

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

15 December 2015

FINAL, Approved 1.19.16 (same as previous v.2)

In Attendance: Sally Hastings, Lenore Hubbard, Al Krueger, Pam Lanier, Tom Morris, Nick Pasken, Peter Pignataro, Sue Riddell, Harriet Stone, Father Todd, Father Steve, David Earle, Charlie Lippincott, Trina Perna

Absent: Todd Balfourt, John Funston, Jim Menendez, and Melissa Lewis

Opening Reflections and Prayer, Father Todd: The Vestry read and discussed The Story of the Ten Bridesmaids, Matthew 25:1-13. These verses are a parable about what going to heaven may be like, and what will happen if we are not prepared. The Vestry noted these verses remind us that to prevent poor performance we must be prepared - in any endeavor. Fr. Todd reminded us that there is an end point for which we all are destined (death and then hopefully heaven). The bridegroom represents Christ, so the oil is whatever it takes each of us to recognize who he is, but if you wait until the last minute to prepare yourself, you're not getting in. If you think of all the things we do to prepare for the major events in our lives, what are we doing to prepare for our own end?

17 November 2015 Minutes (v.3) – Motion made by Sally Hastings to accept the minutes with corrections. Correction required in "Youth Ministry Report" to reflect that Alexis requested funding to attend 2016 training, not Kelly. Sue Riddell seconded the motion to approve the corrected minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Sally Hastings, Youth & Children's Education (verbal report given at meeting) – Sally acknowledged that Alexis and Kelly have been extremely busy meeting the needs of the season, and on their behalf, Sally asked for the Youth Report to be postponed until January 2016. Postponement was granted.

Al Krueger, Caring Ministry - Written report provided prior to meeting. Al noted that help is need with LEM visitations (training will be provided). Physical healing at services (mid-week and CFW) has been a wonder to be a part of, hope to expand this offering to the Traditional service, but need more qualified volunteers (Order of St. Luke). Parish Healing Center is in use by several therapists. Fr. Todd noted that most potential candidates for the assistant rector position have expressed high interest in the Healing Center and the role healing plays in the ministry at St. Mary's.

Parish Administrator's Report, Melissa Lewis (Absent): Written report provided prior to meeting. Charlie Lippincott led discussion on Melissa's behalf.

St. Mary's By-Law corrections required for paragraphs 2.4, Qualification of Electors, and 4.2, Qualification of Vestry. Corrections clarify that in order to vote – e.g. at parish meetings - adult communicants must be in "good standing", not

necessarily “confirmed”, ref. paragraph 2.4. Additionally, in order to serve on the Vestry, adult communicants must be “confirmed”, ref. paragraph 4.2.

Note, in accordance with By-Laws paragraph 8.1, the earliest the Vestry can vote to approve these changes is at our next meeting, in January 2016.

Replacement of Air Conditioning unit at PC – Background: One older a/c unit for the Pittenger Center is in need of additional repairs or complete replacement (note, this unit has been repaired recently, at a cost of \$3K). The Facility’s committee has recommended St. Mary’s buy a new unit rather than make additional repairs. In addition, the Finance committee recommended funds to be taken from Reserve Fund - as there is no extra money in any other fund.

Motion made by Sue Riddell for St. Mary’s replace one PC air conditioning unit (rather than repair) and use up to \$16K from the Reserve Fund. Motion seconded by Harriet Stone. Discussion ensued, during which Peter Pignataro requested that in the future reports to the Vestry reflect the total amount required for any proposed project (e.g. \$14K in Melissa’s report vs. \$16K requested by Treasurer for this project).

Conversion of PC from propane to natural gas – Facility and Finance committees have approved expending \$800 to convert PC to natural gas. Will result in 50% reduction in fuel costs.

2016 Pledge Results – As of 12/14/15, St. Mary’s has received 283 pledges totaling approximately \$740K. Note: In 2016 St. Mary’s pledges are up almost 8% vs. same time in previous 2015 pledge campaign.

Side Bar: 2016 Pledge Report - Included in the numbers above are forty-two new “pledgers”... please take every opportunity to speak with folks you do not know. Look around at your service, find somebody you don’t know and get to know them!

Financial Report, Charlie Lippincott: Written report provided prior to meeting.

Restoration of funds used to provide fall 2015 cash flow (\$21K from MM and \$25K from Reserves) – \$21K borrowed from MM has been repaid; holding off to repay the \$25K until later in December 2015.

2015 Budget Status – Plate revenues are almost \$55K below the faith-based guesstimate of plate income on which the 2015 budget was based. The total 2015 revenue shortfall is estimated to be approximately \$79K by 12/31/15.

Charlie encourages all to give via pledge so that income can be better estimated.

Approval of 2016 Budget - Charlie presented 2016 Budget plan of approximately \$1.247M to the Vestry (version 4.0, dated 12/14/15). This plan is based on receiving \$150K from plate contributions, \$879K from pledges, \$27.3K from holiday services, \$161K from other revenues, \$5K from R&Y Ross fund (for advertising expenses only), and \$25K from the J. Farnsworth bequest.

Motion made by Nick Pasken and seconded by Peter Pignataro to approve version 4.0 of the 2016 budget as proposed by the Treasurer. Discussion ensued. (Q) How are budget shortfalls and Reserve funds replenished? (A) Fr. Todd and Charlie have been thinking about the possibility of a capital campaign to replenish the Reserves, as capital improvements have been the biggest “draw” on Reserve funds. There needs to be a strong marketing plan to help the congregation understand what these funds would be used for and develop support for a project of this kind, e.g. replace old air conditioners, increase Memorial Garden burial space, replace windows in Office and Smith Hall, add

water shut off to Smith Hall – which now must be turned off at Ocean Blvd, etc. Concern – Vestry doesn't want to be in the "same position" again next year, i.e. having to approve a budget that is balanced on paper only. All eight (8) Vestry members present, voted to approve version 4.0 of the proposed 2016 budget, with the understanding that it will be revisited in January 2016.

Add to January 2016 Vestry Agenda: How to address previous budget shortfalls and their negative impact on the Reserve Funds? Motion made by Sally Hastings and seconded by Pam Lanier to request the Finance and Facility committees to develop a short list of future potential "Budget Buster" projects that would be the basis of a 2016 Capital Campaign. Motion passed unanimously.

People's Warden's Report, Nick Pasken: Verbal report given at meeting. After thanking all folks who have helped welcoming his new daughter with meals and other visitations, Nick noted that he will leave the Vestry after his term is over in January 2016. Nick reminded us all to continue to work towards our goals, which reflect "the oil in our lamps".

Rector's Warden's Report, Harriet Stone: Written report provided prior to meeting.

Status of new Vestry Search - Have three (3) candidates to replace the four outgoing Vestry members.

Annual Parish Dinner – Will be held on Saturday, January 30th, and include a DJ to encourage dancing. Alexis Stuckey will handle table sponsorships.

Assistant for Pastoral Care, Father Steve: Written report provided prior to meeting.

Final 2015 Parish Health Ministry Luncheon held December 2015 and included presentation by the Salvation Army of Martin County on their Compassion House ministry. Fr. Steve thanked Eleanor Handley for all the meals she has prepared for this program – it will be hard to replace her efforts.

Tuesday Bible Study group (14-18 members) is completing "True Spirituality: Becoming a Romans 12 Christian". January 2016 will include screening of the movie "War Room" and starting a new learning series.

Tuesday Healing Service continues to draw a core group of 8-10 followers who will be eligible to become associate members of the International Order of St. Luke after conclusion of the 26-week review of all Jesus' recorded healings on 12/29/15.

Eight (8) people have come to Fr. Steve for counseling and Pastoral Care in the last month alone.

Rector's Report, Father Todd: Written report provided prior to meeting.

Ministry Minute (or Moment?) – Program has helped to keep congregation informed, but needs some refining to accommodate busier times of year. Will step back and adjust 2016 process to flow more smoothly.

Seminary Search Process – The Search Committee is evaluating six (6) promising candidates ranging from promising leaders in current ministry to seminarians preparing to graduate in June. The first campus visit will be in January 2016.

Pilgrimage to Cuba – Cuban people were very warm and welcoming, even though they were confronted with a challenging economy, and decaying buildings and infrastructure on every side. Visit included opportunities to reconnect with Pastor Marianella de la Paz, who preached at St. Mary's last spring, and Bishop Griselda who thanked us for the \$5K gift from Mary's Kitchen. We hope to pull together a presentation on the experience in the near future.

Decorating the Church – The entire congregation is invited and asked to help with greening of the church this Sunday, 12/20/15.

New Business

Vestry reports due in January

Tom reporting on Christian Education/Small Groups (Tom's last report)

Lenore reporting on New Members

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Trina Perna, Clerk

Note: Vestry minutes represent the highlights of meeting discussions and/or reports and are not intended to record verbatim conversations or discussions.