

## FPC – Session Meeting Highlights – September 19, 2023

- Colleen Clark led the opening devotion and prayer.
- Liz Burns gave the Clerk’s Report. We received thank you notes from the Ukrainian family we are helping with rent payments, and from their landlord in Orient, who is glad to have a tenant for the winter months. The VBS team received a thank you note from the parent of an attendee. And Carol DeLong helped someone find their grandparents’ graves, so they made a donation to the Cemetery in gratitude. In addition:
  - Worship has averaged 68 people per week since our last meeting in July.
  - The Southold Historical Museum’s request to use the CE wing for a volunteer breakfast on October 25 was approved.
  - The Women’s Group of AA requested that we host their Saturday morning meetings, which are starting up again since Covid. The request was approved.
- Jan Falkowski gave the Treasurer’s Report, and noted that the endowment funds continue to stay steady. The proceeds from the Golf Outing will be calculated as soon as all the bills are in.
- The next meeting of the Presbytery of Long Island will be on September 30 in Selden. A commissioner from the Session is needed. Peter Kelley will tell the Presbytery about our upcoming vacancy for the Faith Formation part-time position.
- Peter showed a video about Family Systems Theory, which views the congregation as a system. The goals should be to be a system of care, not a system of control; to reduce anxiety within the system; and to cope with the fear of change by developing a strong vision and direction.
- Karen Danzer reported for the Deacons. They didn’t meet in July and August, but have received quite a few Persons in Need (PIN) requests, including two for rental assistance, one for funeral expenses, and one for emergency housing for a family member awaiting a court date. Townsend Manor Inn gave the person a discount to stay for a week, which FPC paid for.
- Dave Collins and Paul Geiger reported for Buildings & Grounds. Doug MacArthur and Darryl Ketcham finished replacing all the windows in the Old Manse, and repairing and sealing the frames. The work in the Manse should be finished by late October, including repairing gutters, finishing painting the interior, power washing and painting the exterior, replacing smoke detectors and the stove hood, and some other odds and ends. Bob Burns will be helping us with an electrical inspection and repairs as needed.
- Marla Koster reported for the Cemetery that 2023 fundraising letters went out. The conservator spent eight days working in the cemetery, including repairing the Cosden mausoleum and planting trees.

- Sue Russell reported for Faith Formation that SALT has started. They are requesting donations for materials from each participant. There were 40 students at the first SALT: 19 from grades K-3, and 23 from grades 4-6.
  - While many parents are coming to help, they still need volunteers to help with SALT, because it is such a large group.
  - Faithful Friends, the toddler program on Saturday mornings, also needs some leadership help.
  - Kids' Church has 8-9 students per week, and needs two adult leaders per week.
  - Vic Petrigliano will be leading a new Bible Study on the Lord's Prayer.
  - We need to hire a replacement Faith Formation Facilitator for when Mary Mraz moves to Kansas.
  
- Member and Community Outreach will start up again with a new Inquirer's Seminar.
  
- Colleen Clark reported for the Mission Committee that she had prepared the budget for the coming year. Some of the organizations we used to support no longer exist. The committee will donate the money we used to give to those groups to the Deacons instead, to help meet the growing need in Southold, which includes two new Recovery Houses for women.
  
- The Nominating Committee has a vacancy on Session to fill, as well as Deacons to replace Kathy Chagnon, Heather Cusack and, eventually, Mike Mraz. Also, Elders Ralph Edwards, Stew Ross and Ashley Loreto still have to be ordained. The Session voted to create a task force to study the idea of shrinking the Session from 15 members to 9, and potentially shrinking the Board of Deacons, as well. The task force will include Liz Burns, Jay Batterman, Dave Collins and Karen Murray.
  
- Patty Shuford reported that the Personnel Committee is working with staff on their self-assessments. There will be an increase in compensation proposed at the annual meeting. Jan needs help with bookkeeping. And Peter's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with FPC is coming up in November.
  
- Ralph Edwards reported for the Stewardship & Finance Committee that budgets are needed ASAP. There will be an audit on October 17. Pledge season is kicking off, and the theme will be "Home." Stewardship Sunday is November 19.
  
- The Worship Committee is working on adult baptism gifts. They want to implement regular "Moments" in worship, including for Mission, Stewardship, Deacons' Doings, Faith Formation and the Cemetery, to keep the congregation informed about all the things that are going on at FPC. Also:
  - New volunteers are needed to livestream worship services.
  - Deacons will go back to saying "Bread of Heaven" and "Cup of the New Covenant" when serving the Lord's Supper.