

DEACONS MEETING MINUTES

1/7/2026

PRESENT: In person, Bruce Bennett, Alice Barrett, Caroline Mack, Judy Haupt, Scribe. By Zoom, Kare Marshall, Wendy Pree, Margaret Boone, Berkeley McChesney, Leslie Fraser, Zoom Host.

OPENING PRAYER: Caroline via John Donahue

REVIEW MINUTES of 12/4/2025: Approved as written

PRAYER CARDS: Jeannine > Friend Ann's husband facing death > Berkeley
Annie B.'s brother Andrew, very ill, still > Alice
Susie Chandler > sister Barb with surgery and

complications > Judy

Emmy Howe > Happy Belated B-Day and Congrats on

Puja's newborn > Bruce

Nye Family with Norm's passing on Xmas Eve > Bruce

Linsey > healing from shingles in her eye > Caroline

Barbara Rowe > healing from detached retina > Alice

Mary Clare's passing > Condolences to Vi, Ann, Annie >

Alice

Nancy S. and Ann H >TY for sermons on short notice and

get well, Nancy > Berkeley

Jeff Bailey > Get well > Caroline

Holly > Congrats on upcoming Grandbaby Girl > Caroline

Stein > Friend Rudy passed > Wendy

Satch > Fell > Judy

PASTORAL COVERAGE: 1/11 > Bruce. Bert will provide pastoral care until the 15th when David returns from baby duty.

1/18 > David

DEACON COVERAGE: 2/1 > Communion Sunday > Alice and Caroline

2/8 > Judy

2/15 > Margaret

2/22 > Wendy

DEACON ISSUES: 1) Apartheid Free Pledge > Much discussion at Church Council per Wendy. Conclusion is/was that we as a church have not spent enough time on educating the congregation on the issue and subsequent ramifications as to how such a pledge would/could impact the community at large. Example given with a donation letter was sent out and returned by sender that the church was being perceived as antisemitic and to take the person off the mailing list. Any discussion in the broader community is to come from Nancy Marshall or David Jones only and not to be discussed in public. Berkeley has resigned from this subcommittee.

2) Worship Team: Much discussion tonight re: history (over 6 years since 1st discussed), purpose, membership of the team. Current

team members include Leslie Fraser: Leader, Bri Leue, Diane L., Alice B, David J. with occasional appearance of the Music Ministry. A 1st meeting will be on 1/18 after church with or without David. And it will be helpful to review the Transformation Team's survey of what folks are looking for in a Sunday Service. Wendy spells out her version of what the Team's purpose is: to work out the nitty gritty of all the moving parts of the church service using the already set up Spreadsheet that ID's the Pulpit Supply, the Greeters, the Readers. As these parts are ID, the Spreadsheet gets filled in and is accessible to all (link to be provided). The second aspect of the Worship Team is to have a forum with which to look at the broader types of a service from a seasonal, artistic, musical, visual, how to share prayers, take up the offering and the ways the congregation can respond to the sermon (reflections). To think "outside the box" so that the service can offer something different (think Satch's congregational interaction style or the BU group demonstrating a typical evening at BU). Wendy was able to flesh out for the Deacons after the meeting with the Scribe offering examples of different services we've had in the past. More members needed? YTBD but we have to get moving on this long overdue Team.

3) Better Communication with Wendy/Virginia as to BU meetings schedule. ** Alice will be the Communicator.

4) Sharing Zoomers' request for prayers. Have Annette speak loudly enough for Service Leader to repeat the prayer from the Pulpit.

5) Sermons too long - ** Alice offers to "edit" David's sermons

6) Updating our Bylaws - ** Bruce will bring up at the Annual Meeting on Feb.1. He has communicated with the Williamsburg Church who asked for assistance but she has not reciprocated as yet.

7) Dangerous Stairway to the balcony. Trustees are addressing this problem, meanwhile it is blocked off.

8) Meeting the same night as the Trustees to improve communication. Deacons feel it is important for David to have 2 complete days off (Tuesday is Day 2). **Kare will communicate with Trustees for any wiggle room on their part.

9) Flu season is upon us with very high counts in MA. Nurse Margaret will issue a plea via the Wed. memo and Bulletin to get vaccinated, stay home if ill and/or wear masks for improved protection.

10) Annual Meeting: Feb. 1, **Bruce will write the Deacons report. Kare, Margaret and Bruce are reupping for another 3 years. ** Margaret will write up the report on Share the Warmth and send to Wendy and Virginia.

** Indicates an action plan

CLOSING PRAYERS: Caroline, et al for Baby Oscar

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Judy Haupt, Scribe

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, Feb. 6, @ 7PM. Hybrid

