

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

MEETING HELD IN PERSON

In Attendance: Lon King (Zoom), Jane Gilson, Mark Hier, John Norris, Jean Lockwood, Paul Hamaty, Cindy Eaton, Ella Ashwell, Genie DuPell, Brent Butcher (Zoom), including Father Todd (Rector), Father Christian (Assoc. Rector), Pastor Patsy (Director of Spiritual Formation), Tom Winter (Director of Parish Operations) and Bob Bysshe (Treasurer).

Absent: Arthur Lorr.

The meeting commenced at 6:31 pm.

Father Christian opened the meeting with prayer.

Opening Reflections

Father Christian led the opening reflection with readings of Psalm 127 and Matthew 19:13-22. Discussion followed.

Minutes

Cindy Eaton motioned to approve the October 26th minutes. Bob Bysshe seconded. All in favor.

Committee Reports

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

- Since my last report in April, St Mary's has continued to enjoy an influx of new members and potential members. Since April, 14 persons have submitted "New Member" data forms, and we have received "Visitor Cards" from 10 individuals. Year to date, that is a total of 41 new members and 26 visitors.
- In addition to welcoming these new members and visitors with emails, phone calls and packets, we hosted a New Member orientation on June 20, the first such meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. Genie and Jane hosted the event which was attended by 14 new or potential members as well as clergy and several vestry members. We are planning to host New Member orientations on December 5 and January 16 with the hope that we can reinstate our pre-pandemic schedule of monthly meetings.

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

- There are currently five Life Groups at St. Mary, with approximately 50 people attending either in person or via Zoom.
- Men's Bible study is currently on Zoom by invitation. They meet at 6:30 am on Wednesdays and Dr. Al Warren and John Serrard are the leaders. Approximately 15 to 30 men attend.
- Our co-ed Bible study meets on Friday mornings and have been meeting in person and by Zoom. Currently, about 15 people participate, including members from All Saints Episcopal and a person living in Minnesota!
- On August 21 in Ross Hall, St. Mary's hosted the only live Cursillo reunion zoom meeting viewing party in the Diocese of Southeast Florida. It was attended by St. Mary's, Good Shepherd-Tequesta, All Saints-Jensen Beach and St. Luke's-Port Salerno. Lunch was served and attendees were thrilled to hear opening remarks from Presiding Bishop Curry. The Cursillo Ministry Reunion Groups for men and women continue to meet weekly on various days in Smith Hall and St. Mary's Library.
- There are currently 20 members of the book club, and they meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2:00.
- Soulcare meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday from 5-6:30 pm via Zoom. Darla Cederberg's last facilitation of Soulcare will be on December 7. She is not sure whether one of the other participants will pick it up after she leaves or whether it will dissolve with the participants joining other small groups.

Rector's Report, Father Todd: Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the following topic and discussion followed:

- Clearly the transition time is well underway as the staff and lay leaders are taking on responsibility for life post-Fr. Todd. I have to say that I am so very proud of our leadership team, both staff and volunteer, who are doing such a great job. Genie is a marvel in the way she organizes to the last detail. And I have absolute confidence in Fr. Christian as he increasingly slips into the mantle of leadership. If there is one word I would give for all of us, it is to keep the focus on Jesus and his mission. God has so much to do through St. Mary's.
- **EMPTY PEWS ARE AN AMERICAN HEALTH CRISIS:** During the Covid pandemic all of us have had our eyes on the dangers presented by the virus. The result has been, rightly, a lockdown and all the protocols that we all know so well that have kept us from being together. What we may not have noticed, however, are the health effects that result from not gathering in-person regularly for worship. The article underscores our need to encourage those who can to re-gather in person, and to build our small group and face-to-face communities. Our physical and emotional, as well as our spiritual, health may well depend on it.

- Teatime with Father Todd, Thursdays after Eucharist: The focus will be on our spiritual journeys, and how it is that God uses them for our nurture. He will be available for any parishioners who would like to gather with me and chat a bit.
- Father Todd's last Sunday service here at St. Mary's will be on December 26th at a single service at 10am. The Service for the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship will be happening at that time, where I will formally hand the keys of the church over to Fr. Christian.

Assoc. Rector's Report, Father Christian: No written report was submitted.

The report covered the following topics and discussion followed:

- "Pause for Advent" devotional will affect life groups, sermons, and campus at large.
- Tea Time with Father Todd on Thursdays.
- Advent Prayer Walk on Dec 11th with the surrounding community
- Sunday Funday in December
- Advent Mission Trees: Instead of Christmas Wreathes this year to raise money for outreach, St Mary's will be using two Jesse trees that will be decorated with images of our mission partners in Ecuador & Madagascar. Folks will be able to purchase jewelry to support the various ministries in both countries that help women escape human trafficking and help sponsor student that are attempting to break a cycle of poverty through education. Our goal is for 30 more students to be sponsored (\$1 a day!).
- We have over 17 students in youth confirmation this season. Patsy and I have developed a program that will feature Alpha Teen, Mentorship, service work, a youth Sunday, and plenty of worship.
- This year we will going back to pre-pandemic service times: 4 pm in Traditional, 5 pm in Ross, 6:45 in Courtyard, 8:30 in traditional, and 11pm in traditional. On Christmas Day we will have the 10 am in the traditional. Then the day following will be Christmas 1 at 10 am in Ross Hall (Father Todd's final service).

Director of Spiritual Formation, Pastor Patsy: Written report provided prior to meeting. Filed by Title. The report covered the following topics and discussion followed:

- Our third Sunday Funday was quite a success again. We look forward to our upcoming Sunday Funday's, creating opportunities for multi-generational spiritual formation, so we continue to grow into Jesus and reach out in love.

Dec 12 th	Gifts
Jan 9 th	Talents and Treasures
Feb 13 th	Hearts of Love

- Even though our family folk mass/courtyard service was rained out of the courtyard, 37 people attended this Eucharist with Kenyan liturgy in the sanctuary. After service the delicious community meal was enjoyed by all.

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

- The vestry nominating committee met on November 2. We have an excellent list of potential candidates for 2022. We have already approached two parishioners who have agreed to serve. Last week we published (in the News and Events) a notice to the Parish about the five vestry openings with a November 30th deadline for nominations from the congregation. This notice will run for three weeks.
- Thanks to Jane Gilson, Arthur Lorr, John Norris and Jean Lockwood for serving on the committee.
- The formation of the search committee with Canon Jason. The search committee is such an important piece of our search process and he recommended that the whole vestry participate in this committee formation at a special meeting. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 30th at 6:30 pm.
- Thanks to Jane Gilson for her hard work organizing Father Todd's retirement dinner on December 5th. It will be a wonderful evening and a chance to celebrate Father Todd and Darla and let them know how much we appreciate them and will miss them.

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

- The Annual Diocesan Convention was held in October by Zoom. The one person to save the convention was none other than our own Reverend Patsy McGregor. Until she signed in (while stranded at the airport), they did not have a quorum of clergy. Reverend Patsy saved the day. People were elected to various positions in the Diocese and the budget of \$4,445,229 was passed. The good news is that our pledge to the diocese for 2022 will be 11.8% and in 2023 will drop to 10%.
- Our Docent program is being developed to greet and assist people on Sundays for the different church services. With Christmas celebrations coming, this is particularly important as we have many visitors. Share your talents and sign up for one Sunday.

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

Written report provided prior to the meeting. Filed by Title. The following topic was covered:

- Lots of non-discretionary repairs in the queue, trying to get as much done before the end of year. Expecting repairs & maintenance to be well above budget.

- Light Sunday Morning Campus duty, Docents, Staffing for Events, Concerts, Coffee, Meet and Greets, Safety and Security observers, Tables & Chairs, helping new folks find their way, are just a few of the ways we could place people. For the amount of current campus activity, we are under-resourced.
- John Norris and I have created a new Hospitality Ministry. This ministry handles food and beverage service outside of Mary's Kitchen and includes Coffee Hours.
- Tim Cotter and I hosted a planned giving weekend on 11/6 & 11/7 for our lay leadership, parishioners, and Dioceses. I have sent out some resources to get up to date on Planned Giving so we can place an increase emphasis on this long term initiative. Tim Cotter needs a second person to help him with this effort, as the leaders of this "legacy/heritage society" should not be staff or clergy. However, we all agree it is of vital importance to St. Mary's, to move this forward in the short term.
- A capital project is coming into focus, the renovation of the Smith Hall kitchen, as well as a cleanup and equipment upgrade in the Ross Hall Kitchen. I would like to start thinking about this, as it will be a real tangible benefit for our "Hospitality support" of parish & community programs.

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

- October financial statements
- Treasurer's report

Mark Hier motioned, and Paul Hamaty seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. All in favor.

Old Business

New Business

The clergy was dismissed and Genie DuPell took control of the meeting.

- John Norris gave a summary of 11/17 meeting with Canon Jason regarding rector search process concerns.
- Discussion and a decision on clergy compensation was reached.
- Vestry voted on prior motion to approve the preliminary 2022 budget. All in favor.

Next Vestry meeting: December 21, 2021

Adjournment

Cindy Eaton moved to adjourn. Paul Hamaty seconded. All in favor.

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