

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2021

Present: Senior Warden-Marlo Pratt, Junior Warden-George LeBlanc, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Julie Zecher, Chris Winslow, Peter Collins, Richard Updegrove, Lee Ferreira, Dave Ferkinhoff, Matt Spohn, and the Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

Absent: Chris Bartlett, David Spengler.

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:04 p.m. by reading a prayer from *Guerrillas of Grace*, and then saying a prayer.

Vestry Leadership

Jennifer began the meeting with a discussion about Vestry leadership. She said that the Vestry is really on a journey with God in community, and in light of the upcoming elections and the work of the Nominating Committee which has just begun, it would be well to have a conversation about "What makes a good Vestry leader?"

Qualities a Vestry leader should have -

- A spiritual life that is growing and held as a priority
- Energy – be a positive force
- Organized – ability to sift through lots of issues, and think and plan effectively
- Open minded – the ability to listen to others
- Focused on priorities – not try to do too much – set and stick to important issues
- Supportive of leadership decisions
- Being physically present in the church community –
 - worship
 - fellowship meetings
 - church events
- Kind and respectful in dealings with others
- Community minded – able to think about the broader community and our role in it – broader thinking than me and mine

Vestry members are entrusted with

- The good news of Jesus Christ
- God's people, who come here seeking God, healing, belonging, meaning, community, a tradition that can hold the weight of their lives in these times
- The new hybrid church
- Property
- Buildings

- Fiscal responsibility
- The endowment
- Health and safety
- Vision
- Ministries
- Welcoming
- Our mission

The next step is to craft a new Vestry Covenant with these qualities and responsibilities in mind.

Updates – Jennifer

Plans for late Fall/Early Winter

Jennifer discussed plans for the upcoming season, which included

- The Giving Tree for the MLK Center (4 Sundays in November),
- A fall cleanup. complete with cider and donuts and projects for all ages (Nov. 14).
- Advent Lessons and Carols and a Tree Lighting (first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28).
- The return of the Trees of Light food collection and an incredible window display.
- Two Christmas Eve services at 4 and 6 pm.
- Lessons and Carols on December 26th.

Beginning on November 7th, the worship service will be at 9:00 a.m., followed by a Coffee Hour and Adult Bible Study with Karen Laroche. There will no Christmas Day service.

Historic Church Renovation

After close to 4 years of hard work and dedication to the church restoration project, Paul Westrom has decided to hand the torch to someone else.

Both Paul and Jennifer have been talking to Ron Machtley, who has expressed an interest in being involved in this major project. He has lots of experience in restoration and renovation, and in completing major projects. He proposes to do a 2-month study (November and December) to determine the scope of work needed to complete the interior of the church, and the estimated costs associated with that completion. The Vestry concurred that this was a good way to proceed.

New Members

We have welcomed 37 new members to our Church community, representing 15 households.

Coffee and Conversation

Our first Coffee and Conversation in quite a while, will be held after the 10:00 a.m. service on October 31st. Some of the topics to be discussed include the historic church restoration, the upcoming Adult Bible study, the new worship schedule, and anything else those present would like addressed.

Budget Update – Dave B.

Dave will create a narrative based on our mission – worship, well-being and service + administration – for the Annual Report. He will not change the essential structure of the budget or budget line items.

Dave has met with Chris B. and is working to get the proposed budget for 2022 ready. The first draft should be ready for the November Vestry meeting. The Vestry should vote on a final budget in December.

The importance of “the message” about the budget was discussed. Jennifer pointed out that we need to be thinking of growing and increasing our ministries, especially with regard to children and families, so although the budget is “all set” right now, the message needs to be more visionary. There are many ministries that were not needed or possible during the pandemic, and we should be thinking of growing into them again. We need to be truthful and transparent and looking forward when talking about the budget.

Property – George L.

TREES!! The neverending saga....

- Northeast Tree has given us a quote for removing even more trees. This will be done in the winter months. We have a gift from a generous parishioner that will help pay for some of this work. And we are also *planting* some trees.
- The test of the solar light went well, so we are purchasing a pole and the light will go up shortly in the lower parking lot.
- Rectory – Needs attention. George is getting quotes for a complete paint job.

Stewardship – Chris W.

Current members of the Stewardship Committee are Rita Verespy, Chris W. (co-chairs), Harry Gustafson, Trish Culver and the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

Envelopes and pledge cards have gone out and are due back by November 14th, which is Dedication Sunday. Anyone who has not turned in a pledge card by then will be contacted by phone by Vestry members on November 19-21.

The Committee is asking the Vestry to turn in their pledges **before** October 31st, so that an announcement can be made at the Coffee and Conversation that 100% of the Vestry has pledged.

Chris W. agreed to send an email to all Vestry member to remind them to please get their pledges in before October 31.

Nominating – Chris W.

Current members of the Nominating Committee are Murry Edwards and Chris W. (co-chairs), David Spengler and David Ferkinhoff. They are charged with nominating 4 vestry positions and 4 folks to be delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

They hope to review folks for consideration by November 17; confirm a slate by December 15, and receive bios and publish a slate in January (2022!).

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Matt S. and seconded by Dave F. that we accept the Consent Agenda, consisting of the September Vestry Minutes and Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk