



**ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

302 MERCHANTS AVE.
FORT ATKINSON, WI 920-563-3889



VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

**January 31, 2021 at 11:00 AM
via Zoom or Conference Call**

Please join our virtual Annual Meeting this Sunday. In order to have a quorum, we must have at least 20 people in attendance. You can join either by a computer Zoom link, which will be sent by email later this week and is listed below, or by conference call. If you call in, you will be able to hear all that is said, and others will be able to hear you.

Annual Meeting Conference Call Information

Phone Number: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 892 1717 3735

Passcode: 443636

Annual Meeting Computer Zoom Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89217173735?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89217173735?pwd=Yk5la09jeVdJYkFtNk5LQ2FBN0M0QT09)
[pwd=Yk5la09jeVdJYkFtNk5LQ2FBN0M0QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89217173735?pwd=Yk5la09jeVdJYkFtNk5LQ2FBN0M0QT09)



All Parish Check-In

Please join the St. Peter's Community in our monthly all-parish Check-in on **Wednesday, February 5 at 6:00 PM.** You can join via Zoom Link or Conference Call

All Parish Check-in Zoom Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83475806069?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83475806069?pwd=RjhPR25HUDJ3dmcrDI3UHpFRG1HQT09)
[pwd=RjhPR25HUDJ3dmcrDI3UHpFRG1HQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83475806069?pwd=RjhPR25HUDJ3dmcrDI3UHpFRG1HQT09)

All Parish Check-in Phone Call Information

Phone Number 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 834 7580 6069

Passcode: 000694

Called To a New Land — Susan Elliott

In the 1980s, some tech-savvy kids in a South Bend, Indiana parish youth group introduced Julie Lytle, their Youth Director, to online communication in the form of digital bulletin boards (remember them?). By the time she left that position to begin PhD studies in Theology and Education at Boston College, early forms of email made it easy to stay in touch with her former charges. The rapidly expanding set of online digital tools for communication became a research interest that led to Julie's commitment to explore and promote the rich possibilities that digital media offers the 21st-century Church.

Now Associate Professor for Educational Leadership and Director of Distributive and Lifelong Learning at Bexley Seabury, Julie credits those high school students with bringing her into the digital era. "The kids were the ones that really called me into a new land and invited me to become a 'digital immigrant,'" she says.

Helping faith communities see the richness of being on online

Julie's book, Faith Formation 4.0, published by Church Publishing in 2013, explores the whole ecology of faith and considers how our efforts to be story-keepers, story-sharers and story-makers have evolved over four eras of human communication – oral tradition; written communication; mass mediated communication, which includes the invention of the printing press and the rise of radio and television; and digital media.

"We've been in this digital age since the sixties," she says. "There was a tipping point that started in 2000 with the explosion of social media, and it is now hitting another tipping point due to the pandemic. If you look at the early Internet, people were using it like print. They miss that it's



really interactive, where we can have anybody be a source or a destination. The real richness is that we really can have conversations, not just one-to-many but many-to-many.”

Julie has seen that possibility more than 25 years and worked to encourage churches to take advantage of digital media to reach those who are missed in our congregations, those who aren’t being served. “The pandemic has driven us to that,” she says. “There’s an urgency that tells us we can’t do things the way that we

are used to and here we have this tool that was sitting there underutilized. So if you think of the Christian community in its wholeness, we were only reaching the folks that could physically get to our churches. We now have the capability of doing more. Now is the time to rethink: what is it that we really want to do?”

Learning new ways to be church—Since the initial coronavirus lockdown last March, congregations everywhere have been in a mad rush to figure out how to be church when it is difficult and often impossible to gather in person. A result of that has been to develop ways to gather online for worship, education, prayer and meetings. “We’ve moved most of our services onto YouTube and Facebook,” says Julie, “because that’s a familiar and easy way to distribute or live stream. These are broadcast media that aren’t designed for the kind of engagement we have when we’re physically gathered, but they can replicate a lot of it. We are starting to think more creatively, because we’ve been in this longer than we thought we were going to be.”

Thinking more creatively means giving up some things that we think we need to do. This can be difficult, but it can also be freeing. Taking Christmas as an example, Julie points out, “many churches were in a place where they kept doing everything that that they have always done, even though they have fewer people to do it and were feeling overburdened instead of energized by it.” She saw it more as “a clean slate, a great, creative opportunity to rethink the possibilities. We don’t have to keep doing the Christmas pageant in the same way. We can do it differently or create some alternative that’s still meaningful for the children and their families.”

As faith communities have adapted to the pandemic, easy access to online worship and activities has often meant more members showing up, particularly those who are homebound or physically challenged. “When the pandemic hit, churches thought this would be a short-term response,” says Julie. “We’ve now had enough practice that we’re realizing there are some long-term benefits. There might be some things that we want to keep online. And there are some things that we’re missing, that we’ll want to shift back to when we can get physically gathered again. So what’s the right proportion? How do we balance those elements?”

Sharing gifts and working collaboratively—Julie is convinced that this moment offers us an opportunity to rethink the way we operate as individual congregations, to discover ways to share our gifts in what she calls distributed leadership. “Distributed leadership means getting out of our siloed mentality,” she says. “For example, does every church have to do its own online service and its own religious education? The fact that the Internet breaks geographic bounds means that we can think more productively about how to share the gifts that we each have and maximize them in that way, so we really can be a united community in a bigger sense of what being Christian is. Some parishes thrive at being able to tell their story in a digitally mediated way; others are really challenged by it, but might have something else that’s their gift. Is there a way we can help them support each other?”

On Cape Cod, where Julie lives, there are six Episcopal churches. “Do we need all six to be doing an online service,” she asks, “or do we somehow give each of them permission to do something that’s more

at the heart of who they are, and let one hold the service. We may still gather as our own local communities for what is part of who we are as a local community. This would let us rethink what our resources are and what our needs are. We can be creative about how we can connect the local and the shared. We can imagine what needs to be done physically together and find ways to augment and support those activities using technology.”

Time to think outside the box—Julie recognizes that distributed leadership is a different way of thinking. “It can be threatening. Our economies go with who’s participating and salaries are based on giving within local communities. But we’re at a moment for being creative. Can we allow this opportunity to think outside the box and see what else is possible? Can we rethink what our resources and our needs are and how we can work together?”

“What would happen if all of our pastors in a region or the deanery or however they’re organized, got together and really allowed themselves to dream about what their resources are, how to share with their communities and how they could collaborate together to do it as a great resource for the whole. We are typically better when we share. The sum of our parts is greater when we’re able to do it collaboratively, in my opinion, than when one of us is trying to do everything, some of which may not fit for his or her skill set.

“I believe things can work better when we do it together, so my argument is let’s do distributed leadership. Let’s figure out ways to get past some of the fears we have of losing our particularity to be able to see how we can share in a geography that blends the resources of each with all. I’m the type of a person that wants to seek out opportunities to communicate and to collaborate and what I have found is that things like Zoom and the digital resources that are available to keep us connected have expanded my capacity to do that kind of relationship/communication sharing as well as relationship-building.

“So how do we pay attention to that when we’re thinking about it from a faith perspective? Both in helping people to grow and understand who they are as God’s chosen and in what we do as we recognize the gifts we have to share as the body of Christ. Those are the key pieces for me.”

Maximizing resources with Pathways for Baptismal Living—At Bexley Seabury, Julie is working on a new program, Pathways to Baptismal Living, that offers people opportunities to explore and live and grow their faith that would not be possible without the capacity to connect digitally across the world. “I don’t want to recreate anything that already exists,” she says. “I want to collaborate. I want to make more of a clearinghouse, where things that already exist can readily be found by the folks that are looking for them. And if there is a need for things that aren’t out there, then we can build on it to create them. Our goal is to find ways to give people the tools they need and the understanding that they desire to be able to continue to grow and respond to God’s call in their lives.

“How do we structure things so that we maximize the resources that we have, especially in an environment where we feel like we have shrinking financial and time and other resources? How do we share things to really do that kind of sharing, where what I’m hungry for I can find and what you have to share I can partner with you to offer, in a way that we all feel like we have a place at the banquet? That’s what I’m hoping Pathways can end up being. That’s what I hope we as a church can find a way to do, using technology to keep us connected and to build those relationships.”

It was more than 30 years ago, that some young people called Julie into the new land of digital communication. And so it is that she calls us today to throw off our reluctance and enter this new land, rich with possibilities to connect and share and grow in faith together.

Source: <https://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/891/called-to-a-new-land>

Vestry Minutes – January 20, 2021 (Via Zoom)

I. Check-ins

II. Prayer – Mother Mindy opened in prayer.

III. Minutes - Scott moved to approve. Cole seconded. No discussion. All in favor.

IV. New Business

- A. Special Service/Ministry Idea – Bill presented the idea to have a special service at the time of Martin Luther King Day in order to promote racial and social justice. All liked the idea. He will begin working on this for next year's MLK day.
- B. Annual Meeting and Vestry -Ginny Laurent has indicated her willingness to step up to be on the Vestry.
- C. Ellen is now heavily involved in our new ministry-“Agape Essential Care Ministry” - so she will be stepping down from Vestry since her term is finished. Mother Mindy asked if anyone else needs to go off. Milo has decided to step down as Treasurer. He will still stay on the Finance Committee. Being the “Check writer” is the main function since we can't have the same as the person who keeps the books also write the checks. Bob has served two consecutive terms on the Vestry. Cole also thinks he has been on an extended time. Breck has compiled a chart showing how Vestry terms have been over the decades. Mother Mindy asked that if someone needs to be off, that they help find a replacement for themselves. Several names were offered as good possibilities for new Vestry members. Bob would be willing to serve another year, but then next year there may be more than one wanting to be off. Bill Cannon asked if Shawn could serve on the Vestry. He can't because he is an employee.
- D. Housing Allowance Resolution – (see attachment) This is a portion of paycheck that she can spend on the Rectory (pre-tax dollars) that she doesn't get reimbursed for. Bill moved to approve. Scott Seconded. All we in favor. No discussion.

V. Reports

- A. Rector's Report - Don Fleischman is coming Thursday to fine tune the technology equipment and initialize it. Bev commented on how much she is enjoying MM's sermons. Agape Essential Care Ministry has had its first meeting.
- B. Sr. Warden – No report.
- C. Jr. Warden- acquired cables and connectors for live-streaming.
- D. D. Financial - See attachments. Assets have gone up as the result of good year for Stock Market. Discussion followed. We were behind the budget with our pledge income, but because of lower expenses we are in good shape. Cole pointed out that this is not sustainable. Mother Mindy said that it takes 4 newcomers to make up for the loss of someone from the Greatest Generation.
- E. Outreach - No report.
- F. F. Missions - Agape Essential Care Ministry - See attached report. Discussion of report followed. Laree and Virginia are helping to find sources of these products (from manufacturers). Cole commented that some of the budgeted items might be high compared to what he knows the

cost of things are at Costco. Also concerned with the online aspect of ordering may spread the ministry far beyond our ability to fill. MM clarifies that online is just for the orders. People still need to pick up in person. Cole asked if we have the mechanism to keep in the bounds that we have the ability to fulfill. Bev suggested capacity limits and a wait list. We are hoping that we will get a lot of things as donations from manufacturers. Ellen, who is the one who started this ministry, said it is an off-shoot of the Little (Library) Pantry ministry of the summer. She would buy things in large quantity, then repackage in smaller quantities in ziploc bags for the Little Pantry. Questions and discussions followed about the locking cabinets and Mother Mindy solicited input about this.

G. Evangelism - Need to discuss branding for the Church and our Agape Ministry.

H. Mother Mindy spoke with Steve Tessmer, but he does not do branding. He will talk with someone and get back to her. Possibilities are: the stained-glass window, bell tower, etc. We want to get a brand for the church. Cole asked if Mother Mindy could show what we have - four different things. Bob asked if we could pick the best of what we have. Mother Mindy will put together a display of all the branding items we currently use and send to the Vestry.

H. Taskforce for Reopening - No report.

Mother Mindy asked if the Vestry accepts the reports as presented. Passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

A. Stewardship Drive - There are a few pledging units that have not sent in their pledge sheets, but will do so. Last year we had 22 pledge units, this year, 20 (or more). Cole did an excellent job on the letter.

B. Zoom Church- on hold. Still working out the bugs for the pre-recorded church. Any opinions? Bev asked if we can add this information to our listing in the paper to reflect the fact that we are offering Zoom services.

C. Clergy Coaching - need to make an appointment now that it's the new year

D. Enhancement of Nave- December was a bad time to ask people to research this. Cole did some research and compiled pictures of the churches that seemed closest to something we could use as an inspiration. The committee will meet sometime soon.

E. Vestry Expectations, Duties, Responsibilities- Mother Mindy sent information after last Vestry meeting. Got some feedback, but, not many responded. She said December was not a great time to send to people something to read. She asked if people would look at it now and give some feedback.

VII. Questions about Reports or Concerns to bring forth - Barb asked if we should go to Newsletters every other week, instead of weekly. All agreed to this.

VIII. Prayer- Mother Mindy led us in the Prayer for Sound Government from the Book of Common Prayer.

IX. Adjournment - Bill moved to adjourn and Scott Seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Werner

DORCHESTER CHAPLAINS:

Lieutenant George Fox, Lieutenant Alexander D. Goode, Lieutenant Clark V. Poling, Lieutenant John P. Washington, 1943

The **Four Chaplains** were four United States Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other soldiers during the sinking of the USAT *Dorchester* during World War II. They helped other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out; 230 of the 904 men aboard the ship were rescued. Life jackets offered little protection from hypothermia which killed most men in the water. Water temperature was 34 °F (1 °C) and air temperature was 36 °F (2 °C). By the time additional rescue ships arrived "...hundreds of dead bodies were seen floating on the water, kept up by their life jackets."

The chaplains, who all held the rank of lieutenant, were the Methodist [Reverend George L. Fox](#), the Jewish Rabbi [Alexander D. Goode](#), the Roman Catholic Priest [John P. Washington](#) and the Reformed Church in America Reverend [Clark V. Poling](#). They were sailing on the USAT *Dorchester* troop transport on February 3, 1943, when the vessel, travelling in convoy, was torpedoed by the German submarine U-223 in the North Atlantic. As the vessel sank, the four chaplains calmed the frightened soldiers and sailors, aided in the evacuation of the ship, and helped guide wounded men to safety. The chaplains also gave up their own life jackets.

As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the Four Chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets.—Grady Clark, survivor

On December 19, 1944, all four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. The Four Chaplains' Medal was established by act of Congress on July 14, 1960, and was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961.

The chaplains were also honored with a stamp, issued in 1948 and by an act of Congress designating February 3 as "Four Chaplains Day."

Goode, Poling and Washington had served as leaders in the Boy Scouts of America.

-from Wikipedia-

Chaplains Fox, Goode, Poling, and Washington responded to a high calling from God to represent his love among men of war. On the day they died, they personified the words of Jesus found in John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."— *from Holy Women, Holy Men*



George Fox



Alexander Goode



Clark Poling



John Washington

Source: http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/dorchester_chaplains.htm

PRAYERS

- Parishioner Cycle of Prayer - Al and Marilou Haight
- Ministry Rotation Prayer - Outreach Committee
- For those who are sick: Kitty Martin, Jerry Swanson, Jack Schark, Bev Wille, Marilou Haight, Gary Allen
- Happy Birthday Milo Jones and Breck McHenry
- Diocesan search for next Bishop
- Prayer for difficult times (coronavirus)



To add someone to the parish prayer list, please e-mail the office at: office@stpetersfort.org, or contact Eda Wilson, our prayer net coordinator, edesw2@gmail.com. If you someone you know and love has Covid-19 we would like to pray for them. Please email Eda and she will add their name to the prayer list.

This prayer was developed by the Diocesan Standing Committee to pray as the search for our next Bishop progresses:

Gracious and loving God in whom we live and move and have our being, We pray for your guidance and wisdom that we may faithfully follow your calling in our own lives and as we as the Diocese of Milwaukee discern the calling of our twelfth bishop. We give you thanks for the service of Bishop Steven Miller in the life of our diocese and for the blessings that marked his ministry among us. We also pray for his family during this time of transition. We pray for those whom you have called to serve on our Standing, Search, and Transition Committees, and we pray also for those who will respond to your call to enter into discernment with us to be our next bishop. Give us all listening and prayerful hearts for this most important task. This we ask in the name of the One who said, "Come, follow me." Amen.

Prayer for a Time of Pandemic Illness:

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, in this challenging and uncertain time of global pandemic and public health crisis, we come before you offering our prayers on behalf of those in need, the Church and the world. For all affected by the coronavirus pandemic around the world.

For the leaders of the nations that they may work together for the common good as the outbreak spreads. May barriers that divide be brought down and bonds of trust strengthened, to benefit the entire human family.

Grant to our nation and its leaders, public health officials and government the will to act swiftly and decisively, with wisdom and compassion.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

January 29, 2021 Newsletter

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

302 Merchants Avenue

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Return Service Requested



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Rector: Mother Mindy

Valentine Davis

ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT

To Lead Each Person into a Living Relationship with Jesus Christ,
Train Them as Disciples, and Make Jesus Known to Others.