

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting - Minutes
September 28, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

In Attendance: Arthur Lorr, Lon King, Jane Gilson, John Norris, Jean Lockwood, Brent Butcher, Paul Hamaty, Cindy Eaton, including Father Todd (Rector), Father Christian (Assoc. Rector), Pastor Patsy (Director of Spiritual Formation), Tom Winter (Director of Parish Operations) and Bob Bysse (Treasurer).

Absent: Genie DuPell, Ella Ashwell and Mark Hier.

The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm (via zoom software).

Opening Reflections

Father Christian led the opening reflection from Genesis 17:1-9 and discussion followed.

Pastor Patsy McGregor opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes

Arthur Lorr motioned to approve the August 31st minutes. John Norris seconded. All in favor.

Committee Reports:

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

- Planned Giving seminar, Saturday, November 6th, 2-3 pm: Jim Murphy will meet with the Vestry and other church leaders regarding best practices regarding a planned giving program for the church.
- The seminar on Sunday at 12:30 pm will be held for the general parishioners, describing the advantages that planned giving can provide for households and the church.
- Rich and Yvonne Ross contributed to continue the music tradition at St. Mary's with their generous gift of \$200K to the Heritage Fund. These funds will be split 50/50 between the Traditional and CFW programs.
- Mrs. Lee Morrison and family, in memory of Mr. William (Bill) Morrison contributed funds for the acquisition of a concert grand piano for use in Ross Hall.
- Tom and Jane Gilson have retired from the Stewardship team.

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

- Stewardship Luncheon on September 28th was a success.
- Mary's Kitchen: hope to transition in October from a take-out only to a dual option of sit-down and take-out. Approximately 200 meals are served to the community every Wednesday.
- Family Promise: Family Promise is preparing for its annual bed race to raise awareness of homeless families with children in Martin County.
- Thrift Shop: Continues to thrive and presented \$100 to all of St. Mary's high school seniors.
- Four \$30 gift certificates were given to children working with Family Promise.
- \$1,000 from St. Mary's thrift store was given to the Oaks Christian school currently located on campus.

Communications, Arthur Lorr: Written report provided prior to meeting. The report covered the following topics:

- Sunday Funday brochure was completed.
- News and Events Publications: News and Events, and Good News Daily are sent out with the two email blasts. Paper editions are now distributed to parishioners and homebound parishioners.
- Weekly Email Blasts: Two email blasts are sent out a week to nearly 800 email addresses and have a 39% open rate and 23% click rate.
- Social media: Currently St. Mary's utilizes the public social media sites of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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

- Tim Cotter has been making great progress working with Jim Murphy from the Episcopal Charities Foundation in New York. This will be a Zoom event. Parish publicity will be coming out shortly. The outline for the weekend will be:
Saturday, November 6th, 2-3pm: Jim will meet with the Vestry and other church leaders at St. Mary's regarding best practices regarding a planned giving program for the local church. A list of those leaders in addition to the Vestry, Finance and Stewardship Committees, is being assembled.
Sunday, November 7th, 12:30-1:40pm: Jim will make a presentation for general parishioners of St. Mary's, describing the advantages that planned giving can provide for individuals, households, and for the church.
- Father Todd will be retiring as of December 31, 2021.
- A vote for an interim priest will be taken tonight by the People's Warden.
- Consultant's report recommended the following changes for St. Mary's:

- Create a 5 Year Strategic Plan with an outside facilitator as you prepare to move forward with the challenges and opportunities that await in the future.
- Create a vision and mission for the next 5 years.
- Develop and maintain an 18-month calendar including a way to share updates quickly and efficiently.
- Develop a youth and children's formation committee-create an agenda, schedule and determine needed resources.
- Evaluate volunteer positions.

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

- Gavin Gumbinner and Father Christian are currently meeting with a few teen boys, forming them into leaders of a "Breakfast Bros" type ministry that would happen monthly. There is a large contingency of teen boys now at St Mary's and we want to get them together at least once a month before school to build fellowship, trust, support, and of course, a John Norris inspired hot breakfast. We plan for the first breakfast in late October.
- A similar type of breakfast is being planned with another growing demographic at CFW: young dads. Bryce Cooper and Clint Larkin will be the point people on this ministry and follow a similar model: a monthly breakfast before work that involves a check-in, Scripture, reflection, prayer, and eating. Late October is the launch date.
- Rev Patsy and I will be meeting with the parents and confirmands this Sunday after CFW. We could have up to 15 teens this year, potentially more. Rev Patsy and I have been meeting to strategize how various resources will be used this season to help create opportunities for our youth to develop their relationship with Jesus. These resources include Alpha Teen, mentoring, service work, Youth Sunday participation, and worship involvement.
- Alpha is back and we have several denominations involved: Pentecostal, AME, Catholic, Methodist, Reformed, and others. Ten leaders have been building trust in five breakout groups via zoom.
- NVC is now entering its 3rd season at St Mary's and is now officially lay lead!
- Speaking of Julia Garcia, she and her husband George will represent St. Mary's in Ecuador this October for a Vision Trip through our partner Education Equals Hope. They will leave Oct 24th and visit many of the ministry sites our teens visited and personally meet all our ministry partners. Our partnership with Ecuador is invaluable and I am sure the Garcia's will find this experience quite powerful.

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 first Sunday Funday was quite a success with a variety of interests. After the 9 am CFW service Sunday Funday parishioners learned the Jerusalema Dance, followed by enjoyment of a tasty taco bar made possible by teamwork of St. Mary's Kitchen angels. Multigenerational spiritual formation was well attended by those from both the CFW and traditional services from 11:00-11:45. If parishioners were still hungry after spiritual formation, they were invited back to the taco bar for fabulous food and fellowship.
- The Children's Sunday School is on an **Adventure with God**, led by Jacqueline Lorr and a team of helpers. St. Mary's Youth (Grades 6-12) explore their **Contagious Faith** by looking at their baptismal vows and by taking part in Youth Alpha program. The Men's Ministry takes a look at **The Fred Factor** and share with one another opportunities of making a difference in the lives of others. And the Women of St. Mary's celebrate the glorious knowledge that God himself created women in His amazing craftsmanship, **Made in Blue**, growing deeper in their love for Jesus and one another.
- Saturday, October 16th will launch a family folk mass at 5:00 pm in the courtyard. A Kenyan liturgy will be followed with simple guitar playing by Rev. Patsy. Lay leaders are being sought to help compliment this service by ushering, assisting with the service or playing instruments. Please come, participate, and get involved. If people enjoy this worship service, it can be offered monthly with a potluck/community meal following.

Rector's Warden Report, Genie DuPell: Written report provided prior to the meeting. Filed by Title. Genie will run a search in the ACS database for 90th and 100th birthdays in our parish.

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

- Jane attended the Deanery meeting on September 9th via zoom and the following topics were covered:
 - Jane will be the chair for Father Todd's retirement party.
 - The Diocesan Annual Convention (via zoom) will be held in October.
 - Covid protocols were revisited, and it was agreed that the current ones in place will be followed.
 - Cannon Licia Affer updated everyone on the Safe Church program. This program is mandated for all persons working within the church.

- Discussions were held on Anti-Racism Training, Commission on Ministry – Discernment Spiritual Formation, Appeals for Haiti, and Vacation Mandates for all Clergy and Staff.

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

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

- Rental success

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

- Through the first eight months, church operations are running slightly ahead of Budget and we are benefiting from the reopening of the church campus with increased revenues in the Thrift Shop, the Library and the use of our facilities.
- All of our ten Heritage Fund sub-accounts have been consolidated under one Heritage Fund banner, for investment purposes.
- August financial statements
- Treasurer's report

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

Old Business:

(none)

New Business:

- Jane Gilson took control of the meeting at 8:03 pm. The first rule of business is that to approve Father Christian as the Interim Rector beginning January 1, 2022.

John Norris motioned, and Cindy Eaton seconded to approve Father Christian as the Interim Rector beginning January 1, 2022. Discussion followed. All in favor.

- October 12th, 6:30 Vestry meeting with Canon Licia and Canon Jason
- December 5th, Father Todd Appreciation dinner
- Next Vestry meeting: October 26, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

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