

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting - Minutes
April 27, 2021

MEETING HELD via ZOOM Platform (online)

In Attendance: Ella Ashwell, Lon King, Ashley Ciliberti, Genie DuPell, Jane Gilson, John Norris, Brent Butcher, Paul Hamaty, Cindy Eaton, Arthur Lorr, Mark Hier, including Father Todd (Rector), Father Christian (Assoc. Rector), Rev. Patsy, Tom Winter (Director of Parish Operations), Bob Byshe (Treasurer) and Julie Sullivan (Clerk).

Absent: Father Christian (Assoc. Rector), Pastor Patsy (Director of Spiritual Formation) and Jean Lockwood.

The meeting commenced at 6:32 pm. Father Todd opened the meeting with prayer.

Mutual Ministry Review, Rev. Debra Andrew Maconaughey/Jodi Gonzales (Diocese of South Florida)

Each vestry member will be polled with questions regarding the health of the church and our parish. This is an internal procedure and their analysis and recommendation will be presented at May's vestry meeting.

Opening Reflections and Prayer

Father Todd led the opening reflection from John 15:1-8 and discussion followed.

Minutes

Genie DuPell motioned to approve the March 23rd minutes. Cindy Eaton seconded. All in favor.

Adult Ed/Small Groups, Cindy Eaton: Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the following topics and discussion followed:

- Daughters of the King/Barbara Taft: 20 sisters attend in-person meetings and each member gets monthly prayer lists, as well as notification of new prayers.

Life Groups: There are currently five Life Groups at St. Mary, with approximately 54 people attending.

Most are finishing up *The Reservoir*, one group discussed John Stott's *Sermon on the Mount*, and another is using a Renovaré publication entitled *A Spiritual Formation Workbook*.

- Co-ed Bible Study (Eva and Charlie Lippencott): This group meets Friday and Saturday mornings both in person and via zoom, with approximately 13 people in attendance.
- Men's Bible Study (Peter Dayton/Bob Brown): 15 – 30 men currently attend this 6:30 am meeting on Zoom. This group has been meeting regularly for over 20 years.

- Cursillo Reunion (Barry Marsh): Two people meet every Monday either via Zoom or on the phone.
- St. Mary's Book Club (Jane Miller/Tom Gilson): 17 members meet monthly.
- Soulcare (Darla Cederberg): Eight members meet monthly to explore and listen for the Holy Spirit. The current challenge is to find ways to attract younger women to the group.

New Members, Mark Hier: Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the following topics and discussion followed:

- Since January 2021, 18 New Member data forms and 16 visitor cards have been received. All of them have received both a welcoming phone call and an email. Welcome packets have also been sent out.
- A "new members" gathering will be hosted in May 2021.
- Moving forward, we are:
 - Revising and updating our communication materials;
 - Developing consistent messaging for all of our communication channels;
 - Mapping new member contact points, both in-person and digital;
 - Exploring *Invite, Welcome, Connect*, an Episcopal ministry designed to help churches increase membership; and
 - Planning to reinstate our monthly New Member Orientations once such gatherings are again possible.

Rector's Report, Father Todd: Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the current state of affairs at St. Mary's and the following topics:

- Mutual Ministry Review: Interviews with the Vestry will be conducted during the month of May to review the health of the church and the parish. A report will be summarized at the May vestry meeting.
- Palm Sunday/Holy Week/Easter: Palm Sunday began with our walk around the block with Bucky, our donkey. All of our services were well attended.
- 650 people attended Easter services, maintaining a good 2/3'rds of our normal attendance.
- Much gratitude to Father Christian for the dramatic presentation of the Passion play on Good Friday evening.
- Music offered at all services and numerous additional concerts was stellar.
- A big thanks to all of our volunteer leaders, and especially Paul Hamaty and Sue Riddell. They went beyond the call of duty, and that showed the remarkable worship our congregation was able to experience.
- Family Promise: St. Mary's presented \$16,000 to this excellent organization. Family Promise is an interfaith network providing temporary assistance, hospitality and case management for families with children experiencing homelessness.
- The class, I Am, We Are, is now being offered as an opportunity for spiritual formation for all parishioners after the 9 am services.

Assoc. Rector's Report, Father Christian: Written report provided prior to the meeting. Filed by Title.

Director of Spiritual Formation, Pastor Patsy: Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title.

Rector's Warden Report, Genie DuPell: Written report provided prior to the meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the following topics:

- Re-Entry Committee: Registration is still required for weekend services but not weekday services.
- Vaccination drive-through clinic on April 3rd, 10th Street Community Center: Under the leadership of St. Paul AME church, several churches joined together to fill appointment slots. 580 residents of Martin County received the single-dose shot.
- Ministry Guide: Genie updated the Guide and is now being included in the visitor packets. Also updated is the list of St. Mary's ministry leaders.
- Vestry Liaison Reporting Schedule: Genie updated the schedule to ensure each vestry member has the opportunity to report two times a year.
- Holy Week and Easter: Much gratitude goes to our three priests, Brandon & Pat (music), our office staff, and the many volunteers that made this sacred time such a joyous celebration.

People's Warden Report, Jane Gilson: Written report provided prior to the meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the following topics:

- Memorial Garden: Jane will take over the advertising of our beautiful memorial garden. Jane will work with Father Christian to create a commercial for the garden.
- Ministry Outreach: Jane will research ways St. Mary's impacts the community with our ministries, and communicate this to our parish.
- Membership: Mark is shepherding our new members into the St. Mary's family. His report describes the continuing growth of our parish.

Parish Administrator/Director of Parish Operations Report, Tom Winter:

Written report provided prior to the meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered some of the following topics:

- Volunteers are dearly needed at the front desk, thrift store, facilities team, ushers and the communications team.
- Facilities committee: Bob Pearson, the current leader, is retiring and a new leader is needed.
- An "action team" for facilities is needed and will help with such projects as the setup/breakdown for events. This team could act as an arm for Justin and his sextons.
- Finances and other Operations: please reach out to me to discuss any concerns.

Financial Report, Bob Bysse, Treasurer: Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the following topics and discussion followed:

- Treasurer's Report
- March's financial statements
- Audit report
 - The finance committee has reviewed the options and recommends to the vestry the Investment Review option.
 - Discussion followed and the following comment was made: One vestry member wants a full audit, due to all of the changing components that occurred in 2020. The cost of the audit should be part of the budget.
 - Approval of the Treasurer's report will approve the finance committee's recommendation of the Investment Review option.
 - The question was asked regarding when the Review will take place. Father Todd stated that this discussion should be taken back up at the finance committee meeting.

John Norris motioned and Lon King seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. 8 in favor, 3 opposed.

Old Business:

(none)

New Business:

- Next Vestry meeting: May 25, 2021 (In-person!)

The meeting was closed with prayer.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

*** Written reports and detailed financial reports are available upon request.***