

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2017

Present: Senior Warden- Linda Drummond, Junior Warden – Dave Monroe, Treasurer- Chris Bartlett, Clerk– Mattie Gustafson, Chris Barker, **Jenny Williams**, Peter Collins, Steve Downing and Paul Westrom.

Absent: Christian Myers, Michelle Freitas, Trish Culver and Dave Ferkinhoff
The Rector is on sabbatical.

Gabe Giella, Director of Christian Formation was at the meeting.

The meeting began at 6:12 with a prayer and a bible study of Acts, Chapter 15.

Consent Agenda

Dave M. made a motion, seconded by Paul W. that we accept the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes and the Financial Report for July. The motion passed.

Senior Warden's Time

Staffing Update

Things are going very well. Katherine is very skilled and affirming and Linda is glad she is here.

Cemetery

The Staff is reviewing everything: burial of urns, updating the brochure, policies, fees, state laws, etc. Dave M., Bob Vergnani and Debbie Timby are working on policies. Kim is working on getting an artist's rendering of the graveyard itself. Financially, this might be a place we can grow. Chris Bartlett suggested that we look closely at what kinds of money we can reasonably expect from the graveyard.

Basement Cleanout

Murry and Mattie are busy working on the transformation of St. Mary's website. Chris Bartlett said that he and the men of the Vestry would take care of throwing out the "stuff" that has built up in the basement storage area.

In the fall and winter months, Mattie and Murry will begin to deal with the records and paper archives that are stored there.

Fall Schedule and Formation

Because of the need for some kind of Sunday formation program, and the perception that the summer schedule was simply too rushed between Sunday services, Gabe proposed a schedule for Sunday of an 8am and 10am service. Sunday formation programs would take

place between those 2 services. Gabe then presented his vision for the Christian formation program(s) for the Fall and Winter seasons. He wants to begin with a common, positive experience for all ages, and described a program entitled *Life in the Spirit*. This program would begin on September 17th and run for about 7 Sundays. He needs people to lead the discussions and to offer personal testimony. Other ideas include: *Taste and See* (a dinner and discussion evening); *Godly Play* in the late afternoons; *Animate Bible* series; book discussion groups – and lots more.

Marketing and getting the word out to parishioners and beyond will be key to the success of these programs. Chris Barker suggested we allocate a small amount of money to use on expanding the reach of our Facebook posts. A slide show about all these programs on the lobby screen was also mentioned.

Gabe asked that folks email him if they are interested in leading some of these programs, or if they know someone who would be good at leading discussions, etc.

Meeting with Canon Grentz

Linda Grentz seems to be visiting all the parishes in the Diocese that have endowments, to discuss various pertinent issues with regard to endowments. She also wanted to talk about Jennifer's return.

Chris Bartlett led a discussion on St. Mary's Endowment and the draw we are taking from that source of funding. He handed out a short report and requested that all Vestry members read and reflect on it. Questions should go to Chris Bartlett via email. He thinks that this is the most significant issue we face as a Vestry, and should be at the forefront of all our discussions.

The three variables Chris Bartlett identified are expenses, annual income and endowment (balance and draw). It is an important job of the Vestry to really work on making improvements in all three areas. Peter C. suggested that we also engage the broader community in this effort – making people more aware of the issues involved and encouraging them to be a part of the solution.

Paul W. is convinced that this is the work the Vestry needs to do, and that financial discussions need to be a major part of future Vestry meetings. Chris Bartlett said that growth is, realistically, our only way forward.

Property – Dave Monroe

Dave M. made a motion, seconded by Paul W. that we accept a gift of \$30,000 to be used on the church roof restoration project and for some new signage. The motion passed.

The Oliphant Lane sale has fallen through. Dave M. will ask the potential buyer why. If the land is not usable for housing, Dave is looking at alternatives.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with Linda saying "Go in peace."

**The day and time of our next Vestry meeting is
Thursday August 31, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk