

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING
MINUTES
February 27, 2025

Present: Senior Warden-Richard Updegrove, Junior Warden-John Corbishley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Lauren Lema, Jerry Culver, Cory Thurston, Alex Simmons, Sarah Barker, David Burke, Rector Jennifer Pedrick, and Associate Rector Meaghan Brower.

Absent: Treasurer-David Brierley, Jason DeFalco, and Nancy Kimble

Jennifer opened the meeting at 5:56 by reciting a prayer and then welcoming the new vestry members.

Reconnecting with each other in the Presence of God – Jennifer

Our theme for the upcoming Lenten season is “Even at the grave we sing our song...” which is taken from the Burial Service from the Book of Common Prayer.

Jennifer and Meaghan then went through the people present at the 3 days of the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Saturday and the Great Vigil), and asked vestry members to list characteristics of these people, and then to identify any one of them a vestry member resonated with.

Rector's Report – Jennifer

Vestry Retreat

Brian L. will be leading our Vestry Retreat, which will be taking place on Friday, March 14th at the Rectory and Saturday, March 15th at the Parish House, in the Southside Studio. The Saturday session will conclude with a brief vestry meeting and orientation.

Parochial Report

Jennifer passed out the Parochial Report (due in March, 2025) for review and signatures. Jennifer made a motion to accept the Parochial Report as presented. John C. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Miscellaneous

- About 20 people turned out to help plan for Holy Week and the Great Vigil.
- 30 people have indicated an interest in being confirmed or received when the bishop visits in May.
- The newly formed Hospitality Team, with Karen Stephenson as leader, seems very committed and responsive.

Junior Warden Report – John C.

- Jon, our property manager, John Corbishley and Dave Brierley met with Messenger Security to review options for security cameras around the rectory and entrance to the property. Messenger is preparing a proposal.
- Work is progressing well with the rectory and is almost done! The kitchen looks wonderful and its functionality has been greatly improved. While the workers and tradespeople are there, John suggested that we consider improvements to the bathroom on the first floor.

John made a motion to extend the scope of work at the rectory to include upgrades to the small downstairs bathroom. The cost of these upgrades is limited to \$3500. Rick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

With respect to reinforcing the value of this work, John has learned that the state currently has 7 churches looking for priests and has discovered that housing is one of the contributing challenges to attracting quality candidates. Our rectory, with all the improvements, will, in the long run, be an added incentive to future rectors.

Senior Warden Report – Rick Updegrove

- Rick is working on planning some of the meals for our vestry retreat. He will email vestry members with a link to Anna D's restaurant. Members should select a sandwich for Saturday afternoon.
- Nancy K. and Murry need to be added to Basecamp.
- The changes proposed to the Tuck Fund, recommended by the Tuck Committee, are still under review.

Murry needs to look at the second draft of the proposals. For scholarships to be given out in a timely manner, a figure that is prudent for available scholarships for this year, needs to be given to the committee by the Finance Committee before June 1st. The rest of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the fall.

- St. Mary's has been the recipient of two gifts from the Estate of Helen E. Jones. After a short discussion, the following motions were made:

1) Rick moved to accept the unrestricted donation of \$15,000 from the Estate of Helen E. Jones. John C. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2) Rick moved to acknowledge the receipt of an additional, restricted gift of \$5,000. This gift was donor restricted to St. Mary's outreach ministry. John C. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Vestry Day is being held at St. Luke's at East Greenwich on March 29th. Both Sarah and Rick will be going. Anyone else is also welcome to attend.

Consent Agenda

Jerry C. made a motion, seconded by Rick U., that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Stewardship Report, the Treasurer's Report, and the Minutes for December 2024. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11, with everyone reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk