00 p.m. church folks will gather at the Schooner Adventure dock in Gloucester for a festive "send off" to an Old Sloop Sunset Sail around the harbor. The Church Cabinet has established a planning team to work out details of these events. The Deacons, Trustees, and the Old Sloop Fleet join other committees in enthusiastically endorsing these efforts.

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The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Rice Smith

Recording Secretary

TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES APRIL 11, 2022

Subject to Approval

Special note: This meeting was held during the COVID 19 pandemic while social distancing kept the members of the Board of Trustees from being physically together. Trustees attended using the Zoom video conferencing facility.

Handouts: (sent by email before the meeting): Agenda, Draft Minutes of the March 14 Trustees Meeting, Year to Date Operating Summary and Cash and Investment Summary, Profit and Loss vs Actual Report, 2022 Monthly Budget

Present: Trustees Walter Vining (Chair); Kevin Love, Chip Kistner, Rick Kasten, and Geof Lyon; Rev. Derek, Treasurer Bruce Coates, and Dan Bing

Call to Order/Declaration of Quorum: Chairman Walter Vining called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and observed that a quorum was present.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Derek led the assembly in prayer

Approval of March 14th minutes: The minutes of the March 14 meeting were approved as submitted by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bruce Coates referred to the reports he had circulated by email. The summary shows income year-to-date as \$4,707 better than budget, but expenses are \$9,022 worse than budget, so net income is behind budget by \$4,315. The market value of the investments increased by \$19,678 in March, reducing the year-to-date loss to \$57,512. Referring to the Operations – Actual vs Budget report, Bruce observed that unified pledges are ahead by a little more than \$3,000. Prior year pledges continue to come in, and overall contributions are better than budget by \$4,519. Endowment fund transfers are on track. Bruce added the new expense category Pest Control. The recent inspection

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of the kitchen found mouse droppings, so use of the kitchen requires ongoing rodent control. Heating oil is way over budget. The price is up, but so is usage, both in the sanctuary and the rest of the facility. Snow removal is over budget by \$569. Building operations are over budget by \$9,770. There was one final legal fee payment of \$450 for the Human Resources Manual.

Review of Bank Statements: Chip Kistner reported that the PEX statement looks fine. The bank statement seems to be OK too, but Chip finds it hard to reconcile because check and confirmation numbers don't match. Bruce will send Chip a Quickbooks report showing all payments with check numbers to see if that helps.

Old and New Business

Former classroom rental: Dan Bing reported that he has fielded an inquiry from a Christian Science church group about renting the preschool space. The group is considering gathering three times a week and holding a service Sunday morning at 10:00 am. Questions were raised about COVID protocols, heat, keys, signs, security, and insurance. After some discussion, we decided that the asking price should be \$1,500 per month. We discussed a lease, and Dan agreed to create a draft for review.

Wrought Iron Railings: Bill Elwell had sent an email before the meeting saying he plans to meet Tim Mears this week.

Window Woman: Bill had also reported that Window Woman is scheduled to start April 26. Rev. Derek will work with Bill to figure out the sequence in which windows should be reconditioned.

Alpine: Bill had also reported that Alpine is working away at removing paint. There was some question about the condition of the gutter at the top of the façade, but Bill believes it is serviceable with a little work.

Screens for Waring classroom: Phil Bynarowicz installed some screens, but others don't fit well and won't stay in place. Walter will investigate.

Community garden: Rev. Derek will talk to a couple of churches that have community gardens.

Music office: Geof Lyon reported that he and Bill discussed phasing for the project. The streaming equipment would have to be removed for parts of the construction. Geof described a plan for moving it to the rear of the sanctuary

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while the construction takes place and then deciding whether to construct a permanent home for it there.

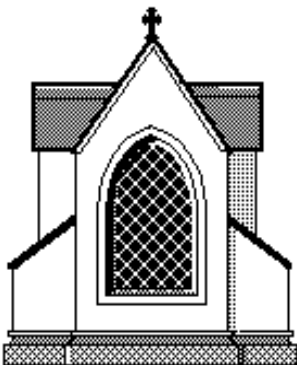
Energy Efficiency: Geof pointed out that the church's increased consumption of heating oil is not only a financial problem but also an environmental one. The church is involved in "11th Hour" ringing of the bell and Net Zero Rockport, but it should also take steps to improve its own environmental condition. We should figure out what's going on with oil usage, and we should think again about solar panels. Walter offered to check the thermostats, and Geof will research solar panels and report.

June 26th celebration: Walter said he want to make sure everyone knows about the planning for an event to celebrate Rev. Derek's 10th year at the church. There are plans for renting the Thomas E. Lannon for a sail, and the organizers are looking for funding.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm. The Trustees will next meet May 9.

Respectfully submitted,

Geof Lyon, recording secretary



Stewardship Committee

MEETING MINUTES APRIL 5

- Administrative:
 - The Committee Reviewed and Approved March meeting minutes
 - Next meeting will be May 5 at 7PM
 - Dan Bing will be log writer in April
- New business:
 - The Local Business Collaborative plan was discussed:
 - Action items:

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- First, the Congregation will be contacted to determine the number and interest level of all members prior to discussing with businesses
- Businesses will be asked for their input as to how the Church can support their businesses; i.e. shopping cards, art events, increase shopping during slack times etc.
- Jack will contact Chamber of Commerce Peter Webber for list and/or input
- Community-orientated events, activities and initiatives-
 - Community Yard Sale was discussed by the Committee
 - Restaurant Fund Raisers
 - Action Items:
 - Dan will contact Tom Shea's
 - Barbara will contact Seaport Grill
 - Jim will contact Fish Shack
 - Jack will contact Jalapenos
 - Dan will provide information to Jack and others re: restaurant fund raising process
 - Art Events
 - Derek suggested Annette as source of information for hosting Art Auctions
 - Barbara will speak with Annette about potential for art events
 - Derek discussed Community Garden with raised beds with Trustees
 - Water is a major concern due to expense- Use property behind church for garden- continue discussion at later date
 - Use of fellowship hall for community meals postponed
- Pledge campaign 2022
 - Action items:
 - Themes:
Several ideas for themes were discussed: Spirit of Community, Rooted in Love, From Bread & Cup to Faith & Giving (UCC theme)

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- Ideas will be discussed at next meeting
- Envelopes will be ordered as soon as possible –Jim will ask Fred - Asst. Treasurer
- Barbara will write letters to 3 categories of donors; Dan will share last years' letters to donors, pledgers, and past donors
- Jack will obtain lists of 2021 pledgers, donors, and new targets
- Print lists of pledgers, donors, and past donors (Jack)
- Mail different appeal letters to 3 categories of donors – Pledge donors; weekly donors and potential new donors (marriages, funerals, visitors etc.)
- Send list to Annette to print mailing labels; Jack will provide lists to Annette by May 22.
- Discuss at next Meeting:
 - Consider having Pledge cards printed off-site
 - Update Trifold for use this year -New photos and content, obtain budget info. from Trustees
- 2021 Pledge campaign
 - Action items
 - Jack will provide Final Report on 2021 Pledges
 - Discussion of how to increase pledge amount: Donors encourage others to increase donor level; analyze statistics of different levels of giving, ie, older donors give more than \$1000; Treasurer may use data in letter to members?
- Witnessing Stewards for 2022 –
 - Jim Schell & Liz Rice-Smith will speak
 - Ask Jack and Celene*
- Ongoing Business for Discussion
 - Send confirmations with thank you via mail by Jan 15, 2023
 - Work on rolling thank you/confirmations
- Administrative tasks:
 - Printing of letters, pledge cards, pamphlets/trifold, etc.
- Ongoing Issues
 - Who else should get letters beyond pledgers, donors and older LYBUNTS

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- Discuss how to address LYBUNTS (Pledged Last Year But Not This) with Derek and Deacons
- Amazon Smile-review – 2021 total revenue was \$99.10. We need to get the word out that this is an easy way to bring in additional donations. Jim and Dan to get together.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee continues to work on ways to keep our current membership engaged and to welcome visitors who may someday become new members. Whether on line or in person, let's all practice radical hospitality and greet each other, both old friends and new faces, with a smile. Following are the committee's minutes.

MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2022

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Special note: This meeting was held during the COVID 19 pandemic while social distancing kept the members of the Membership Committee from being physically together. Committee members attended using the Zoom video conferencing facility.

Handouts: (sent by email before the meeting): Agenda, Draft Minutes of the March 19 Membership Committee Meeting

Present: Barbara Sachs, Dan Bing, Susan Lillis, Louisa Casadei-Johnson, and Geof Lyon

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00pm by Zoom. We will plan to meet in person in June, barring worsening COVID conditions. We have not been getting through the entire meeting agenda in an hour, and we agreed to extend our meetings by 15 minutes.

Review of March 19 Minutes: Barbara Sachs indicated that she intended to suggest there be more than one community event, and she suggested that “event” and “open house” be plural. The minutes were approved as amended by voice vote.

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Current Issues

Name tags: We noted that few of us are wearing name tags, and we agreed that people will use them if the pastor makes it a priority. Rick Kasten and Celene Lyon have reviewed the name tags in the box in the narthex, but the name tags need further review. We discussed whether we should preemptively print name tags for new members, but there are people who are not members who should have name tags, and some old members may have lost their name tags. We decided it was better to let everyone who wants one ask for it. Susan Lillis and Louisa Casadei-Johnson will speak with Rev. Derek about name tags, and they will ask if Annette can make name tags for Barbara Sachs, Dan Bing, and Jessica Hunt.

Process for greeting new visitors: We have had someone from the Membership Committee stand near Rev. Derek after most recent services. Some of us have spoken with people we think are new, while others have recorded their names and other information. We agreed that both are important. We agree that we should enter new people's names into PowerChurch as Visitors, and Susan will send Geof Lyon the names she has collected. We observed that our cards are not working very well, and we discussed returning to pew cards. We agreed that pew cards would only work if the minister mentioned them, and we thought that might be a good time for the minister to speak to people attending online and ask them to identify themselves too. Susan and Louisa will discuss cards with Rev. Derek when they meet with him. We decided to leave some cards near the COVID contact tracing sign-in, and Susan will speak to Phil Bynarowicz to ensure he isn't moving them.

Susan will stand with Rev. Derek April 24, Geof May 1, Dan May 8, and Louisa May 15 and 22.

New member gatherings: Barbara will continue to attend new member gatherings. Susan will also go April 24, Louisa will go May 15, and Dan will go 5/22 and 5/29. We do not think any prospective new members have been attending these gatherings.

Pamphlets/trifolds: Dan has been taking photos, and we know of a professional photographer who is also willing to take photos. The Stewardship Committee plans to make a pamphlet this year.

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Community events: We agreed that we need a presence at community events. We recalled that we have rolling bulletin boards that can be used to inform visitors about church activities.

Follow-up: We discussed when it would be appropriate to follow up with new people and the best ways for going about it. We agreed there must be resources on this matter. Susan and Louisa will add this to the agenda for their meeting with Rev. Derek. We agreed to focus on follow up at our next meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Geof Lyon, recording secretary

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL



Christian Education and Faith Formation



MAY 2022

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 1 | Old Sloop Youth “Jesus has Risen! Tell all your peeps!!” |
| May 8 | Old Sloop Youth “God is With Us” |
| May 15 | Old Sloop Youth “Don’t Worry!” |
| May 22 | Common Cathedral (Youth are invited to come early and make sandwiches) |
| May 29 | No Old Sloop Youth: Memorial Day Weekend |

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COMMON CATHEDRAL MAY 22

We will be looking for folks to donate food items, make sandwiches and prepare lunches, and lastly go into Boston to serve and worship with the Common Cathedral Church. There will be an email going out with a list of supplies needed. If you would like to be a part of this please let Katie know!

EASTER REFLECTION

As we are a few weeks after Easter Sunday, I took some much needed time to rest and recharge during our school's April break. This Easter service really felt like the first mostly normal, and getting back into the swing of things service since we have been in this pandemic. There were so many familiar faces, we had youth who have been confirmed and came back with their parents after years. Adults who came back with their own kids who have gone through our programming as kids. Obviously some new faces too. We are so blessed that we have a congregation that welcomes you home week after week or if it has been a while since you have stepped foot into the doors. We have relationships within the congregation that have youth come back as they are adults, with their own kids etc. Church right now may not be what it used to be but I am so excited to see where God is taking us in the future.

THRIVING CONGREGATIONS UPDATE: VIDEO PROJECT

As a part of the Thriving Congregations we have access to a Thriving Congregations Grant (2022-2023). As a committee we came up with a video project: *The Old Sloop Video Storytelling Stories of Faith Formation in our daily lives and beloved community*. Through this video we are hoping to introduce and demonstrate ways that people can talk about and practice faith in their daily lives. This video project will create opportunities for people within our church to be visible with their expressions of God's love in our community; allowing people to open up and allow more people to speak freely about their faith practices; create an opportunity for the congregation to speak together about those issues about faith; and to show the many places where faith is shared.

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We are hoping to begin this project in May, we will hire a videographer and editor to put this together. So we will just need YOU to share your stories of faith formation. If you are interested in taking part in this video project please let anyone on the thriving congregations committee know! (Katie Welch, Rev. Derek, Liz Rice-Smith, Debbie Welch, Andrena Huntsman, Leap Kasten and Kate Desmond.

Be blessed!

Katie: faithformation@oldsloop.org. 978-290-3427. If you have any questions call or txt!

Christian Outreach Committee



MEETING MINUTES APRIL 10

PRESENT: John Cooney, Jessica Hunt, Jay Reed, Marge Schell, Wendy Woodbury Rev Derek van Gulden. Jay opened the meeting with prayer at 11:30.

BUDGET: The draft Outreach balance as of March 31, 2022 is \$10,663.88.

PASTOR'S FUND: The Pastor's Fund is sufficient at this time.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: \$1,090.00 was collected for One Great Hour.

ACTION LUNCHES: The Committee prepared and delivered 35 lunches for the Action Shelter on March 30. The next date we prepare lunches is June 29, 2022.

ESSEX CONTY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (ECCO) The overlay district for affordable housing was not discussed at Town Meeting on April 2, 2022. There will be a Town Meeting in May to vote on the overlay district. Rev Derek told the committee that there will be a pulpit exchange in the coming months on the subject of affordable housing.

ALLIES FOR OUR AFGHAN ALLIES: One Afghan family of four (father, mother, 2 children) is living and being supported in Gloucester. There are two males male in another

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apartment in Gloucester. One is employed.

REFUGEE IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (RIM): RIM has no refugee or asylum seeker applications currently. Their monetary balance is good right now. RIM is planning a fundraising walk in October 2022. They are also hoping to sponsor a movie at the Cabot Theater in Beverly or possibly the Gloucester Cinema.

SCHOLARSHIPS: The Committee awards three \$500 Scholarships through Rockport High School. We have not received the applications to date. Outreach will review applications and make recommendations by e-mail before our May meeting.

POT LUCKS: Rev Derek asked if the Committee had considered starting pot luck dinner. It is the consensus of the Committee to hold off on pot lucks because: (1) more help is needed on a consistent weekly basis (2) food cannot be prepared at homes. Food prepared at church increases time and cost, and (3) currently there is an increase in COVID infections in our area.

WEBSITE OUTREACH PAGE: Jay asked the Committee to review the information and format on Outreach on the website.

EASTER OFFERING: The Easter offering will go to aid for Ukraine.

FAMILY PROMISE: Family Promise has asked if we could house a family for one night, on occasion, when they are waiting to enter the State shelter program. We could not host on night when there is a planned church event. We are waiting for more information on this.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Jay asked the Committee to consider other activities in which we could participate. One suggestion is to help stock shelves at Open Door on a Friday 10-12. Derek asked about our participation in Pride Parade this June if the parade does take place. Derek told us about an upcoming event at the Beauport that will honor women of color in business. Organizations/groups rent tables to participate in the dinner and program.

Next meeting is May 15, 2022. The meeting adjourned at 12:20.

Respectfully submitted, Marge Schell

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The Old Sloop's Log

Susan Lillis, Editor

Please submit articles to:
sglillis56@gmail.com

**** All articles are due on the
18th of each month. ****

Church Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Service

LIVE and via zoom

Sunday School

Resumes in September

Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Derek van Gulden

Christian Education and Faith Formation Director

Kaitlyn Welch

Office Manager

Annette Mackin

Music Director

Dr. Phil Swanson

Youth Choir Director

Kristina Martin

Sexton

Phil Bynarowicz