

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES – in the wide open spaces
July 30, 2020

Present: Senior Warden-Murry Edwards, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Treasurer – Chris Bartlett, David Brierley, Chris Winslow, Peter Collins, Julie Zecher, David Spengler, Matt Spohn, George LeBlanc, Dave Ferkinhoff, and the Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

Absent: Junior Warden-Paul Westrom

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:03 p.m. with a reading from Isaiah and a prayer.

The Vestry reviewed St. Mary's mission.

Reconnecting with each other, in the presence of God.

This was a period of sharing and supporting each other in difficult times.

Parochial Report

Jennifer made a motion that the Vestry approve the Parochial Report for 2019. David Spengler seconded the motion, which passed. Jennifer thanked all the people involved in assembling writing and submitting this report.

Regathering

The Moving Forward Task Force continues to meet weekly and plan and strategize St. Mary's way forward.

- **Outdoor Worship** – continues, and this coming Sunday we will add Holy Communion. Jennifer and the Task Force are confident it can be done safely. Attendance at these outdoor services has averaged 60 per week. Attendance (or views) of the online service is 53 per week.
- **Future of Worship** – Indoor worship is set to begin in October.
- **Additional Spiritual Possibilities** – The Task Force is also discussing adding some additional opportunities for getting together, such as small group discussions, either via Zoom or in person.
- **Sea Rose moving forward** – Is planning to rent several lower level classrooms in the Parish House, beginning in August.
- **Additional help needed** – Murry said that we need an audio-visual team to help with the technical side of worship. Online worship is a powerful tool for ministry and we do not plan to discontinue it, even if we can all go back inside and have a “regular”

service. More specifically we need some people who would be willing to video the service, upload the service, and someone who can help with the sound system. This can a group of people, and we will train and help anyone learn what is necessary to be successful.

- **Further discussion** – The Vestry then offered some further ideas for the Task Force to consider, including coffee hours and wine and cheese gatherings, adult ed or Sunday school, etc. Peter C. said he would love to see more use of the historic church for worship. Chris B. offered the idea of buying an 80" TV screen. Jennifer would then do the Sunday morning service in one venue (historic church or St George's Chapel) and stream it to the other venue. Folks could decide for themselves which place they would like to attend. The following week it would be switched.

Jennifer concluded the conversation by remarking that we do something for God's people that they can't get anywhere else – we need to focus on what we do that is needed and special.

The Moving Forward Task Force will discuss these ideas, and ask for support and assistance as they need it.

David B. suggested that there be better communication between the Vestry and the Moving Forward Task Force. Towards this end, a copy of that Task Force's minutes will be put on the Vestry section of Base Camp for all Vestry members to read.

Worship Shell

George LeBlanc gave a report on the proposed Worship Shell, including how it would improve St. Mary's outdoor worship and what other events and happenings St. Mary's, Sea Rose, and even the wider community such a shell might used for.

George then made a motion that we contract with Bruno Painting to build the worship shell on the South lawn, previously approved by the Trustees, with the expense not to exceed \$12,000. David B. seconded the motion. There was much discussion, with issues such as when the work would begin and how long would it take, noise level, ongoing maintenance and cost being foremost. The Sea Rose Montessori School has said that would like to use the shell during school hours, and would contribute monthly in order to help us defray the cost of construction. The issue of pressure treated wood and safety also came up, which led to an amendment to the original motion. Murry made a motion to amend the motion to add "the building of this shed is contingent on Sea Rose definitely being able to use it with no upgrade in materials." The amendment was seconded and passed.

The motion, as amended, passed.

Financials

Chris Bartlett handed out the Treasurer's Report. Chris said "remarkable" is the word that comes to mind when looking at St. Mary's pledging income during this period. He suggested we all go home and thank God, for God's grace and the generosity and commitment of St. Mary's parishioners.

Chris has re-worked the original budget and has concluded that with the personnel expenses being less than last year, this has essentially offset the over expenses incurred for deferred maintenance (that simply could not be deferred any longer).

A motion was made and seconded that we accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Vestry Class of 2023

Murry nominated Marlo Pratt to serve on the Vestry and fill the vacant Vestry position until February 2023. David S. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Murry made a motion, seconded by David B., that the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the June Vestry meeting, be accepted. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01, with all present reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk