

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING  
MINUTES  
July 24, 2025

**Present:** Junior Warden-John Corbishley, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Murry Edwards, Jerry Culver, David Burke, Cory Thurston, Alex Simmons, Lauren Lema, Jason DeFalco, Nancy Kimble, and the Rector, Jennifer Pedrick.

**Via Phone:** Senior Warden-Richard Updegrove

**Absent:** Sarah Barker,

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Vestry Reflections on Coffee and Conversation** – Jason D.

Jason guided us through a discussion and review of the comments made at the Coffee and Conversation held the previous Sunday. Vestry members commented that the congregation was surprisingly in agreement for what was going well (music!, worship, etc.) and what they wanted more of (Christian formation, especially for adults, family dinners and other ways to come together as a community, etc.)

Jason suggested that the next steps should be making sure the community knew that “we heard them” and that we are working on prioritizing and implementing many of the suggestions made. Jason volunteered to do this summing up and communicating. There was also be a connection made between the ministries and events people are looking for and the stewardship campaign, which kicks off the beginning of September. “In order to get these things done, it will take all of us working together – with time, talent and money.” This is another message that needs to be shared.

A meeting of all committee and commission heads was suggested, with three purposes

1. Help with financial planning and reporting
2. Ideas for recruiting people
3. A discussion of direction and goals - (Which really began with the Coffee and Conversation meeting and the suggestions made there.)

**Rector's Report** – Jennifer

**Investment Committee**

Ron Machtley has agreed to be chair of the SMC Investment Committee. Ron will meet with the vestry once he has met with the committee.

**Associate Rector**

Greg Prior will begin his half-time position at St. Mary's as Associate Rector on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. He will preach that weekend.

- Written reference – the Rev. Dr. John Gregory Prior - Call name – Greg
- His days at St. Mary's will be Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- His role – preaching, pastoral care and teaching.
- Email – [greg@smcportsmouth.org](mailto:greg@smcportsmouth.org)
- Greg will need a computer for his office.

David Brierley made a motion, seconded by Murry, that we purchase a new computer for Greg for \$1500. The motion passed.

### **Calendar meeting and organization of ministries**

- Several ministry leaders came together recently for a calendar meeting. The calendar was filled out through June 2026. Thus far it contains regularly held events and or meetings and important liturgical year occurrences. It is on Google Docs and can be changed and added to easily.
- Jennifer is meeting with each ministry area. She is asking each ministry to have a regularly scheduled monthly meeting, during the first half of the month. She is also asking each ministry to send out informal notes or minutes (as simple as bullet points). These notes should be emailed to Murry, who will then put them up on Basecamp.
- Nancy K. has picked up the *Invite, Welcome, Connect* ministry.
- We need some assistance with the Bar Fly concert. David Ferkinhoff will supply a list of names of people who can assist with parking. We will need 4 people to act as greeters. Alex and Nancy volunteered. Cory (who oversees greeters) needs 2 more people. Rick has made an initial contact with the Portsmouth police – we will need 1 or 2 of them present. John C. has agreed to design a simple “Who is St. Mary's?” flyer to give out at the concert. Alex will pull out the games.
- August vestry meeting - Sarah Barker has offered her backyard and pool for the August meeting. This is still to be confirmed.

### **Invite, Welcome, Connect – Nancy**

Nancy and Jennifer have updated the spreadsheet of new members. There are roughly 32 people who are continuing to worship and participate at SMC.

### **Welcome Weekend**

*Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup>* – Welcome new members at 5:00 p.m. service, followed by Bites and Beverages for all, followed by a reception at the rectory for new members.

*Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup>* – Welcome new members at 10:00 a.m. service

Nancy needs help planning the rectory reception. Also, several vestry members will need to attend, along with various other members of the congregation. Rita V. will be there as a

representative from the Stewardship Committee. Nancy and Jennifer will send out a formal request for help shortly.

Nancy then gave an excellent presentation on *Invite, Welcome, Connect* – which she described as an intentional ministry of evangelism, hospitality and connectedness.

### **Junior Warden's Report** – John Corbishley

#### **Church doors**

John has received a quote for \$17,000 to restore both wooden doors on the historic church. He will get some additional quotes.

#### **Rectory Renovation**

The small bathroom almost done!

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

Things are looking very good. The income side of our budget is doing well; the spending side is a bit high, some of which is due to timing. Expenses should be coming down over the next months.

David suggested a change from Zoom (which costs some money) to Google Meetings – which is free. He will be happy to hold a session introducing folks to Google Meetings and how to use it. Also, we might think about using Google Storage for archival information. Jennifer asked David Brierley to come up with a plan to implement the switch.

### **Consent Agenda**

David Brierley made a motion, seconded by Alex, that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Minutes for June 2025. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk