

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting  
25 August 2015**

FINAL (Approved with Corrections on 9.22.15)

**In Attendance:** John Funston, Sally Hastings, Al Krueger, Pam Lanier, Jim Menendez, Tom Morris, Nick Pasken, Peter Pignataro, Sue Riddell, Harriet Stone, Father Todd, Charlie Lippincott, Melissa Lewis, and Trina Perna, David Earle, and Father Steve

**Absent:** Todd Balfourt, Lenore Hubbard and Father Ian

**Opening Reflections and Prayer, Father Todd:** Fr Todd led the vestry in a study of trials and temptations (James 1:1-16). Through the trials we encounter in our lives, we are reminded that hard times are our opportunity to gain wisdom, and perseverance in these times helps us to gain maturity. "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life."

As to temptation, we are reminded that God cannot be the source of temptation, for "God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone". When people are enticed into evil, their desires give birth to sin, "and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

Note: This passage seems to indicate that James may have been present when Jesus' delivered his "Sermon on the Mount".

**Minutes: 26 May 2015, v.1:** After reviewing the minutes, Sally Hastings corrected the youth 2014-2015 participation data and Melissa Lewis noted that Harriet Stone had reviewed the Rector's Discretionary Fund (not Melissa). Motion made by Peter Pignataro, and seconded by Nick Pasken to approve the May minutes with these corrections (which became version v.2). Motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

Stewardship, Sue Riddell: Written report provided prior to meeting. Committee met over the summer, when the Vestry's John Funston (JF) agreed to be its chairman. The 2016 Stewardship theme will be "Acts of Love", where Jesus encourages the apostles to "Love one another as I have loved you." The committee plans to involve the youth in the stewardship campaign, and include methods for electronic giving. A kickoff stewardship dinner will be held Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Meal will have an "Octoberfest" theme, and include an opportunity to meet and greet our new SE Diocese Bishop Coadjutor, Fr. Peter Eaton. There is no change for the meal, but the committee is looking for sponsors. An end of campaign "Celebration dinner" will be held in January 2016. Additional Stewardship Committee comments from JF: The [2016] Stewardship campaign is starting in September, a month earlier than usual to accommodate the attendance of the Bishop Coadjutor. The theme, "Acts of Love", is from the Acts of the Apostles, who in the early years of the church spread the teachings of Jesus through acts of kindness and generosity. A series of letters, testimonials

and sermons will precede the annual dinner, which will be held on October 10, 2015. An attempt will be made to cover the cost of the event through donations. As of August 26<sup>th</sup>, \$1200.00 has already been raised, but an additional \$5600.00 is needed. Harriet Stone will act as banker for vestry making meal donations to see that the donations are posted so as to allow for a tax deduction. Pledge cards will be made available at the dinner. 250-300 guests are anticipated. Childcare and a program will be provided to encourage young families to attend. Also, the event will be filmed and placed on the website. A volunteer is needed to help with the filming. Pledge cards will then be sent to those not in attendance.

- Motion made by John Funston for the Vestry to reaffirm the recommendation from the Finance Committee for a balance budget in 2016. Motion seconded by Harriet Stone and passed unanimously

Contemporary Worship: Introductory comments given by Fr. Todd, regarding Father Ian's service. At the recent review of 2015 fall goals and activities, Fr. Ian tendered his resignation. This means a new beginning for the CFW service. Fr Todd will announce the news to the staff tomorrow (8/26/15). Fr. Todd has written a letter to the congregation for mail on Thursday 8/27/15, and an email which will be sent by Saturday 8/30/15. Motion made by Peter Pignataro to forgive balance of \$10K loan to Father Ian. Motion seconded by Sally Hastings and passed unanimously.

Even with Fr. Ian's absence, Fr. Todd is committed for Alpha to go forward this fall. Initial Alpha dinner to be held on 9/27/15.

Contemporary Worship, Jim Menendez: Verbal Report given at meeting. The CFW service is geared towards serving families with children. St. Mary's has hired a permanent "sound/slide guy" and as a result, the music is sounding a lot better. Challenge to grow this service is challenged by demographics of attendees (note - children and babies will no longer be included in tabulation of attendance and calculation of average offering). Some growing churches in the area are Christ Fellowship, TC3, and Grace Place. These churches have a tendency to give motivational sermons – walk away with a thought that will help them meet their current challenges. Jim recommends that we go in that direction. Pittenger Center is a good venue. Slides and projections work well in this environment. Doing a lot of right things, but have lost a few people.

### **Ministry Minute (MM) Reminders [Vestry reports to Congregation]**

The August MM will be given by John Funston(JF), Communications. JF provided written "Talking Points" for Ministry Minute". Methods of communication with our congregation include website, Facebook page, weekly emails, Sunday Bulletin and newspaper announcements (newspaper postings are paid through separate funds for this purpose).

The September MM will be on the Contemporary Worship service and given by Jim Menendez

Administrative Note: Please coordinate with Fr. Todd who will be providing MM information to the congregation and at what service(s).

**Parish Administrator's Report, Melissa Lewis:**

Adding three new methods for electronic giving in an effort to increasing plate contributions. These include "On line giving", on-site kiosks (first in office, then at individual services) and "Text to Give" initiatives. New programs will be rolled out in September 2015. These new initiatives are in addition to current Pay Pal contribution method. Note: St. Mary's received 6.8% of total revenue through Paypal in 2014. To date in 2015, 8% of total revenue has come through Paypal.

**People's Warden's Report, Nick Pasken:** Verbal report given at meeting.  
Trying to come up with some ideas on how to help St. Mary's congregation with the challenges ahead this fall. Nick has not received any communications from Parishioners via email.

**Rector's Warden's Report, Harriet Stone:** Verbal report given at meeting.  
Celebration Dinner will be held January 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Side Prayer: The Vestry sends their heart felt condolences to Harriet on the recent passing of her husband, Tom.

**Assistant for Pastoral Care, Father Steve:** Verbal report given at meeting.  
The fall 2015 luncheon lecture program is scheduled to continue on Oct. 22nd, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> (5 Wishes) and Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> (Getting through the Holidays, therapist from Healing Center).

**Assistant Rector's Report, Father Ian:** Written report provided prior to meeting.  
In regards to Ian's recent resignation, if something needs to be done please flag it for Fr. Todd and staff.

**Rector's Report, Father Todd:** Written report provided prior to meeting.  
-Working on method to coordinate Vestry and Staff SMART goals and job descriptions. Looking to find a combined time (possibly a Saturday), that the Vestry and Staff could have a joint meeting to better understand everybody's goals and responsibilities? John Tarek, who helped in the staff retreat, has agreed to come back and help with this effort. Look for an email from Fr. Todd with suggested dates for this workshop.  
-Growth & Decline of Episcopal Church: Sally Hastings is looking at factors from the 762 congregations in the G&D report to help us grow our congregation. When looking at churches with similar factors with St. Mary's (e.g. time of our founding, our location in SE USA), we should be at 20% growth or decline of 43%.

**Financial Report, Charlie Lippincott: Written**

-2016 "pre-draft" Budget: This is an attempt by your Treasurer to "grab some numbers" and start the 2016 process, keeping a base case of St. Mary's "as we know it". To balance the budget, we need current average pledge income to increase by 19% (operating budget only). The effect of Fr. Ian's resignation offset by costs to adjust to the new situation will be a reduction of the 2015 year-end net surplus by \$1600. In 2016, it would be fiscally easier to implement a permanent replacement in the spring, but we don't want to delay too long and loose touch with the CFW families.

- Election of Members to the Finance Committee: Need two (2) people to serve three (3) year terms, each. Candidates are Don Davis and Tom Shumaker. Tom is a “snowbird”. The Treasurer does not see Tom’s “part-time” residence as an impediment to serving on this committee. Motion made by John Funston and seconded by Sue Riddell to nominate Don Davis and Tom Shumaker to the Finance Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business** – Campus clean up has been re-scheduled for 9/19 and 10/3.

**Old Business** –Written Vestry reports should be distributed electronically a minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting to: [vestry@stmarys-stuart.org](mailto:vestry@stmarys-stuart.org). Please read all reports prior to each meeting. Only questions about reports will be discussed during Vestry meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm  
Respectfully submitted,  
Trina Perna, Clerk

Note: Vestry minutes represent the highlights of meeting discussions and/or reports.