

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
February 19, 2012

Members Present: Rev. Stacy Walker-Frontjes, Rector; Mike Duffy, Senior Warden; David Anderson, Junior Warden; Pat Brown, Treasurer; Gretchen Schlabach; Luke Krueger; Bill Cummings; Freyja Rasmussen-Johns

Members Absent: None

Guests: Lorraine Langer, Director of Music Ministries

The meeting came to order at 12:17 p.m. Opening prayer was led by Rev. Stacy.

Appreciations:

1. For Mike and Kathleen's postlude today;
2. To Brian Prall for preaching
3. To the Stubblefields for coffee hour
4. For a great vestry retreat and to Jim Steen
5. For all the kids coming in to sing "Halle Halle" during the service

Today's scripture, Mark 9:2-9, was read and discussed.

Rev. Stacy made a few changes in the wording of the minutes from the January 15th meeting. Dave Anderson motioned to accept the minutes with the changes; Pat Brown seconded. Motion carried

Senior Warden's Report:

Mike Duffy and Brad Cripe are working on interviews for the new parish administrator.

Junior Warden's Report:

The Building & Grounds committee met informally at coffee hour today. They will try to get hold of a tree service to look at the ash trees, with the idea of possibly replacing them if they can't be treated. They will ask about removal estimates and may ask the Vestry for approximately \$1200 for new trees. Nothing is written in stone yet. Rhys Prall is working on the drainage situation. The committee also discussed the possibility of planting some bushes on the berm to discourage so much foot traffic.

Treasurer's Report:

Pat Brown reported that we received a \$30,000 pledge in January bringing the income for January to \$36,792. There was \$20,777 in disbursements. Brief discussion ensued. Mike Duffy moved to accept the financial report and file it for audit. Luke Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Outreach and Mission:

No report.

Fellowship:

See Addendum I.

Music Ministries:

See Addendum II

Rector's Report:

See Addendum III. In addition, the Vestry reviewed the Membership page of the Parochial Report for 2011. Bill Cummings made a motion to accept this report. Pat Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Pat will send the Stewardship and Financial portion of the Parochial Report to the Vestry by e-mail, and will be voted on by e-mail. See Addendum IV.

A memorial service for Dick Beard will take place on April 28th at 11:00

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Liaisons from the Vestry to subcommittees:

1. Outreach and Mission: Rev. Stacy will ask Jennie Cummings to continue to send reports.
2. Magnetic Church: Ellen Anderson is retiring from this committee. Mike asked if it's necessary to continue this committee; it was decided to dissolve it.
3. Stewardship: This team composed the pledge letter, organized the season of thanksgiving, etc. Its main function is to organize the fall pledge drive. Bill Cummings volunteered to serve as liaison.
4. Communications: Responsibilities include press releases, marketing, getting the word out, social media, etc. Committee members also reworked the bulletin boards and the Proclaimer. Mike proposed hybridizing the Communications and Magnetic Church committees together for outside communications to the community. Rev. Stacy tabled discussion on what this committee should do, and will put it under Old Business for next month.
5. Mike will chair the parish bylaws revision committee. Luke and Gretchen volunteered to assist.

It was decided to focus on the Mission and Vision of St. Paul's at the March and April Vestry meetings. In May and June, the Vestry will discuss the solemnization of civil unions (the Diocesan policy, what we will do at St. Paul's, etc.). Rev. Stacy said she would send out the Diocesan policy and St. Paul's policy for customary marriage.

The April Vestry meeting will be moved to April 22nd.

Mike closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Freyja Rasmussen-Johns, Vestry Clerk

Addendum I

Fellowship Committee

Report for February 2012

Game night (Feb. 10th), although not highly attended because of bad weather, didn't lack for fun. Luke Stubblefield brought his dad, Jamie; Nora and Charlie Duffy accompanied their dad, Mike; and all joined Ellen Anderson and Rick and Freyja Johns for a couple of rousing games of Candyland and Chutes & Ladders. Uno was also a big hit for the whole group too. We're thinking Game Night might be better scheduled for a less unpredictable-weather time of the year.

There is currently a signup sheet in the Parish Hall for the Ash Wednesday soup supper.

The next event on the docket is the Annual Chili Cook-off coming up on March 25th. Details to follow.

-Freyja Rasmussen-Johns

Addendum II:

Lorraine Langer, Director of Music 01-18-2012

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting – February 19, 2012
Music Ministries Report**

The Adult/Youth Choir

Is working on some new repertoire (anthems/songs) for Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

The Children's Choir

Recently learned one of the Epiphany service music selections. They performed the gospel acclamation with the Adult/Youth Choir during the 10:30 worship service three Sundays in February. *Hallelujah!*

New Choir Music

I have purchased a yearly subscription to **St. James Music Press** (\$139.00). Their home page states: *Church Choral Music You'll Love - we're good, we're cheap, we're snooty!* This site enables me to legally download, copy and share sheet music and the accompaniment as a sound track. A great tool to assist choir members in learning and practicing music.

Musician Reviews

Organist and Pianist reviews are scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2012. Rev. Stacy and Lorraine will be reviewing Kathleen Johnson our organist and Yao Lin our pianist.

Special Thanks

To Rick Johns for adding a mirror and a shelf to the closets storing the choir robes. Also to David Aarons for playing the drums with the children's choir & services and to Michael Duffy for playing trumpet for the service.

Addendum III:

Rector's Report:

- I. Pastoral Care—In addition to routine pastoral care duties at St. Paul's, I am keeping in touch with Dorathea Beard. We have set the funeral and inurnment at St. Paul's for Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 11AM. I have notified the altar guild, music director, and reception organizers of this upcoming event.
- II. Vestry Retreat—I thought our Mutual Ministry Review with Jim Steen went quite well. I emailed the goals of the Vestry and the Rector to the vestry members immediately following our retreat. To recap, here are the goals we set for 2012 in our mutual ministry review:
 - a. Rector:
 1. Form a Creative Liturgy Team (And the vestry encouraged me to block out the time necessary for this planning)
 2. Make connections with the larger community at NIU and in the immediate neighborhood.
 - b. Vestry and Wardens:
 1. Vestry members will send written reports to other members by the Wednesday before the vestry meeting each month.
 2. Draft minutes of vestry meetings will be posted in a timely manner--within two weeks of a meeting.
 3. The Junior Warden plans to become thoroughly familiar with the Buildings and Grounds.
 4. Make connections with people we do not know.
- III. Liturgy—I am working closely with the Music Director, Altar Guild, and others to plan our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter liturgies. We will be adding some new elements to our worship this year particularly in the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil). Maundy Thursday will have the greatest amount of change from last year, the service of the Word will be a family style Mediterranean dinner followed by the Eucharist and stripping of the altar in preparation for the Vigil at the Altar of Repose and Good Friday. All Triduum services will be at 6PM to accommodate younger children and those who do not wish to drive late in the evening.
- IV. Christian Education
 - a. Children's and Youth Christian Education are doing well. The Godly Play classrooms could always use a few more volunteers for when the regular teachers and greeters are not able to attend. Godly Play could also use more donations towards purchasing materials for additional stories.
 - b. I will be meeting with the Sunday School teachers on Sunday, February 26, 2012 at 1215PM to discuss spring and summer children's and youth ministry activities as well as possible candidates for teachers for the youth Sunday School in 2012/2013 Sunday School year.
 - c. Adult Inquirers/Confirmation class "Big Questions" Small Group starting our first of five to six once a month meetings Saturday, February 25th, 2012 from 530PM to

730PM. First meeting at the Rectory. Several in the group have offered to host a meeting at their homes as well.

d. Lenten Christian Education:

1. Soup for the Soul study of the Gospel of Mark starts on February 29th thru Wednesdays in Lent.
2. Sunday School for Adults in Lent will be reading "Radical Welcome" by Stephanie Spellers.

V. Administration

- a. Staff reviews of childcare staff will be complete by our March vestry meeting. I have asked parents and grandparents who use the nursery to offer their comments, and many have responded. All positive to date. I will be checking in with Pat Brown, Treasurer, prior to these reviews to see what sort of raises we can offer our childcare staff in compliance with the budget.
- b. Administrative Assistant Search—we have interviewed one candidate. Still taking applications. Looking into options for other places to advertise. Also considering possibility of contracting with a local staffing agency (temp agency).
- c. Exploring the possibility of hosting an intern for three weeks in June through the Lilly Summer Discernment Institute at The University of the South in Sewanee, TN. Joseph Butler is an undergraduate in philosophy who is a member of St. Andrew's Downers Grove, IL. We would split his six week internship with St. Peter's, Sycamore. The purpose of the internship is to assist the student to discern vocation, potentially to the priesthood. There would be no cost to St. Paul's. I am waiting to hear if the school approves of Mr. Butler's internship proposal.

VI. Mission and Community Activities

- a. I have been elected to serve a three year term on the Love INC board of Sycamore and DeKalb.
- b. Saturday, February 11th, 2012 St. Paul's hosted a neighborhood meeting hosted by the Islamic Society at NIU. The topic of discussion was the proposed plans for the building of a new mosque at ISNIU's current location at 721 and 801 Normal Road. I said a few words regarding our relationship with ISNIU and why we support their building project. The meeting was very supportive of ISNIU overall. It was also a great opportunity to meet our non-Muslim neighbors and share with ISNIU in showing hospitality to our neighbors. It is quite possible we will continue to be involved in interfaith discussions and community service with ISNIU in the future as the desire seems to be there in both faith communities.

VII. Other

- a. I will be on vacation April 9th thru April 16th (Monday thru Monday). I am still finalizing who will be our supply priest for April 15th.
- b. I will be finalizing my summer vacation plans in July by the end of the month. I plan to be gone July 1st thru at least July 20th. I already have a supply priest tentatively scheduled for July 8th and July 15th.
- c. Once my summer vacation plans are settled we can set the date for the parish summer picnic.

Addendum IV:

Attached is the Stewardship and Financial portion of the 2011 Parochial Report. The Vestry voted by e-mail to unanimously accept this report on February 27, 2012.