

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Minutes**  
**March 18, 2012**

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: Lorraine Langer, Director of Music Ministries

Rev. Stacy opened the meeting at 12:22 p.m. with a prayer.

Appreciations:

- To Melissa London for interviewing and taking the position of Parish Administrator
- To Brad Cripe and Rev. Stacy for finding an acceptable person for the position
- To Rev. Stacy and Lorraine for filling in administrative assistant duties
- To the choir for today's anthem
- For spring weather
- In advance, to all who are making Holy Week possible
- From Luke, to all parishioners who came to his play
- For Rev. Stacy's sermons and giving us stimulating things to think about

Today's scripture, John 3:14-21 was read and discussed.

Pat Brown motioned to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Luke Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Senior Warden's Report: Mike Duffy submitted the following report by e-mail:

"Senior Warden's Report – March 14, 2012

Since the February 19 Vestry meeting, we have formed a Bylaws Revision Committee to examine and propose revisions to our parish bylaws. The committee consists of Michael Duffy, chair, Luke Krueger, and Gretchen Schlabach. At this time, we are reading relevant sections from the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church (2009), the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago (2011), and chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 11 from *The Vestry Handbook* by Christopher L. Webber. We hope to complete this reading by the May vestry meeting and then begin our work of proposing revisions to our bylaws, taking into account our local practices and the canon law that governs us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Duffy"

In addition, Dave Anderson and Mike are starting the process of working on the required energy audit which will be coming up in October. There was brief discussion regarding the audit.

Junior Warden's Report: Dave submitted the following report by e-mail:

"Building and Grounds Report -- March 18<sup>th</sup> Vestry Meeting  
Ash Tree Treatment

The Building and Grounds Committee met with Kevin O'Rourke from the Care of Trees. We have three Ash trees. The cost to treat the three trees would be \$1,715 for the first two years. This includes \$635 for a soil injection, and \$1,080 for trunk injections. Treatments would have to be repeated every 2 or 3 years, for 7 to 10 years until the infestation locally has passed. There are no guarantees on success, but if the trees are healthy, chances for success appear favorable based on current research. We will need to make a decision, because treatment needs to start this Spring. Without treatment, the trees will last 2-3 years.

I called Askeland Tree Service of DeKalb/Sycamore about the cost to remove the trees. Mike Askeland gave me an estimate as follows:

The tree in the front: \$1400 + \$150 for stump removal. The tree in the Durning Garden: \$450 + \$50 stump removal. The tree by the Rectory: \$500 + \$75 stump removal. Total cost: \$2625

A majority of the B & G Committee were inclined to not treat the trees, but to invest the money in new trees over the next 2-3 years.

Keep in mind we will have to spend money on the stone retaining wall in front of the main entrance to the church.

David Anderson"

Pat suggested getting several estimates for tree removal. Dave also said he'd get estimates regarding the retaining wall in front of the church. Rev. Stacy requested that the landscaper (mower) not use the weed whip near the young trees as they are becoming girdled. Rhys Prall and Dave will start hauling mulch for mulch rings around the trees. Rhys is also working on the roof drains as water has been leaking into the furnace room.

Treasurer's Report: Pat gave a few more specific instructions for counting the collection. She discussed the financial report. Bill Cummings motioned to accept the and file the financial report, and Dave seconded. Motion carried.

Outreach and Mission: Luke and Chris Krueger will attend and promote the Love, INC banquet fundraiser, which will take place on April 14, 2012.

Fellowship: Freyja submitted the following report by e-mail:

"Fellowship Committee Report for March 2012:

Feb 22nd – We had an abundance of soup, bread and salads for the Ash Wednesday supper following the service. There was probably more food than parishioners, but it was an enjoyable evening of fellowship.

Upcoming:

- The Great Chili Cook-off on March 25th following the 10:30 service. The signup sheet is filling out quite nicely, with lots of folks bringing pots of chili and other side dishes and desserts.
- Easter Vigil reception (Sat. April 7th) – Ellen and I will discuss soon and make a signup sheet for hors d'oeuvres and sparkling drinks.

-Freyja Rasmussen-Johns"

In addition the Low Sunday brunch will take place between the two services on April 15th.

Because Freyja will not be at the April vestry meeting, Gretchen Schlabach volunteered to take minutes and conduct the closing prayer (Freyja will do the prayer in May).

Music Ministries: Lorraine Langer submitted the following report by e-mail:

### **"Music Ministries Report**

#### **The Adult/Youth Choir**

The choir is doing a great job in rehearsals and worship services. The choir is working on some new and challenging repertoire for the current Lent and upcoming Easter season. Thanks Choir!

I am excited to have two youth singers join our Thursday rehearsals for two weeks in a row. They are a wonderful addition! Thanks Madison & Morgan Williams and mom (Kim) and dad (John) for supporting them coming out on a school night to rehearsal.

I met with Kathleen, our organist, on Saturday (3-17) to review music for holy week. We also practiced several choral anthems. My intention is to have the organ accompany the choir on a few anthems for our worship services during the year.

#### **The Children's Choir**

I met with Sue Ouellette on Wednesday, March 14, to videotape her signing several songs for the children's choir to work with. Sue signed the Alphabet, Twinkle Little Star, Jesus Loves Me, Halle-Halleluia and This Little Light of Mine. Sue will continue to collaborate with us on occasion during rehearsals.

There is definite personal and musical growth in all the kids. With Nora Duffy back singing (yah), we now have seven members. The children's choir will be singing in the late worship services of Easter (April 8) and Recognition Sunday (May 20).

#### **Musicians Reviews**

Rev. Stacy and I met with both Kathleen Johnson (organist) and Yao Lin (pianist) for their first annual performance review at the end of February.

Yao Lin has resigned from the pianist position. Rev. Stacy, Yao and I met on March 14. In addition to her studies and teaching assistantship at NIU, Yao is preparing for her graduate recital and thought it best to focus on her studies at this time. Molin Wang will fill in as the pianist until April 20. We are currently auditioning and interviewing additional substitutes for the remainder of the church choir year, which is May 20. We have also posted the position as open for fall 2012.

#### **Music Outreach**

On Saturday, March 17, I spent several hours with Bob Brown at Oak Crest. Bob asked if I would be willing to sing the Schubert *Ave Maria* for him and the residents at one of their Saturday gatherings. It was a wonderful experience. A few residents sang and I got to hear Bob sing during a group number. Bob has a beautiful voice! I hung out with Bob after the program. I agreed to return and also to work with Bob on one of his favorite songs, *The Old Rugged Cross*."

Rector's Report: Rev. Stacy submitted her report by e-mail. Please see Addendum I.

In addition, there were over 80 people in attendance at church today; the average is 66 so far. She is working on creative liturgies for Holy Week. Maundy Thursday will be different this year, with a Mediterranean dinner in the parish hall which will be catered by Mediterraneo Restaurant. Foot

washing will also take place in the parish hall and will involve the children. Parishioners will then move into the sanctuary and the altar of repose.

Rev. Stacy suggested we might want to use the Good Friday offering to send to the Church in the Holy Land. Mike motioned we do this. Freyja seconded. Motion carried.

There was some discussion about when to hold the parish picnic. July 29th was chosen as the tentative date (which also happens to be the anniversary of the Revs. Stacy and Rich!).

#### Old Business

1. The Magnetic Church and Communications committees officially closed in their current forms. There was some discussion as to the possible need for some type of communication committee to get news to the outside world. It was decided that these types of press releases would come from the parish office. Lorraine said she would take pictures of the newer vestry members and post them on the Web with bios.
2. Insurance: roof. Rev. Stacy had asked Rhys to see if the insulation is still wet. He said it's okay to start the repairs, so she asked Building and Grounds to start getting estimates for repairs.

#### New Business

The Vestry started a discussion about the mission and vision for St. Paul's with Rev. Stacy asking who do we say that we (St. Paul's) are. Replies included:

- welcoming
- The Episcopal Church
- Anglican
- inviting
- sharing
- inclusive
- supportive
- giving
- accepting
- family
- friends
- feel at home
- diverse
- spiritually fulfilling
- caring of individual members
- care of community
- open-minded
- eucharistic – communion central
- progressive thinking
- traditional yet contemporary
- traditional roots
- tradition/stories of this community
- interest in being engaged within outside and inside communities
- welcomes NIU community – students walk through our yards
- lobster boil unifying experience

- teaching and worship
- opportunities abound
- children much more involved in worship
- beautiful music
- sense of peace
- sharing faith
- dynamic energy
- happy feelings
- fellowship
- good spiritual leadership
- sermons
- belief in goodness
- sense of hope
- sense of purpose
- willingness to move on
- trying to live as Christ
- Christian
- authenticity – "walk the talk"

After the discussion (which we will continue next month), Luke closed the meeting at 2:00 p.m. with a prayer that he wrote. His prayer follows.

*"Dear Lord We Thank You:*

*For the honor of fellowship in service for*

*Your mission and our home at St. Paul's.*

*Stand by us as we endeavor to do Your*

*work, and by doing so answer Your call.*

*Grant that we help foster a spirit of the open door:*

*A spirit of community that embraces all God's children*

*so that our church is diverse yet one at its core,*

*dedicated to living by Christ's example. We ask pardon*

*when we might lose sight of these aspirations*

*and focus on I. With Your aid and our*

*friends here today, and for coming generations*

*we build, one brick at a time, a testimony to outlast our final hours.*

*Help us see that no brick stands alone,*

*but adds to the frame for the end cornerstone."*

Respectfully submitted,

Freyja Rasmussen-Johns

## ADDENDUM I

Rector's Report to the Vestry, March 18, 2012

The Rev. Stacy A. Walker-Frontjes, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, DeKalb, Illinois

### I. Pastoral Care

- a. I am continuing to keep in touch with Dorathea Beard after Dicks' death. Also I visited Norma Fitzgerald on Ash Wednesday for the imposition of ashes.
- b. I have visited Woody Smith during his recent hospital stay at Provena Mercy , Aurora. I visited once prior to his surgery on Friday, March 9, 2012. I plan to follow up with Woody post-surgery on Thursday, March 15, 2012. I have been staying in contact with his wife, Amy Franklin on a nearly daily basis via phone.

### II. Liturgy

- a. This month has been all about planning the Holy Week and Easter liturgies and activities with the Music Director, Administrative Assistant, and other lay ministers in the congregation.
- b. A short newsletter highlighting the events of Holy Week and Easter will be sent the last week of March.
- c. I would like the Vestry to approve the dedication of the Good Friday offering to the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem. This is a tradition in the Episcopal Church dating back to 1922. Read the letter from our presiding bishop at this link:  
[tp://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2012/02/27/presiding-bishop-upholds-goodfriday-offering-appeal/](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2012/02/27/presiding-bishop-upholds-goodfriday-offering-appeal/)
- d. We will be welcoming another member to the Body of Christ at the Easter Vigil this year (Saturday, April 7 at 6PM). Kim Petty, who was married at St. Paul's in 2009 with her husband Adam Petty, is preparing for Holy Baptism. I strongly encourage as many parishioners to attend as are able.
- e. I am making strides towards forming a creative liturgy team and have talked about this with a few parishioners who are helping develop and lead our Holy Week liturgies. I hope to pull together a creative liturgy team to start meeting this summer.

### III. Christian Education

- a. I met with the children and youth Sunday School teachers on February 26, 2012. We have planned the activities for the remainder of the Sunday School year.
  1. Our children will be taking an active role in the Maundy Thursday liturgy this year assisting the priest and adult ministers with the foot washing portion of the service. Children will remain with their families for this liturgy which begins with a Mediterranean style dinner and ends with Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar.
  2. Our children will also be active participants in the Great Vigil of Easter and have been hard at work on a telling of the story of The Flood (aka Noah's Ark) to be told to the congregation at the Vigil.
  3. Sunday School will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 8th, but there will be a children's chapel for all children (members and guests) during the 1030AM Holy Eucharist. The children's choir will sing during the 1030AM Holy Eucharist. An Easter egg hunt is also being

organized for after the 1030AM Holy Eucharist. The nursery will be open on Easter Sunday for infants and toddlers during the 1030AM service.

4. Sunday, May 13, 2012 (Mother's Day) will be the annual Baking Bread Sunday School and Holy Communion exploration day. Children will bake bread to be used at the Eucharist the following Sunday. Rev. Stacy will lead an exploration of Holy Communion with the children at the same time. All in the parish hall starting at 930AM.
  5. Sunday, May 20, 2012 at the 1030AM service will be Sunday School Recognition Sunday. The children's choir will sing and there will be a children's sermon. The service will be child friendly and include as many of our children and youth as possible as ministers in the service. This is the official close of Sunday School for the 2011/2012 academic year.
  6. I brought up the idea of Vacation Bible School, and it was discussed by the teachers (most of whom are parents). The conclusion was that there was no energy or passion to lead a traditional VBS. It was decided we would rather place our energies into continuing to develop Sunday School and also start a Children's Chapel/story time during the Sermon at the 1030AM service for children who are too old for the nursery but would appreciate an age appropriate story/video during the middle of the service.
- b. Lenten series for Adults
1. We are continuing to read "Radical Welcome" on Sunday mornings, and are looking forward to meeting the author, Stephanie Spellers, when she is at St. Paul's for a diocesan workshop on May 5, 2012.
  2. The introduction to the Gospel of Mark has been our topic at our Wednesday night Soup for the Soul series. We have had a group of 8-10 adults each week, and children in the nursery as well.
  3. We will start an Eastertide Soup for the Soul five week series on the Gospel of Luke on Wednesday, April 18, 2012.
- c. "Big Questions" adults small group met on February 25, 2012. Our next meeting will be on March 31st at the home of Brad and Rochelle Cripe from 530-730PM. We had nine adults total at our first meeting. We may have two or three more adults joining our group. Some people in the group are preparing for confirmation and/or reaffirmation of their baptismal vows when Bishop Lee is our guest at the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul on June 28, 2012 (at St. Peter's, Sycamore). Some are attending for the conversation and continued spiritual formation.

#### IV. Administration

- a. Staff reviews for 2012 are complete with the exception of Julie Rogers, whose appointment needed to be scheduled due to a family health emergency.
- b. Nursery
  1. I will meet with the three nursery staff on Sunday, March 25th, 2012 working with them to establish guidelines for the nursery at St. Paul's.
  2. After meeting with the Sunday School staff on February 25, 2012, I was made aware of the increased attendance in the nursery and the need to have three childcare workers in the nursery during our busy times of year.
  3. Our current staff: Julie Rogers, Alicia Dailey, and Brittany Altepeter will be working together on Sundays through May 20, 2012. I anticipate attendance will begin to drop starting on Memorial Day weekend (May 27), so we will try staffing the nursery with two childcare workers a Sunday during the summer months. I anticipate needing to have three childcare workers in the nursery each Sunday again starting in late August/early September.

4. Alicia Dailey informed me of her intent to move to a residential university at the end of this summer, so I will be looking to fill her position later this summer.
- c. Administrative Assistant search is complete.
  1. Melissa London began as our new administrative assistant on Monday, March 12, 2012.
  2. Melissa is a graduate student at the Clinical Psychology Department at NIU.
  3. Melissa will work primarily on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for the remainder of the academic term. This summer she will keep our more traditional office hours of Monday thru Thursday, 9AM-2PM.
  4. We will negotiate her schedule at the office per academic term.
- d. We will be hosting Joseph Butler as an intern in June 2012 at St. Paul's
  1. As mentioned in my February 2012 report, Joseph is a student at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He has been awarded one of two Algeron Sydney Sullivan internships at the Lilly Foundation Summer Discernment Institute. This is an internship for those students considering discernment for the priesthood and other vocations.
  2. I anticipate Joseph will be with us June 10th through June 29th, before spending the remainder of his six week internship with St. Peter's, Sycamore.
  3. I should know more in the next few weeks about the details of his internship.
  4. Sewanee may also publish an article about this internship in their magazine, which will be nice publicity for St. Paul's and St. Peter's on a national level.

#### V. Mission and Community Activities

- a. I have officially begun my three year term as a board member of Love Inc. in Sycamore/DeKalb.
- b. I have also begun a four year term as a member of the Alumni Steering Committee of the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas.

#### VI. Other

- a. I will be on vacation April 9th thru April 16th (Monday thru Monday). Fr. Jack Schauble will be our supply priest for April 15th at the 8AM and 1030AM Holy Eucharists. There will be no service on Wednesday, April 11, 2012.
- b. My summer vacation plans are to be gone July 1st thru July 20th. The Rev. Judy Hipple of Rockford will be our supply priest on July 8th and July 15th.
- c. I am ready to set a date for the parish picnic now that my summer vacation plans have been finalized.
- d. I may be attending a continuing education conference June 4th through June 8th at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. If so, we will not have a Wednesday Eucharist that week. I still determining whether or not my travel plans would have me absent on Sunday, June 3rd.