

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

27 September 2016

Final – Approved as written on 10.25.16

In Attendance: Todd Balfourt, Joe Ciliberti, John Funston, Lenore Hubbard, Al Krueger, Pam Lanier, Jim Menendez, Kathy Pignataro, Sue Riddell, Brendan Rogan, Father Todd, Deacon Christian, Ernie Peixotto and Trina Perna

Absent: Elizabeth Farrara, Sally Hastings, Melissa Lewis and David Earle

Opening Reflections and Prayer, Father Todd: The Vestry read together Luke 5:17-26, concerning the healing of a paraplegic who's friends lowered him through a roof so that he could be healed by Jesus. The Pharisees and religious teachers who were sitting around were shocked when Jesus said, "Friend, I forgive your sins."

When the Vestry was asked by Fr Todd, "what from the reading stands out in your minds?" members stated (1) those were some pretty gutsy friends and a grand way to make an entrance (2) Taking off a roof is a good way to get folks attention. (3) Jesus had an opportunity to prove to his naysayers who he was. (4) The paraplegic was forgiven first, then healed and instructed to take up his blanket and go home – which he did "giving glory to God all the way." Lastly, it was noted (5) how the naysayers and critics are always present.

Fr Todd then asked the Vestry, "who are your friends who brought you to Jesus when you couldn't get there, couldn't walk?" Those friends make all the difference. To whom do we give this kind of assistance? (JM) "You can be a Christian, but if you're busy with your life and work it's good to have friends that are walking the same spiritual passage as yourself." (Amen !)

(* Minutes, 23 August 2016, v.2:

A Motion was made by Sue Riddell and seconded by John Funston to approve the minutes of 23 August 2016 (v.2). Motion approved by a vote of general acclaim.

Guest, Joanne Nelson (Director of Music): Tabled. Absent

Committee Reports:

Beth Farrara, New Members – Tabled due to illness. Note: Beth's family business has grown rapidly recently and Beth will have to retire from the Vestry. The Vestry is asked to please send names of any parishioners who would be willing to serve in this position to Lenore. Lenore will then speak to Father Todd who will then give final approval of the proposed candidate.

Preferred Skill set: Enjoys identifying and working with new members.

Parish Administrator's Report, Melissa Lewis: Absent. Written report provided to Vestry prior to meeting. Kathy Pignataro shared the highlights of Melissa's report with the Vestry.

E-Giving: There are several ways to e-give at St. Mary's including (1) existing method through St. Mary's website (login at stmarys-stuart.org/give-online and click on the appropriate buttons). (2) Text to Give starting Oct 2nd. And (3) Melissa is working with Kelly Gore (Melissa's temporary aide) to develop a St. Mary's church "App" that will include the ability to make financial contributions.

Administrative Assistant: Fr Todd has asked Melissa to develop a job description for a permanent part-time position to help with her administrative duties.

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

CFW is growing and thriving. Looking to start training sessions for people who want to help serve as acolytes, chalice bearers (have grown to three stations), etc. Also looking to start a mini-CFW coffee hour. Sunday school has been going for two weeks now. Still a few wrinkles to iron out, but all is going well.

Ministry Fair and Kickoff Sunday – Held on Sept 11th, went well with many new folks signing up for all the ministries.

Back Pack Buddies - During planning stage, Kathy estimated 30-40 volunteers (max) would be able to help. In actuality over 100 folks helped including parents, teachers, children, Treasure Coast Food Bank personnel, St. Marians, and friends of St. Marians from Bring-a-Friend Sunday.

St. Mary's Logo Shirts – T-Shirts and golf shirts are now available. Samples are in the office. Please speak with Kathy Pignataro to order. Kid's t-shirts are \$5.00; Adult t-shirts \$10.00; Golf shirts \$20.00. Can pay with cash, check or credit card.

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

Charrettes with Rev. Hap Lewis (Capital Campaign Expert and Chairman of Property and Loan Committee of Diocese) – Meetings will be held with the congregation on Oct 23rd at 10:15am (child care available), and on Oct 30th at 12:15pm. This will give our parishioners' two opportunities to gather and dream about how to grow further and strengthen our campus.

Bring-a-Friend Sunday was held September 18th, 2016. Lenore brought a friend to the CWS who was very impressed with energy of the service and "felt the love." Lenore noted, "We have lots to offer here at St. Mary's; let's remember to share it with others."

Update from 2017 Vestry Search Committee – To date, the Committee has found three candidates they feel would be a good fit to serve on the Vestry. However, due to Beth Farrara's recent need to resign, we still need two more Vestry candidates (to replace the four outgoing members, plus Beth). The Vestry is asked to please send names of any parishioners you feel are qualified to serve on the Vestry to Lenore. Lenore will then speak to Father Todd who will then give final approval of the proposed candidate. New Vestry candidates will serve three years, with the exception of the member replacing Beth, who will complete Beth's current term (two years remaining).

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

CFW – Creating new positions for people to serve at the CFW service. Praying about how can we integrate the traditional and CFW service attendees.

Considering a brunch, or pop-up coffee shop, but this process is still in the egg-stage. Brendan has volunteered to work on “Media Shout”, an on-line software program used to build digital liturgy – this equates to power point on steroids

RENEWAL WORKS – Fr. Todd and Christian will be attending a conference on Oct 17-19th with the Rev. Jay Sidebothom, Director of Renewal Works, the company which developed St. Mary's 2014 parish-wide survey. Fr Todd hopes the 2014 results will provide us a roadmap for the direction in which to head our various ministries. Rev. Sidebothom will be coming to St. Mary's to help the Vestry during our February 2017 Retreat.

Alpha Course – Christian is serving as the chaplain for the Fall 2016 Alpha Course. Program is just beginning, but already has 18 people involved in some way.

Planned Giving Luncheon – will be held on October 20th by Fr Todd, Christian and Christian's sister, the VP of Planned Giving for Northwestern University. She is coming in to make recommendations for St. Mary's on how to enhance our Heritage Fund program and hopefully develop a new ministry, Planned Giving. The luncheon will be a strategy session for developing a team who can field answers from the congregation. Goal is to blend this type of giving in with the 2017 Capital and Pledge Campaigns.

20's & 30's Ministry – Introduced Text-to-give to CFW with a “Love for Louisiana” drive to help parishioners from St. Francis Church in Denham Springs, who were hurt by the summer floods (donations from Saturday 10/1 night and Sunday 10/2 will go to this project). The ministry wishes to form a bond between the communities of St. Mary's and St. Francis through letters, electronic connections, and a trip to Louisiana to assist on the ground (estimated six to twelve month commitment).

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

Interim Treasurer- Fr Todd welcomed back Ernie Peixotto, who will serve as interim Treasurer while a permanent replacement for Charlie Lippincott is found (resignation effective August 2016). We are very grateful to Charlie for all the work he did for St. Mary's and wish him well.

“Miaraka” – Fr. Todd and approximately 15 St. Marian's traveled to St. Gregory's church in Boca Raton on 9/25 to attend this performance based on the life of Mary Magdalene. Fr. Todd was very impressed with the quality of the musical production that was held to help raise funds for people victimized by human trafficking. Please keep them and the Rev. Patsy McGregor in your prayers and remember them when they return to Madagascar.

Staff retreat- See separate report prepared by Elise.

Safe Church – Is a Dioscean program, which tackles the issue of safety at church, including maintaining appropriate boundaries and protocols for the reporting and handling of issues of misconduct. Our national church has provided

materials to be used by staff and parishioners alike. We as a congregation need to embrace these procedures.

Financial Report, Ernie Peixotto: Written reports provided to Vestry prior to meeting. Highlights include:

2016 Financial Status – The Reserve Fund is doing well with a current balance of approximately \$400K (but we shouldn't rely on this small cushion). In addition Mary's Kitchen and the TRUE fund account balances are in good shape, though we still have more work to do in reaching out to our community and distributing available funds. Thanks to a bequest of \$82K received over the summer, revenue through August-2016 was \$20K greater than expenses. However, without this bequest, St. Mary's would have had a deficit of approximately \$62K. Please do every thing you can to reach out to our congregation and encourage them to support St. Mary's giving programs. We still have four months to catch up before the end of the fiscal year.

The Annual Audit is just about complete and should be done by early October. This audit requires approval by the Vestry before it can be submitted to the Diocese. Submission of the approved Audit report is required in order for St. Mary's delegates to be eligible to attend the Diocesan Convention in December. Approval may be conducted on-line via email in order to meet the submission deadline.

(*) Bank Signatory Authorization for New Treasurer and Rector's Assistant – Motion made by John Funston to approve the Resolution titled "Bank Account Signers 2016" as prepared by Melissa Lewis. This resolution removes F. Charles Lippincott from all accounts and adds Ernie Peixotto as Treasurer. Additionally, the resolution adds Christian S. Anderson to the Assistant Rector's Discretionary account. Motion seconded by Sue Riddell and passed by unanimous voice vote
Election of New Finance Committee Members - Tabled.

(*) Approval of Treasurer's Report – Motion made by John Funston to approve the September 2016 Treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Sue Riddell and approved unanimously by voice vote

New Business: For the October Vestry meeting, a Committee Report due is from Sally Hasting on Youth and Christian Education.

Old Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Trina Perna, Clerk

(*) Agenda Items with asterisks required Vestry approval.

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