

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2021 – via Zoom

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

Absent: Chris Winslow.

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:00 p.m. by reading a prayer by Thomas Merton. The Vestry reviewed St. Mary's Mission and Goals and Strategies for 2021.

Reconnecting with each other, in the presence of God.

Discussion of Chapter 6 in the *Vestry Resource Guide*, on Stewardship and Vision. Points and issues lifted up included

- The caution about using Endowment Funds to shore up the operating budget. We need to continue to be cautious and intentional about our use of these funds.
- 100% pledging commitment on the part of the Vestry is very important.
- A stewardship campaign is not just about budget, but about possibilities.
- Jennifer asked how would we, as Vestry members, articulate our mission and vision?
- Julie offered the idea that we are called to serve and support our community during really strange times, and that we are doing our best with this mandate.
- We are trying to encourage people to walk with Christ, setting up situations that encourage folks to feel safe and welcome.
- George L. mentioned perseverance – we have found ways to worship and come together in spite of it all, and to even be successful in inviting new people in. We are not waiting for this to be over – we are managing to find a way through.
- Richard U. shared that he has seen so many people lately that are close to giving up. Could one of our ministries be to invite people who are experiencing little hope into our community that will help and support them?
- Jennifer shared that pastoral and mental health needs are definitely increasing. We are doing well in supporting each other.

Updates

Invite, Welcome, Connect - Mattie and Lee

The IWC Committee (Lee, Murry and Mattie) sent out a report on progress so far, and also a link to the most up-to-date *Invite Welcome Connect* site – so that folks on the Vestry might view and explore the many facets of this initiative.

The basic take-away from discussions so far is that IWC is not a program, but a process. A way of doing things that makes a “job” in the church a “mission and ministry.” The IWC committee will meet again in October and discuss next steps at that meeting.

Nominating Committee – Jennifer

The Nominating Committee for 2022 will be the 3 Vestry members who are rotating off – Chris W., Dave S., and Dave F. Murry Edwards and Chris W. will co-chair.

Ministry Fair – Marlo

The Fair went very well. 12 people signed up for various ministries, and many folks enjoyed a tour of the historic church and learning about what plans are in the works for renovating the interior.

Fall Worship and Goals - Jennifer

The Worship Team has regathered and will invite more participation and do some training as time goes on.

Due to current conditions it is not possible to plan very far ahead – we have to continue to remain nimble and flexible. Worship will remain outdoors – weather permitting. If we move indoors we will be in St. George’s Chapel, which has good ventilation and flexible seating. Masks will be required for all.

Service time will change to 10:00 a.m. beginning in October. October 3rd we will have Blessing of the Animals. On October 24th we will welcome new members. It is possible that Karen will be resuming Adult Bible Study soon. This will be indoors, but in the chapel, and physically distant with microphones.

We will have Advent / Christmas lights again this year!!

Renewal Funding Team – Peter C.

The path toward fund raising is becoming clearer, and it looks like we will need to raise about \$500,000 to \$550,000 to complete the interior renovations. We have on hand approximately \$150,000.

The plan from now until December 31st is to solicit donations from friends and supporters before the tax year ends, and also to pursue grants. Once the year ends, the team will re-assess where they are and what more needs to be done. The slate project is still in the wings and there are other possibilities for more grass-roots fundraising.

Paul W. needs to step down as head of the HCRT – but will not do so until a replacement has been found. Jennifer is working on this.

Junior Warden Update – George LeBlanc

Tree saga continues! Sometime this winter a team from SMC, along with reps from Northeast Tree, plan to do a more in-depth survey of the trees on our property and what might need to be done in the long term. It is much more cost efficient to work with a planned removal and upkeep schedule than to react to emergencies. There is currently a tree that is split in half on our property, that needs to be taken down, but it will be less money if we do this in the winter along with the other upkeep issues that have been identified. Jon will put warning tape around the tree to keep folks away.

- The Parish House is complete – yay Jon!
- Work on the wall is in process
- The floor of the Worship Shell will be stained this fall, and a power line installed.
- George and Jon are exploring a solar powered light for the lower parking lot.
- Looking ahead to next year, Bruno Painting will be submitting a quote for painting the Rectory.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk