

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

20 December 2016

(Final, Approved as Written at 1.17.17 Vestry Meeting)

In Attendance: Todd Balfourt, Joe Ciliberti, Lenore Hubbard, Al Krueger, Pam Lanier, Jim Menendez, Sue Riddell, Brendan Rogan, Father Todd, Father Christian, and Trina Perna

Absent: Elizabeth Farrara, John Funston, Sally Hastings, Kathy Pignataro, David Earle and Melissa Lewis

Opening Reflections and Prayer, Father Todd: The Vestry read responsively John 1:1-14, "The Life-Light" message. When discussing the reading, what jumped out to members of the Vestry was a sense of mercy, grace and peace. Jesus is the incarnation of light that shines in the darkness, and shines through us when He comes into us. He is generous with us. He gives us all that we lack. God comes into our lives, and changes us from the inside out. This is not just a world that we have to get through it's a life that we have an opportunity to shine in, through our respective gifts and talents. Our flesh will eventually turn to ash, but this points to eternity.

Capital Campaign (CC), Tom Baker: Feasibility Study Update

Terry Goolsby from New Horizons was on campus 11/20 & 12/1/16 to interview a small group of parishioners to determine the level of support for a Capital Campaign based on the congregation's "Let's Dream Together Sessions". The meetings had a positive result and Terry recommends St. Mary's go forward. Terry estimates St. Mary's should be able to raise over \$2 million dollars in a Capital Campaign (CC). The CC will be combined with our annual Stewardship drive with the intent not to negatively impact our annual giving. The CC and Annual Stewardship Drive will begin in March 2017. The first phase of the CC will conclude with an in gathering on Palm Sunday. It is important that the CC and annual giving programs complement each other. Hap Lewis (consultant who ran the "Let's Dream Together Sessions") will be giving St Mary's a recommendation on what he thinks should be done. Items to be included in the CC will be prioritized by what must be done and then by what can be done after all critical needs are met. The Vestry will be presented with all information and make the final decision on what to include (or not).

Q: Should we delay the CC a year or two? A. No, Terry feels we have a mandate to do this now based on the people he interviewed.

(* Minutes: 29 November 2016, v.1: A motion was made by Sue R to approve as written the November minutes, version one. The motion was seconded by Lenore H and approved unanimously by the eight Vestry members present.

Committee Report (Vestry to Vestry): Al Krueger reported on our Caring Ministries. Written report provided prior to meeting. Highlights include:
Stephen Ministry – Headed by Cindy Eaton. Currently group of five that he believes will continue to grow. Three members attended the half-day introductory workshop in Haines City on 11/5/16. Dwight Geiger, Darla Cederberg and Cindy Eaton will attend the Stephen Leader training in Orlando on January 8-14, 2017.
Lay Eucharistic Ministers – Headed by Peter Pignataro. St. Mary's needs more LEM's. Training is provided. Ernie P has been a LEM for many years and finds this service very comforting to the people with whom he has built a relationship Ernie finds that he gets more out of it than they do. Please contact Peter and let him know you are interested. Pastoral care is very important, means a lot to folks, and takes lots of involvement from our St. Marians.
Nursing Home Visitation – Headed by Eva Lippincott. Group of visitors is small but growing. Biggest hurdle is current HIPPA laws that were meant to protect privacy and are accidentally isolating folks. St. Mary's must know that someone is in a facility (hospital and/or nursing) and where they are in that facility so that they can be visited. Facilities will not give us that information.

(Note: Joe C had to leave the meeting after Al's report, leaving seven Vestry members in attendance.)

Parish Administrator's Report, Melissa Lewis: Absent (due to broken ankle). Written report provided prior to meeting. Highlights include:
(*) Bank Signatories for 2017 Capital Campaign Accounts:
Attached is the Bank Account Signers sheet with a listing of all accounts and who is a signer on which account. *The highlighted changes, as described below, need to be approved by the Vestry:* Signers for bank account for the Capital Campaign: Ernie Peixotto, Lenore Hubbard and Kathy Pignataro

Motion made by Pam L and seconded by Sue R to approve Ernie P, Lenore H and Kathy P as signatories on St. Mary's Capital Campaign Account. Motion was approved unanimously.

(*) Bank Signatories for Line of Credit: Attached is the Bank Account Signers sheet with a listing of all accounts and who is a signer on which account. *The highlighted changes, as described below, need to be approved by the Vestry:* Line of credit signers: Ernie Peixotto, Lenore Hubbard and Kathy Pignataro

Motion made by Jim M and seconded by Brendan R to approve Ernie P, Lenore H, and Kathy P as signatories on St. Mary's Line of Credit. Motion unanimously approved.

(*) 2017 Clergy Housing Resolutions (Fr. Todd & Fr. Christian):

- Whereas, The Reverend Doctor Todd L. Cederberg, an ordained minister, is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St. Mary's Episcopal Church, which does not provide a residence for him; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Vestry of St. Mary's Episcopal Church sets the total

annual housing allowance to be paid to Todd L. Cederberg in 2017 as \$60,000.00. This amount is hereby designated as a parsonage allowance within the meaning of the term as it is used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986. This allowance to continue until amended, revoked or changed.

- Whereas, The Reverend Christian Anderson, an ordained minister, is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St. Mary's Episcopal Church, which does not provide a residence for him; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Vestry of St. Mary's Episcopal Church sets the total annual housing allowance to be paid to Christian Anderson in 2017 as \$24,000. This amount is hereby designated as a parsonage allowance within the meaning of the term as it is used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986. This allowance to continue until amended, revoked, or changed.

Motion made by Lenore H and seconded by Todd B to the 2017 Clergy Housing Resolutions – as submitted by Melissa Lewis. Motion unanimously approved by all Vestry members present.

People's Warden's Report, Kathy Pignataro: Absent. Written report provided prior to meeting. Highlights include:

Christian's Ordination on 12/17/16 was a momentous occasion and a true delight. From the Bishop's wife Kate, to our verger Darrel Lester, the acolytes, our choir, and a multitude of clergy, St. Mary's Pittenger Center was transformed in form and spirit into a living source of power and beauty. And Christian's first sermon as a Priest was even a little more powerful than his surroundings. God is Good indeed!

Annual Angel Party for 78 JD Parker "Back Pack Buddies" was held on 12/19/16. St. Mary's had a record number kids receiving gifts this year including boys from the Samaritan Center. Joe C filled in for Barry Marsh as Santa (prayers were offered for Barry who was ill in the hospital). Many thanks to Kelly and Alexis for spear heading this community outreach program.

Rector's Warden's Report, Lenore Hubbard: Written report provided prior to the meeting.

(*) Beth Ferrara's Vestry Replacement – Fr Todd proposed to the Vestry that Beth F's open Vestry position (New Member Ministry) be filled by the Vestry's Clerk, Trina Perna. Trina was asked to leave the meeting so that discussions and voting could be conducted in privacy (Christian took notes during this period). After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to appoint Trina Perna to the Vestry, effective immediately. Trina P will act as the "New Member" Vestry Minister and her term will expire at the end of January 2019. Motion was passed by a unanimous vote of the seven Vestry members present.

Note: This creates a vacancy in the Clerk's position that will be filled in 2017.

2017 Vestry Slate – Due family health issues, John Funston has asked to resign from the Vestry effective immediately. This means there are now five Vestry positions that need to be filled in 2017. And as God would have it, we now have

five candidates eligible to fill the open positions (Note: Four candidates will serve three years, one candidate will complete John F's term and serve only two years, concluding at the end of January 2019). The 2017 Vestry Candidates are Beth Beltran, Bob Brown, Pat Camper, Peter Dayton, and Amy Wilcox. Full biographies will be published in January. Names of additional candidates can still be submitted, but the slate closes in approximately two weeks (with exception of nominations from the floor). There is still a chance there will be an election at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Assistant Rector's Report, Father Christian: Written report provided prior to the meeting. Highlights include:

Ordination - Fr. Christian Anderson was ordained on Saturday, December 17th in the Pittenger Center. Christian was very touched by the variety of St. Marians who stepped up to help, to provide hospitality, funding, etc. Kudos to our Verger, Darrel Lester who took control and really helped the service seamlessly unfold. Christian asked the Vestry, "What can we take from this service that we can implement to increase the praising of God in all our services? How can we keep this momentum going?" It was the first time that all St. Marian's came together as one, from the Praise band and the Choir, to our youths and our adults. Christian would like to do this again on a semi-regular basis (bi-monthly, semi-annually or ??). For example combining the 9am services from the CFW/Pittenger Center and the Traditional Church. Would possibly keep the other four Traditional Church services as well.

Alpha – This is a beginner interaction program for folks – including those from outside St. Mary's - who are interested in seeing what Christianity is all about. The course is going well, but the program will need some new younger leaders to continue into the future.

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

Highlights include:

Ordination - Christian's ordination this past Saturday was quite the experience. Almost 400 people attended, including 30 clergy from around the diocese and the country. About another 50 people watched the service streamed online, which is the first time we've ever been able to do that. Bishop Eaton was his affable self, making everyone feel very relaxed. The worship style incorporated everything from high church chanting and incense to Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah", led by both the Praise Band and the Choir. It was a wonderful experience of the diverse community that is St. Mary's coming together to celebrate and to watch God do something very powerful among us.

Angel party was great though it took some unexpected turns (Joe C was Santa).

Fr. Steve – You may have noticed that Fr. Steve and Pat are back from the cold up north. We will be planning a special coffee hour in honor of his retirement at some point, perhaps in February. Be sure to welcome them back. Fr. Steve will become an Assisting Retired Rector and be on deck to help St. Mary's when neither Fathers. Todd or Christian and can meet all our clergy needs.

Heritage Fund attempts to be a true endowment fund in that only it's income can be used for outreach, scholarship, etc. Fr. Todd contacted Barry Stocker (chair of

Heritage Fund) to see if they would agree to support Melissa in the costs become a “certified Parish administrator”.

Motion made by Pam Lanier to use up to \$4000 from the Heritage Fund, per year in both 2016 and 2017, for Melissa Lewis to complete her Parish Administrator Certification process. Motion seconded by Lenore Hubbard. Note, the Heritage Fund’s current balance is approximately \$55,000. Motion passed unanimously [by all seven Vestry members present].

This request will now go to the Heritage Committee to assure [it] fits with their charter covenants.

(*) Financial Report, Ernie Peixotto:

2016 Budget Status – As we head into the end of 2016, we are closing the gap between our approved budget and our income. This in turn is reducing our deficit. The reduction in our income gap is mainly due to the \$102K St. Mary’s received in gifts earlier this year. However, we are still \$28K shy of our 2016 revenue goals, hopefully by December 31st, we will completely close that gap.

2017 Draft Budget Plan – After further analysis of the “Growth Budget Model” that was approved by the Vestry at their November meeting, it must be noted that this model would require an increase of \$120K in income to fund all its elements. This would exceed the previous largest year-over year increase in annual income by \$50K. Without this significant increase in revenue many ministries and programs will require reduction in 2017. In January the Finance committee will have a better idea of what we can keep in the 2017 budget.

(*) Loan to facilitate Capital Campaign – See Parish Administrator’s Report.

(*) Treasurer’s Report – Motion made by Todd B to approve the December 2016 Treasurer’s report as submitted. Motion seconded by Jim M and unanimously passed by the Vestry.

New Business – Looking Ahead ... Please mark your calendars to attend:
Wardens’ meeting on Thursday, 12 January 2017 (Wardens only)
Vestry meeting on Tuesday, 17 January 2017 (Sue Riddell is due to report on Stewardship)
Annual Parish meeting on Sunday, 22 January 2017
Celebrate St. Mary’s Dinner: January 28th, 6pm in Pittenger Center
Vestry Retreat: February 3rd (starts with dinner), and 4th

Old Business - None

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm
Respectfully submitted, Trina Perna, Clerk

(*) Agenda Items with asterisks required Vestry approval.

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