

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting - Minutes
March 23, 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, Jean Lockwood, Cindy Eaton, Arthur Lorr, including Father Todd (Rector), Father Christian (Assoc. Rector), Rev. Patsy, Tom Winter (Director of Parish Operations), Bob Bysshe (Treasurer) and Julie Sullivan (Clerk).

Absent: Mark Hier

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

Opening Reflections and Prayer

Father Todd led the opening reflection from John 13 and discussion followed.

Minutes

*The minutes of February 23rd minutes were motioned and seconded.
All in favor.*

Missions and Outreach, Jean Lockwood and John Norris: Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the following topics and discussion followed:

- Mary's Kitchen continues to provide approximately 210 meals per week:
 - 125 takeout meals every Wednesday night
 - 40 meals per week to Project Lift
 - 35 meals per week to the Salvation Army
 - 20 meals per week to a local veteran's group
- St. Mary's Bookstore is open three days a week.
- St. Mary's Thrift Shop is open four days a week and sales are increasing. More volunteers are needed. Sue Riddell has been hired as store manager.

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 discussed the four services that will be held on Easter weekend.
- Family Promise: The issue of homelessness continues, and the decision was made to find rental space for families, even though it resulted in the unexpected cost of \$700 per month per family for the program. Knowing that, one of our parishioners offered a challenge

gift of \$2,100 to cover the cost of a family for 3 months if others would match it. Since then matching gifts have indeed come in, and the total as of March 23rd is \$14,875! At least one of those gifts, in the amount of \$2,500, is from someone who watches online and has never physically attended services here, but heard about the need at one of our services.

- Lent: The congregation was challenged to sit with the Sermon on the Mount daily, to allow the words of Jesus and his vision of the Kingdom to soak in. Our Lenten series, which has been attended each week by between 30 and 40 people, is focused on the six streams of Spiritual Formation. A concert also has been held each Wednesday at noon, along with John's Soup Extravaganza. What a wonderful and rich Lent this has been.
- Holy Week/Easter: Instead of foot washing for everyone on Maundy Thursday only a symbolic family will participate. The stripping of the altar will be simplified. Baptisms on Easter at the beach and on Easter Eve will be done for the first time under our new protocols. An additional "Folk Mass" will be added in the Courtyard at 9am, presided over by our newest Priest. An Easter egg hunt for the kids will make its appearance again.
- Confirmation class: Approved by the Bishop and will focus on Episcopal identity and required for those seeking Confirmation/Reception. The Bishop will be visiting on June 13th. If that visit is in person, Confirmation will proceed. If that visit is digital, then an additional visit by the Bishop will be held in the fall, at which all Candidates can then be presented.

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

- Baptisms: Father Christian discussed the 7 baptisms to be conducted on Easter.
- Non-violent Communication: Each week a group of diverse leaders from St. Mary's, St. Monica's, Pentecostal Church of God in Christ, UMC-Stuart, and New Birth Community Outreach have been meeting to discuss the Beatitudes and Marshall Rosenberg's book "Non-Violent Communication". Those in attendance all feel that they are being equipped not just with a technique, but compassion, patience, and an unconditional love for our neighbor.
- Pastoral Care: The vestry was asked to keep their eyes and ears open to the concerns that are shared by parishioners, and if they are in need of pastoral care.
- Hybrid Church: We are seeing new faces online and our numbers continue to stay strong across all three live streaming platforms (Facebook, YouTube, and the St. Mary's website. In order to keep innovating and meeting the needs of the digital congregant and seeker, we will need to bolster our communications team and strategy. The vestry

was asked to think of any additions to the communication team that can help with this endeavor.

- Lent: We now turn our hearts and minds toward the cross. May our crucified Lord receive all of your greatest sins, pains, and sorrows and transform them, through repentance and reflection, into new life on Easter day.

Director of Spiritual Formation, Pastor Patsy: Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered a powerpoint presentation titled “Spiritual Formation” and discussion followed. Slides were labeled as:

- Belief: Jesus – The Way, the Truth, and the Life
- Truth: Bible – Handbook for Life
- Wholeness: Relationships with Family and Community
- Worship: Spirit Empowered Life
- Service: Spiritual Gifts, Compassion, and Generosity
- Testimony: Stories, Epiphanies, and Christ-Like Moments

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: Last week, the CDC issued guidance that small groups of people who have been **fully vaccinated** can meet indoors without wearing a mask. This means small groups at St. Mary’s can begin to re-gather in-person the way we used to with no masks, no social distancing and plenty of refreshments. Fully vaccinated, defined by the CDC, means 2 weeks after their 2nd dose in a 2-dose series (like Pfizer or Moderna) or 2 weeks after a single-dose series (like Johnson & Johnson)
- Eucharistic visitors can resume taking communion to parishioners (one-on-one) if both the visitor and recipient have been fully vaccinated.
- Diocesan Meeting with Senior Wardens: Genie attended the zoom meeting in February and provided resources available to the Vestry.
- ACS Updates: Genie’s work on our database/directory has discovered about 20 people who have been contributing to our church for a period of time but never filled out a data form. She has since reached out to these people with appreciation and a form to complete, if they wish.

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 becoming easier to connect with our parishioners since more are coming to services in person. I have received wonderful compliments, as well as complaints, face to face.
- Jane announced that Sue Riddell will be taking on the management of St. Mary’s Thrift Shop beginning April 1. Sue has been very active at St. Mary’s and has been a past vestry member.
- A special thank you to Jean and John Lockwood. Without the long tedious hours and days they put into the remodeling of the thrift shop, we would have not been able to reopen.

- Birthday and Anniversary Cards: Zella Paul has taken over the task of mailing out the cards for birthdays and anniversaries.
- Easter Week: A huge thanks to the ushers, alter/flower guild, music director, lay readers, our ministers, and all the leaders of these groups that make it all come together.

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:

- Campus: Campus cleanup, de-cluttering and organization is an ongoing project. More volunteers are needed in the front office, bookstore, thrift store, and communications.
- Facilities Committee expansion: Tom would like to create an “action team” of volunteers that assist with various projects and events on campus.

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
- February’s financial statements
- 2021 Final Budget discussion

John Norris motioned and Paul Hamaty seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report. All in favor.

Old Business:

(none)

New Business:

- Next Vestry meeting: April 27, 2021

Arthur Lorr provided the closing prayer.

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.***