

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
June 29, 2017

Present: Senior Warden- Linda Drummond, Junior Warden – Dave Monroe, Treasurer- Chris Bartlett, Clerk– Mattie Gustafson, Chris Barker, Michelle Freitas, Trish Culver, Dave Ferkinhoff, Jenny Williams, and Paul Westrom.

Absent: Christian Myers, Steve Downing, and Peter Collins
The Rector is on sabbatical.

The meeting began at 6:04 with a prayer and a bible study of Acts, Chapter 14.

Consent Agenda

Trish C. made a motion, seconded by Michelle F. that we accept the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes and the Treasurer's Report for May. The motion passed.

Mattie G. will write up a short report formally recording the e-vote taken as regards hiring Katherine as our Priest-in-Charge

Senior Warden's Time

Staffing Update

Linda D. and Dave M. met with the Bishop last week *re* funding for our Priest-in-charge. Bishop Knisely agreed to give us \$4,000 to help defray expenses incurred. Linda needs to write a formal request to the Bishop.

Kim and Gabe and Linda are in close contact and all seem to be doing very well.

Chris Cassells sent a formal "thank-you" to the people of St. Mary's – for supporting her in her journey to the Diaconate, and for the purple stole and cash gift, which will go towards starting her discretionary fund.

Gabe has also thanked us for the gift card to Ikea.

Projects for the Summer

Basement Clean-up

There are two kinds of clean-up needed in the basement: 1) "Stuff" – e.g., old books, baskets, old and broken furniture etc. and 2) Papers and records. Much of the "stuff" simply needs to be sorted through, discarded or donated. Papers and records will need review and organization.

Paul W. is going to be sorting through children's stuff downstairs, so this will give us a start. He's going to buy some sturdy, wide shelving to be used for storing items that need to be kept.

Murry and Mattie, with Michelle are tasked with leading this effort, which will not be able to begin until August.

Welcoming New and Recent Members

There were varying degrees of success in this effort. Linda urged Vestry members to persevere in efforts to contact folks they were assigned.

Fall Schedule

Issues are 1) the time of the 2nd service on Sunday and 2) the schedule for Christian formation programs. Michelle asked for some guidance and input for her upcoming Worship Commission meeting, and there was much discussion of the time for the Sunday service, but no clear consensus emerged. There were also many questions about the issue of Christian formation and when and how best to do this. We are waiting for July and Gabe's report of what he would like to do in the fall, to continue this discussion.

Property Report – Dave Monroe

Boiler in the Church

We don't need a new one!!! Great news – repairs have been completed and we should be set – at least for a while.

Montessori School

The school is a "go." The Sea Rose Montessori School will be starting up in the fall, 5 days a week, 12 months a year. Rent is set at \$1,000 per month for the 1st 6 months, at the end of which period we will re-evaluate. Dave needs to let Gabe know about the School, so its impact on Christian Formation classes in the same area can be assessed and appropriate preparations and adjustments made.

Solar Panels

The Property Commission is still working on this. One of the companies in contention is offering a financing package which, if we used it, would negate any need for a draw on the endowment. The Commission is working toward having a conclusion and a recommendation to the Vestry as soon as possible.

Fire Marshall's Review and Report

Dave has 2 companies working on submitting bids for the alarm systems needed for Gibbs House. They are working with the Portsmouth Fire Department, so that the systems

designed will be according to the Fire Dept's requirements. St. Mary's can't make any decisions until the requirements and amounts involved are known.

Being "Sexton-less"

It is Dave's opinion that being without a Sexton is not going to work in the long run. Only 3 people have volunteered to be Property Angels, and in addition to chair set-up, there are a bunch of little jobs that need doing around the church, that no-one is in charge of doing. Dave is taking up the slack for now, but we need a better, more long-term solution.

Rectory Repairs

We had some plumbing issues at the Rectory and spent \$1500 on solving them.

Catch-All

Website Report – Murry Edwards and Mattie Gustafson

Mattie and Murry are working on a total re-design of the St. Mary's website, which will be very different from our current, active site. Important things to note:

- We are working to keep the current site as up-to-date as possible.
- The new site will have lots of graphics, a lot less text, and much of it will be geared toward newcomers and people not familiar with the Episcopal Church.
- Much of the site is designed to invite people in, explaining to them in lay terms what we are about and how much we want them to join us.
- Our tentative timeline is
 - Introduce site to staff – July
 - Introduce site to Vestry – August
 - Go live – September

Meeting with Canon Greutz

After discussion, it was decided that the meeting would be a *special* meeting of the Vestry, to be held on Tuesday, August 29th at 6:00 p.m. [Canon Greutz has confirmed this meeting.]

Additional thoughts

Chris B. noted that, for a variety of reasons, we are losing a number of volunteers for lay ministries during the services. As a consequence, those who are serving are doing so more frequently. Dave M. noted that Dave Brierly is putting together a skills and interests matrix that might help recruit more folks for many of the volunteer efforts really needed at St. Mary's.

Question: Who is responsible for 1) noticing that coffee hour supplies need replenishing and 2) ordering said supplies? Staples sells coffee and other coffee hour supplies and we have an account with them. If someone can notify Kim of a specific need, she can order replacement supplies from Staples.

Linda remarked that during this time everyone needs to step up and help out.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

**The day and time of our next Vestry meeting is
Thursday July 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk