

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting  
31 May 2016**

**FINAL – Approved at 8.23.16 Vestry Meeting**

Administrative Note: A subset of the May minutes was approved by the Wardens and shared with the Burtons in early June 2016 (version v.4, subset-firearms). The “approved” subset consisted of only those actions at the Vestry meeting up to and including the discussion with Bob and Jane Burton and their concerns over use of the PC for a function associated with firearms.

**In Attendance:** Todd Balfourt, John Funston, Sally Hastings, Lenore Hubbard, Jim Menendez, Sue Riddell, Father Todd, Father Steve, Charlie Lippincott, Melissa Lewis, Trina Perna, and Jane & Bob Burton (guests)

**Absent:** Joe Ciliberti, Elizabeth Farrara, Al Krueger, Pam Lanier, Kathy Pignataro, Brendan Rogan, and David Earle

**Administrative Note:** Due to the absence of six (6) Vestry members, and therefore absence of a quorum, any binding resolutions, motions, etc. will require ratification at next meeting with a quorum in order to be valid.

**Opening Reflections and Prayer, Father Todd:** The Vestry read together and discussed Luke 4:14-30. These verses record the return of Jesus to his childhood synagogue after being tempted by the devil in the desert. Here he proclaims that his mission is to share the good news of his anointment by the Lord with gentiles, rather than Jews. As the Vestry prepares for the fall, what is it that we want to communicate to the congregation and how shall this message be communicated? As our summer “homework”, Fr. Todd asks us to review the 2014 survey results, and pray about where we want to head. Let's be clear where we are going, what our goals are, and make sure our programs and ministries are in line with where we want to go.

**Minutes, 26 April 2016 (v.2):** A motion was made by Sally Hastings and seconded by Sue Riddell to approve Version 2 of the April 26, 2016 minutes. Motion passed unanimously by verbal acclaim.

The regular **meeting agenda was temporarily suspended** to allow Mr. and Mrs. Bob Burton to share their concerns regarding a flyer they had recently found at a local area restaurant advertising a function at St. Mary's Pittenger Center.

**Message from our guests (Jane & Bob Burton)** – Jane and Bob have been parishioners at St. Mary's for many years, and Jane since 1991. This has been their spiritual home as well as sacred space for many years. On or about May 30<sup>th</sup>, while dining at a local area restaurant, they found a flyer advertising a function at St. Mary's Pittenger Center in which the “Treasure Coast Friends of the NRA (TCFNRA)” will be holding a banquet including auctioning of guns on

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The thought of guns being promoted at a function being held in their spiritual home caused the Burtons much concern. Bringing firearms to church does not strike Jane as something that should be happening in a spiritual and sacred space. After sharing their worries and distributing copies of the flyers to the Vestry, the Burtons excused themselves from the meeting.

After much discussion amongst attending Vestry members, Todd B. moved that "The upcoming event scheduled in the Pittenger Center be cancelled". Motion (1) was seconded by John F. Discussion ensued. Note, without a quorum present no approved motion is valid without ratification at next Vestry meeting with a quorum.

Background shared: This group is not the NRA, but a group of Treasure Coast residents who support the NRA, including some whom attend St. Mary's. The TCFNRA have held their annual fundraiser at the Pittenger Center since it opened without any previous objections from members of the congregation. Funds raised, including the auction of firearms, by this group are used to support Ft. Pierce HS, area ROTC programs on the Treasure Coast, and youth gun safety courses. In the past this fundraiser has been attended by several members of our congregation, including at least one member of the Vestry, as well as many local prominent Christians. Rental of this PC space nets approximately \$1400 of income to St. Mary's. The firearms that are brought to the fundraiser are securely locked and ammunition is not present at the event.

The motion (1) was withdrawn and no vote taken.

Todd B. then moved that "The upcoming event scheduled in the Pittenger Center be allowed, but not allow this group back in future years". Motion (2) seconded by Sally H. Amongst other points of discussion, Vestry members were in agreement that the flyer found by the Burtons was in poor taste and that having "un-vetted" flyers of this type (e.g. advertising free gun give-a-ways at St. Mary's) displayed in local area restaurants is not the type of community advertising that we seek. Melissa will work with David Earle, Chancellor, to modify the PC rental contract to assure St. Mary's has final approval of any public advertisement. A non-binding straw vote, to keep the event on the calendar for 2016 but not allow in future years, was taken yielding two ayes (yes) and four no votes.

Jim M. then moved "To allow the existing signed contract with TCFNRA to use the PC on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for their annual banquet to stand". The motion (3) was seconded by Lenore H. followed by a non-binding straw vote, yielding four ayes (yes) and two no votes.

With no quorum of Vestry members present, allowing no motions to be passed of any sort, the members requested the issue of "Firearms on St. Mary's Campus" be added to the 23 August 2016 meeting agenda.

*Postscript (6/14/16): Many thanks to Jim Menendez for picking up all of the flyers with "St. Mary's Pittenger Center" printed on them. Any further flyers will only have the address of the building.*

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Administrative Note: All of meeting notes above were approved by the Wardens for distribution to the Burtons; balance of May 2016 Vestry minutes to be distributed prior to August 18<sup>th</sup> Wardens' meeting.  
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**Committee Reports:**

Sally Hastings, Christian Education/Youth: Written reports received from Alexis Stuckey and Kelly Garner. Highlight – Sally's Goal: To gear up to have Sunday school be active and be consistent. Mission trip is still short \$2K for trip to Arlington, TX. Alexis and the kids will be departing from St. Mary's at 6:30 am on 6/6/16.

Al Krueger, Caring Ministry: Absent

**Parish Administrator's Report, Melissa Lewis:** Highlights of written report include:

Status of foundation & window repairs – Stained glass windows have been removed and are being repaired. The foundation work on the main church will begin 6/6/16 and is scheduled for completion by Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Repaired windows will be reinstalled after foundation work is complete.

Twitter account up and running now due to efforts of Joe

Church Business Administrator Certification training will be held the last two weeks of June in Nashville, TN (good-job Melissa!)

**People's Warden's Report, Kathy Pignataro: Absent.** Written report highlighted need for summer volunteers in all areas while our snowbird friends are away.

**Rector's Warden's Report, Lenore Hubbard:** Written report highlighted need for summer prayer and reflection about what the Vestry needs to do to pursue our vision of "St. Mary's as a vehicle to bring Jesus to our community".

**Assistant for Pastoral Care, Father Steve:** Verbal report given at meeting. Highlights include:

Mary's Kitchen needs help this summer. The kitchen is especially in need of chefs in July and August. Bob Schneider will not be back cooking anytime soon, or possibly at all (can't carry over five pounds with back injuries.)

Tuesday Bible Study - Alpha course continues to be well received.

This is Fr. Steve's last Vestry meeting. After nine years at St. Mary's, he will be retiring on July 1<sup>st</sup>. However, Fr. Steve will be continuing to teach the Tuesday Bible Study and Healing service.

**Rector's Report, Father Todd:** Highlights of written report include:

Assistant Rector Update – Christian Anderson graduated *cum laude* from Virginia Theological Seminary and was awarded the “first ever Anglican Communion award for Missions”. Christian will start at St. Mary’s on August 1st, 2016.

Jessie, St. Mary’s Sexton, is currently on leave due to a shoulder injury (out on workman’s compensation).

Renewal Works Survey – Please pull out your material from the survey that the congregation took in 2014 and consider how it can be applied to St. Mary’s and used to keep us together. Christian serves on the board of Renewal Works and their president, Jay Sidebotham, has agreed to run our February 2017 Vestry retreat.

**Financial Report, Charlie Lippincott:** Highlights of written reports include:

2017 Draft Budget – Please send Charlie your (informal) input of where your ministry is going financially in the New Year.

Approval of Treasurer’s Report – Though balance sheet liquid assets are currently high (due to charity funds, building insurance advances and stained glass window funds), year-to-date revenues are “behind the seasonally adjusted budget by \$37K”. Motion made by Jim Menendez and seconded by Sue Riddell to approve the treasurer’s report as written. Motion passed unanimously by verbal acclaim.

### **New Business**

Gift from Estate of Mary Elizabeth Brown - Fr. Todd read letter from Mary Elizabeth’s family, which accompanied an \$80K gift check from her estate (there was no stipulation on how funds should be used). The Vestry extends their condolences to the Brown family and thanks them for honoring her bequest.

### **Old Business**

John Funston, Stewardship: John distributed and explained his outline for the 2017 Pledge Campaign. Goal is to condense the pledge process and reach out to all members at the same time (rather than addressing year-rounders in the fall and snow birds when they return in the winter/new year). 2017 Campaign will begin Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and continue through Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Vestry will comprise an executive group. This year there will be no parish dinner. Instead, a catered brunch is planned. Considering having parishioners submit their pledges in person at the brunch.

TRUE Fund: Father Todd led discussion of past policies and future plans for helping folks in our local community. Fr. Todd is meeting with Bryan Garner (Outreach Committee) to set goals. Stay tuned for further developments.

A motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 8:10 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.