

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 29, 2024

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

**Absent:** Jerry Culver

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

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

Jennifer read a passage from First Corinthians (1: 12 and following) and asked the following questions:

1. If St. Mary's is the body, how do you see God at work in this body?
2. What gift (s) do you bring to the body of St. Mary's and your leadership role?

**Rector's Reports and Communications – Jennifer**

**Music Director**

The search for a new music director has been opened again. The position is 10 hours/week and will be based on the job description devised by the search committee. Members of the search committee are Julie Zecher, Marilyn Hambly, Chris Barker, and Karen Stephenson, plus Jennifer. A full report and the job description can be found on Basecamp.

A motion was made by John C. to reopen the search. The motion was seconded by Richard U. The motion passed.

**Vestry Retreat**

The vestry retreat will be held Friday evening, March 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday morning and afternoon, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Maria DeCarvalho will be the facilitator. Jennifer distributed a handout for all to read before the retreat, and Meaghan asked folks to sign up to help with food, set up and clean up.

**Parochial Report**

Jennifer explained what the Parochial Report was and explained that the report is important to St. Mary's because its contents impacts how much our Diocesan apportionment is. The apportionment is the annual amount each Episcopal church in RI sends to the RI Diocese to support its operations.

Richard U. made a motion to accept the Parochial Report, which was seconded by Alex S. The motion passed.

### **Rectory Kitchen update**

A former parishioner has donated money to renovate the rectory kitchen. Jennifer is working with local contractors on this project.

David Brierley has created a separate account to better keep track of the expenses involved.

### **New Vestry Orientation**

An orientation for new vestry members will be held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. (right before the 5:00 p.m. worship service). Members of the Executive Committee and all new vestry members should attend.

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

Meaghan reported on the great success of the “Second Chance Pancake Dinner.” Lots of people and families attended. The hope for these kinds of events is to build and deepen relationships among all members – young and old – of our church community. Meaghan will continue to schedule similar events.

She and Jennifer are discussing holding a second New Member Welcome Day in the spring.

**Holy Week** – We will be holding the Easter Vigil once more. Anyone interested in crafting this experience please email Jennifer. There will be a meeting of all interested shortly.

### **Stewardship** – Rita V.

We continue to receive new pledge cards. And the historic church fund drive will be ending this coming December (2024).

David Burke mentioned that the entryway to the historic church was a bit crowded, which made it hard to hand out welcome cards or Easter flower requests – or anything, for that matter. Jennifer asked Cory to get together with the greeters and think about possible solutions. Jennifer also mentioned that we needed to make more Welcome Cards.

### **Junior Warden** – John

- The Community Garden repairs are almost done. Just waiting on a “critter barrier.”
- Beech trees are going to be a long-term problem. It looks like that spraying that was done last year might need to be done every year. John is consulting some other tree companies. He is hoping to come up with some decisions and a plan by June.
- Gibbs House needs its own electric meter.
- John is looking into installing 3 more solar lights in the lower parking lot. There is also the possibility of making the lower parking lot bigger.

- John is exploring the issue of life-time maintenance of the church yard and the implications that requirement has for funding, etc.
- He is planning on creating a spreadsheet that outlines a schedule for required, ongoing maintenance – A Master Maintenance Plan!

### **Treasurer's Report – David Brierley**

- David spoke briefly about the new line item for the rectory kitchen and the issue of perpetual care for the church yard. The Executive Committee will look at the church yard issue.
- The Treasurer's Report for this month includes a report on the St. Mary's reserve fund.
- David also informed us that the line of credit we had taken out from Bank Newport at the start of the historic church renovation was never touched! He has closed out that account.
- The complete Treasurer's report can be found on Basecamp.

### **Consent Agenda**

David Brierley made a motion, seconded by Alex S., that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Minutes for January 2024. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. with everyone saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie E. Gustafson  
Clerk