

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

**Present:** Senior Warden-Marlo Pratt, Junior Warden-George LeBlanc, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Lauren Lema, Rita Verespy, Lee Ferreira, Richard Updegrave, Alex Simmons, John Corbishley, Associate Rector Meaghan Brower and the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick. Anne Wood attended via Zoom.

**Absent:** Cory Thurston

The Rector opened our time together at 6:00 p.m. with prayer and then we held a celebration in honor of the vestry members who were leaving the vestry or had accepted another position within the vestry.

**Rector's Time** – Jennifer

*Musician Search*

The process for choosing our new Music Director is in place and by March we should have called a new director.

*Pastoral Care*

A Grief Support Group will be starting in March – on the first Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. This is planned to be a monthly gathering.

*Goals for 2024*

Jennifer asked the current vestry to name areas that the new vestry might like to pay attention to. Suggestions included:

- Better online presence
- Update website regarding stewardship, giving and planned giving. Why give?
- Celebration for end of the historic church giving
- More programs for children
- Look at maintenance and repair as an on-going effort
- There is more to do for the historic church – we are not really finished
- Adult education – not necessarily on a Sunday – at various times and for various lengths of time – Bible study
- Find a way to involve new people in a church ministry
- Focus on “connect” part of Invite, Welcome, Connect
- New member orientation – add an additional new member welcome weekend – mentors?
- More teaching of spiritual practices – how so you live in a prayerful way?
- Continue rest and play this summer!

The new vestry needs to set specific goals and determine who will oversee moving things forward.

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

Meaghan is working on how to plug newcomers into to SMC's ministries and activities. She is also working with David B. on exploring a new streaming platform for our online services. Meaghan is planning more family dinners as well.

**Stewardship** – Rita V.

For the 2024 campaign, the Stewardship Committee were far more organized and intentional in their follow-up activities. Rita thinks this is part of the reason we did reach our goal of \$300,00 for 2024. We are on a good steady path for the final year of giving toward the historic church renovation.

Rita credits God's presence and the generosity of the people of St. Mary's for the success of both efforts.

Jennifer thanked Rita and Chris W. for an incredibly hard job well done.

**St. Mary's 2024 Budget** – Dave B.

David went over the 2024 budget as approved by the vestry in December 2023. He will not be at the annual meeting, and Richard U. volunteered to present the budget then.

Again – thanks for David for his hard work and diligence.

**IWC Update** – Lee

- We have decided not to offer a nursery during worship service currently.
- The map of SM's campus continues to be worked on – and the map as a brochure is also a work in progress,
- The pictorial parish directory is done, printed, and will be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

**Junior Warden** – George

- The Community Garden fence is done. It was a group effort with post diggers, and volunteers. Even the farmer next door helped!
- Beech trees were inspected, but the report is not back yet. George suspects they may need another treatment.
- There are projects that still need to be done on the historic church – George lists them in his report.
- We are going to install more solar lighting in the lower parking lot – a few a year. These are less expensive than regular lights and do a good job.

George thanked Jon and the Property Committee for all their hard work. He also thanked Jennifer for her great leadership.

*Rectory kitchen renovation*

We need to get the scale and scope of the project, and we need some professional help with planning and cost estimates.

**Consent Agenda**

Richard U. made a motion, seconded by George L, that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report for December 2023. 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