

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING  
MINUTES  
April 25, 2024

**Present:** Senior Warden-Richard Updegrave, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Lauren Lema, Rita Verespy, Alex Simmons, Anne Wood, Jerry Culver, Cory Thurston, Sarah Barker, Jason DeFalco, David Burke, Associate Rector Meaghan Brower and the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

**Attended via Zoom:** Junior Warden-John Corbishley

The Rector opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. with a Bible reading and prayer.

**Reconnecting with each other in the presence of God – Jennifer**

Based on the Bible reading, Jennifer asked several questions that the vestry answered and discussed.

**Rector's Reports and Communications**

**Summer schedule and worship - Jennifer**

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> both worship services will move to St. George's Chapel for the summer. The vestry discussed the desirability of changing the Sunday morning service to 9:00 a.m. during the summer. No final decision was made, but it was pointed out that we had just recently changed the service to 10:00 a.m. so it might be better to maintain some consistency with regard to Sunday morning. The vestry was encouraged to seek ideas from other parishioners.

**Music Director – Jason D.**

The search for a new music director is progressing. Jason and his committee have done an incredible amount of work relating to job descriptions and requirements, recruitment strategies, outreach (to colleges, churches, the Diocese, etc.) and praying!

At this point there are two credible candidates who will be invited to interview and visit, and perhaps even meet the choir and conduct. Stay tuned!

**Church Yard Excavator - Jennifer**

Several issues have arisen regarding our current cemetery excavator, which issues ultimately led to his resignation. We have hired a vault company, which will do all the work surrounding burying remains or cremains in our churchyard. St. Mary's will be responsible for digging the grave.

We will probably need to revisit our fee structure, but it will take 3-4 full burials for us to accurately ascertain how much things cost.

## **Welcome Weekend - Jennifer**

St. Mary's will hold another Welcome Weekend, on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a dinner for adults at the Rectory at 6:30 p.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and a special party for children at the Parish House. Sixteen adults and 7 children are confirmed as coming; 7 adults and 2 children may be added.

Dinner assignments:

- Rita and Sara will each bring lasagna
- Rita will bring a dessert
- Alex will bring wine and soda
- Mattie will bring a salad
- Cory will bring bread.

People will be formally enrolled as new members at both the 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. service that weekend

## **Associate Rector's Report – Meaghan B.**

A Planning Dinner for summer will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Meaghan said not to be “scared” to come – the committee is hoping to divvy up responsibilities in small portions!

Two concerts are already in place – Caroline Cotter in June and Bar Fly in August. Meaghan is working on someone for July. All plans are in motion,

Meaghan was selected as keynote speaker for a conference for Assistant-to-the-Bishop types. She will be away May 4 through 10.

## **Junior Warden – John**

**Stained glass window leaks** – John has been working with Ron Machtley and Tripp Burman to determine what exactly needs to be done and what materials need to be used. And, of course, to zero in on cost. John is still waiting for a final proposal from Mr. Burman. [The motion to proceed with these repairs, which was taken and passed via email, is attached at the end of these minutes.]

**Beech Trees** – Spraying the beech trees on our property is costing us \$15,000 per spray. This spraying may have to be kept up indefinitely and there is no guarantee of success – especially with the older, more established trees, who are more susceptible and less resilient. Given the cost of these treatments and the uncertainty of success, there was consensus among the vestry members that St. Mary's not invest in what might be a futile effort to rescue all our beech trees.

Plans going forward may include

- Trying to rescue the younger trees only
- Developing a re-forestation program, based on recommendations from local arborists.
- Creating a way for concerned people “buy a tree” in memory of a loved one, or some sort of similar process.

Jennifer thanked John for an incredible job and for his stewardship of our buildings and grounds

**Treasurer's Report – David Brierley**

David gave his quarterly financial review. He said that our finances are generally in good shape. Expenses are almost on target and income is healthy, too. David then reviewed the rest of the report.

He passed around a report (included annually with the Parochial Report) that detailed Trust, Endowment and Invested Funds. Vestry members were asked to read the report over and bring any questions they might have to the next meeting.

**Miscellaneous – Richard U.**

- Rick reminded everyone of the policy the vestry established regarding donations. All proposed donations need to go through Jennifer first, and she will review and take appropriate action.
- Small groups from the vestry retreat need to continue to meet and check in with each other.
- Rick will work on rescheduling new vestry member orientation.

**Consent Agenda**

Richard U. made a motion, seconded by Jerry C, that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Minutes and Stewardship Report for March 2024. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. with everyone saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie E. Gustafson  
Clerk