

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING  
MINUTES  
May 22, 2025

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

**Absent:** Jason DeFalco

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. Jennifer began by reading a poem: *Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front* by Wendell Berry.

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

We discussed SMC's theme – practicing resurrection, and shared moments of transformation

**Rector's Report** – Jennifer

**Sarah Gibbs Trust**

Jennifer mover that the vestry appoint Murry Edwards to serve on the Sarah Gibbs Trust. Her term would end in 2028. Alex seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Choir School of Newport Country**

The Choir School is no longer going to use our space. This means a loss of \$5600 that was in the 2025 budget.

**Head of Pastoral Care Team**

Pauline Davis, head of this team, through COVID and beyond, is retiring. SMC is holding a potluck luncheon to celebrate her ministry on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. All vestry members are invited.

**Pastoral Updates and Numbers**

Jennifer shared with us the following statistics for 2025 so far

- New members so far in 2025 - 5
- Additional potential new members (likely to join) - 17 to 20
- Death of members, funerals 2025 - 2
- Burials, member 1, non - members - 6
- Baptisms - 1, Upcoming Baptisms at Pentecost - 3
- Confirmations - 7
- Receptions - 4

- Holy Matrimony - 2 planned for members in 2025

Jennifer was asked to explain exactly what constituted “membership” in SMC. Members of St Mary’s are asked to commit to

- Attending worship as regularly as possible
- Participating in ministry
- Contributing financially to the church’s ministry in the form of a pledge
- Registering baptism on the parish roster.

Welcoming new members, putting together a Welcome Weekend, and in general easing new members integration into our community is an important ministry and Jennifer is looking for someone to lead or assist with this ministry.

### **Christian Formation – Meaghan**

Meaghan presented a formal report, which reviews the team’s activities and accomplishments for the year.

- Monthly emails, with read-a-longs, “Ask a priest” videos, and other announcements
- Family dinners
- Advent series – Walk in Love (Brian Litzenberger)
- Lenten book study – An Altar in the Word by Barbara Brown Taylor
- Episcopal Beliefs and Practices – 6 sessions

### **Discussion –**

- Murry suggested we try to find out how much money was spent on Family Dinners, etc. so we would have a better idea for next year’s budget. This year we did get a grant for \$2000 to assist with expenses.
- SMC people seem very interested in formation opportunities. Attendance at all offerings was steady and quite good.
- The vestry thanked Meaghan, Jason, and the whole team for a wonderful year in Christian formation.

### **Technology Update – Murry**

Murry has done a survey of all the various digital platforms in use at St. Mary’s. The Diocese uses a platform called Realm and has suggested that churches in the Diocese consider switching. Realm seems to be very user friendly and this switch would eliminate duplication and make creating the Parochial Report easier and compatible with diocesan reporting requirements. Realm will also support stewardship and even the website. Also, there might be some grant money available from the Diocese to help with a transition.

### **Computer Update – David Brierley**

The new computers and the updated version of *Office* are all ordered. The new laptop is being configured and will be ready soon for use.

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

### **Security cameras**

- Cameras in the gathering space have been adjusted to give a better view of the entrance door and the outdoor camera that covers the parking area has been upgraded to a digital unit, giving better clarity to the picture.
- Security cameras have been installed on the north side of rectory allowing a view of the rectory door and entrance to property from East Main Rd. Software to view these areas has been installed on Karen's computer, Jenifer's computer, and phone.

### **Rectory Renovation**

1. We are waiting on contractor to become available for downstairs bath.
2. Brendon has completed interior painting of the upstairs bedroom.
3. We are using bluestone from walk from rectory to labyrinth to create a grilling area outside porch, as the existing spot is awkward now that the door from the kitchen is gone.
4. We are also placing some of this stone in the trash area, to prevent it from getting muddy, and filling and seeding the areas where the stone walkway was removed.

### **Miscellaneous**

There is a limb obstructing the bridal path, which needs to be removed by June 18<sup>th</sup> , in time for the next wedding.

## **Senior Warden Report** – Rick Updegrove

### **Investment Committee**

We are still looking for a chair for the Investment Committee.

### **By-Law Committee**

We need to convene a 4-member committee to review and update our by-laws. A review had been done previously, but the results were never voted on.

### **Tuck Fund**

The Finance Committee began a review of the fund, and will be looking at the whole process in the fall. We will keep the scholarship guidelines in place this year (including the \$2000 per semester limit) and await the Finance Committee review for any future changes.

The generally acceptable draw of endowment funds is 5.5%. If there is any chance that scholarship awards will exceed the 5.5% guideline, then the Tuck Committee will ask the vestry for approval. David Brierley will let Murry know what 5.5% looks like in dollars and cents.

Murry made a motion, seconded by Rick, that in circumstances of special needs, the Tuck Fund Committee is authorized to award up to \$5000 per semester. This special circumstance will require the approval of the Rector. The motion passed, with one abstention.

Lori Corbishley will be the new head of the Tuck Fund Committee. Nancy Kimble is joining the committee and Murry is leaving.

**Consent Agenda**

David Brierley made a motion, seconded by Rick, that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Stewardship Report, the Treasurer's Report, and the Minutes for April 2025. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk