

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting - Minutes**  
February 23, 2021

**MEETING HELD via ZOOM Platform (online)**

**In Attendance:** Ella Ashwell, Lon King, Ashley Ciliberti, Mark Hier, Genie DuPell, Jane Gilson, Brent Butcher, Paul Hamaty, Jean Lockwood, John Norris, Arthur Lorr, including Father Todd (Rector), Father Christian (Assoc. Rector), Rev. Patsy, Bob Bysshe (Treasurer) and Julie Sullivan (Clerk).

**Absent:** Tom Winter (Director of Parish Operations), Cindy Eaton

The meeting commenced at 6:32 pm. Bob Bysshe opened the meeting with prayer.

**Opening Reflections and Prayer**

Father Todd led the opening reflection from Matthew 5-7 and discussion followed.

**Minutes**

*Paul Hamaty motioned and John Norris seconded to approve the January 26<sup>th</sup> minutes and the Vestry Retreat minutes. All in favor.*

**Stewardship, Lon King:** Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the following topics and discussion followed:

- Heritage Fund committee: Activities will occur in the last half of 2021.
- Tom Gilson (Stewardship Follow-Up Chairman) will be sending out an email to those that pledged in 2020 but have not submitted a pledge card to date for 2021.
- With this past year being a virtual year of attendance for our services we are looking into ways that we can capture these people as part of our pledging family.
- Almost half of those pledges received from last year increased their pledge for 2021.
- The Stewardship Campaign, chaired by Fr. Todd, is in full swing. Barry Marsh produced videos that were shown at all services; they highlight this year's theme "God's Unstoppable Growth".
- Pledges increased, yet with fewer pledgers.
- Envelopes can be picked up in the church office.

**Worship, Paul Hamaty:** Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the following topics and discussion followed:

- Offering online worship has been a huge boon to the CFW service as we have been able to maintain interest in the services by providing YouTube/Facebook videos that people can watch in real time or at their

- leisure.
- With the changing demographics of existing volunteers coupled with the concerns and constraints of COVID-19, we need to develop a pipeline of volunteers related to all the aspects of worship.
  - Eight services held each week in the sanctuary.
  - The EVM does not expect to see any changes in health care facilities allowing visits until the pandemic is resolved (herd immunity), and the EVMs miss being able to take communion to our shut-ins at these care facilities.
  - The virtual component represents 88% of our attendance, with the CFW service taking the lead. This is a significant paradigm shift in the way we minister and conduct worship, and while it presents some challenges, it presents many more opportunities for us!
  - There still remains opportunity to establish communications to and between these different ministries so that all point of contacts are on the same page and well-informed of changes in worship (scheduling, location, protocols, etc.) It would be beneficial to have a worship committee to provide some guidance, focus, and consistent communication to this myriad of volunteers.
  - There are still parishioners who do not register for the services.

**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

*John Norris motioned and Genie DuPell seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. All in favor.*

- January's financial statements
- 2021 Budget

*Arthur Lorr motioned and Paul Hamaty seconded to approve the 2021 Budget. All in favor.*

**Parish Administrator/Director of Parish Operations, Report, Tom Winter:** Written report provided prior to the meeting. Filed by Title.

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

- As the Peoples Warden, it is my goal to stay connected to our parishioners. This will be a challenge until we are all together in person to worship and joyfully sing. Genie DuPell and I will be meeting to develop some strategies as to how best to accomplish this goal.
- We will be working with the office in ways to keep abreast of new people, whether they are just visitors, joining us on-line or have shown an interest in what St. Mary's has to offer.
- We faced many challenges last year but have come out stronger and more committed to building our religious community.

**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: Maureen Cotter will continue to lead the committee and as a committee member, Genie will provide a brief report once a month. At our meeting on January 28, there was a discussion of the Governor's initiative to create faith-based vaccination PODs to reach underserved populations. St. Paul's AME Church has been selected as the site to administer the 500 vaccines that are coming to Martin County. For our Ash Wednesday service in the courtyard, Paul Hamaty developed a seating chart that allows custodians to set up chairs to allow for social distancing. Since we are beginning to have funerals and weddings at the church, the committee needs to finalize protocols for both of these life events in the near future.
- Our first ever "zoom vestry retreat" was very successful, welcoming our 4 new vestry members.
- Vestry liaisons have been assigned and Julie has sent out the schedule of committee reporting. These committee reports and other vestry documents are being posted on the website for our parishioners to be kept informed of all that is happening at St. Mary's.

**Assoc. Rector's Report, Father Christian:** Written report provided prior to the meeting. Filed by Title. The report and discussion covered the following topics:

- The News and Events this weekend will showcase a call for the growing communications ministry. For the church to meet the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> believer, St. Mary's will need to have a robust communications ministry. Graphic artists, web developers, social media specialists, public relations officers, A/V handlers and video editors are all invited to apply.
- The outreach ministries at St. Mary's are our key touch points into the community. St. Mary's bookstore, thrift shop, and Mary's Kitchen engage hundreds of non-St. Marian's each week (plus many more through the various other outreach ministries).
- Father Christian will work with the leaders of all of our outreach ministries to see how we can best serve Martin County and beyond.
- Father Christian also welcomed Rev. Patsy and the joy that she brings with her. St. Mary's parish needs to surround her with love and prayer as we remember that she just left 30 years of serving in the mission field.

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

- Father Todd welcomed new vestry members Ella Ashwell, Ashley Ciliberti, Mark Hier, and Lon King.
- Father Todd welcomed Rev. Patsy McGregor to her first vestry meeting.
- Ash Wednesday was different from any that I have ever experienced, but it was a powerful day for all who came. After struggling with how to

handle the ashes, the idea of people self-imposing their ashes became the new norm.

- The Lenten Series also begins this Wednesday using material out of Renovare's *Six Streams of Living Water*, which is a look at six different but complimentary streams of the Christian faith.
- The bishop has announced his schedule for parish visitations, and his visit to us is June the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:**

(none)

**New Business:**

- Next Vestry meeting: March 23, 2021

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

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