

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
April 22, 2012

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

Members Absent: Rev. Stacy Walker-Frontjes, Rector (excused)

Guests: Lorraine Langer, Director of Music Ministries

The meeting came to order at 11:58 a.m. Opening prayer was led by Mike Duffy.

Appreciations:

1. To Ellen Anderson and Rick and Freyja Johns for their work on all the social events;
2. For an innovative and interesting Holy Week and for all who pitched in to make it so;
3. To Lorraine and the beautiful music;
4. To Luke and his students for their participation in the Saturday Easter Vigil service;
5. To Father Jack Schauble for filling in these past two weeks;
6. To Dave and Ellen Anderson for all their work on the energy audit;
7. Thanks to all the Vestry members;
8. To the Vestry counters.

Vestry members read and reflected on today's scripture, Luke 24:36b-48.

Review of last month's minutes: Dave motioned to approve the March vestry minutes, seconded by Bill Cummings. Motion carried.

Senior Warden's Report:

Mike submitted this report by e-mail on April 18:

"Since the March 18 Vestry meeting, the Bylaws Revision Committee has continued reading the relevant background material to begin revisions. I have posted our Bylaws on Google Documents so that we may work collaboratively online.

David and Ellen Anderson submitted utility bills and measurements to begin the process of entering our energy benchmarks onto the EPA's Portfolio Manager website. This is the first step of our diocesan-mandated energy audit process. I will enter our data for the energy benchmarking. I emailed Bruce Beavis, who is coordinating the compilation of these data for the Diocese on March 28, with our registration information. As of today, I have not heard from him. I sent him a reminder email today. I will need to hear from him before I can enter our data. See the energy audit website at <http://energyauditichicago.weebly.com/index.html> for more information."

Mike also stated that he has now heard from Bruce Beavis. Mike is also entering data for the upcoming energy audit.

Junior Warden's Report

Dave submitted this report by email on April 19:

"Energy Audit: I was able to gather the data Mike Duffy needs to begin filling out our profile for the energy audit. This included two years of utility bills, square footage of the sanctuary and the parish hall (Ellen and I went through a lot of old dirty blueprints. I finally got the Rochelle HS math department to figure the square footage!), and seating capacity.

Stone retaining wall: I have received two bids for fixing the stone retaining wall in the front of the church/west side. Another company did not give me a bid. The B and G committee recommends accepting the bid from Flores Construction for the amount of \$4800. This firm has done a lot of work for the Condo association that Vince McMahon lives in, and gives them a good recommendation.

I will ask the Vestry to act on this Sunday. Please be prepared for discussion.

Painting sanctuary and repairing pew damage: I have had five painters come and look at the job. At this point in time I have two bids for the pew work and one for the painting with another expected shortly. I will discuss briefly on Sunday.

Spring clean-up/work day: We are looking at Saturday, May 12, for our Spring clean-up day. We begin at 9:00AM and are usually done by 11:00 if we have plenty of help. Please plan to attend and help. More details later."

Dave also said he spoke with six painters and now has two bids, one from Randy Chester. He'll get a third bid soon. He has a couple of bids on re-staining about five pews, one from K&J Decorating.

Cleanup Day on May 12 will involve mulching, trimming bushes, cleaning up trash, washing windows, cleaning up the kitchen, and whatever else needs tidying up.

Dave explained that the bid on the retaining wall for \$4800 from Flores Construction would include washing the stones, removing old glue, installing drain tile, adding cement and glue, and backfilling. It does not include the cost of new bushes. Pat Brown made a motion to accept the bid from Flores Construction, which was seconded by Mike. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Pat reported that we have collected about 25% of the pledges at a quarter of the way through the year. She went on to explain this month's financial report. Dave moved to accept the treasurer's report and file it for audit. Luke Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Fellowship Report:

Freyja submitted this report by e-mail on April 18:

" It's been a busy month for fellowship gatherings since last month's report. The Chili Cook-off continues to be a popular event. This year, on March 25th, there were eight or nine different chili entries and two tables full of side dishes and desserts, which was nearly all consumed by approximately 45 enthusiastic (and obviously hungry) attendees.

The reception following the Easter Vigil service on April 7th was also quite well attended (Ellen and I estimate maybe 30 or so people), and we enjoyed many delightful snacks and sweets along with several bottles of champagne and soda pop.

Last Sunday (April 15th), Ellen counted 48 people at the "Low" Sunday Brunch, which took place between the two services. This seems to be a better time to hold the brunch than after the late service

for including parishioners from both services. Yet again, there were few leftovers from the several brunch casseroles, salads, and other delicious offerings. I doubt anyone could go away hungry. St. Paul's is definitely blessed with many talented and generous cooks.

Events coming up include:

- A potluck supper following the Ascension Day service on May 17th.
- The Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, which will take place at St. Peter's in Sycamore on Thursday, June 28th.
- The Annual Church Picnic, which was tentatively scheduled last month for July 29th."

Music Ministries Report:

Lorraine submitted this report by e-mail on April 22:

"**The Adult/Youth Choir** sang beautifully and helped lead the congregation musically in a successful holy week of worship and services. Many parishioners expressed appreciation of the music and the choir's contributions.

Easter Sunday's closing hymn, the Day of Resurrection, was especially exciting as the choir led the congregation from the nave, while accompanied by Kathleen Johnson on pipe organ. Michael Duffys' incredible trumpet on both melody and descants and David Aarons on Steel Pan helped fill the sanctuary with musical artistry that indeed celebrated the meaning of *He is Risen!* Michael Ouellette and Madison Williams also assisted with playing their clarinets in the worship service, adding beautiful colors to the service music and especially the communion hymns. Roy Mason took on a talented assistant, Morgan Williams, with ringing the bells during the Eucharist. This year, we were blessed with having bells play and accompany the choir for the first time in at least eight years. Thank you Peggy Newby! She played bells for the choral introit "Alleluia". Thanks to all the musicians and both the adult/youth and children's choirs!

The **Children's Choir** did a great job singing for Easter!

Some previously shy choir members found their voices on the *Halle, Halleluia*. In addition to our Sunday group rehearsals, I will be working individually with the kids in the weeks to come, as they prepare an anthem to share in the worship service for Recognition Sunday, May 20th.

This month's **Music Outreach** includes supporting David Aarons in his graduate recital performance at NIU. Additionally, I am working with Thea Beard, exploring music options for Dick Beard's funeral.

With the help of a number of parishioners, the music program hosted the reception following David Aarons, Steel Pan graduate recital at NIU on Saturday, April 31st. St. Paul attendees included; Marilyn Cleland, Sue Ouellette, Freyja Rasmussen-Johns, Rick Johns, Pat Brown, Peggy Newby (Al and Brandon), Gretchen Schlabach and Lorraine Langer. David and his parents expressed much gratitude for the kindness of St. Paul's in supporting David while attending NIU. We have been blessed with David's musical gifts in our Sunday service when he has played his steel pan. We have also been blessed with his talent and spirit in teaching as our high-school Sunday school teacher. Thanks David!

I talked on the phone and met in person with Thea Beard on two occasions to discuss the music for her husband, Dick Beard's funeral, scheduled for Saturday, April 28th. I will be meeting with her again on Sunday, to continue our discussion and will support her in finding musicians and music that she would like for Dick's funeral. Thea and Dick have often stopped me after the Sunday services to share how much they enjoyed the music and choir, their musical growth and contributions to the services. Coming from such cultivated and artistic people as the Beard's, this was a welcome compliment in support of the music at St. Paul's.

The **Pianist/Accompanist** position is currently open for the fall 2012. It is posted on our website and at the NIU School of Music's job openings bulletin board. It will go up on Craig's List as well as the Chicago Diocese employment page by the end of this month.

Molin Wang has been our pianist for the adult/youth choir rehearsals and Sunday morning anthems and today, April 22nd, is her last Sunday at St. Paul's. She will be playing the postlude for the 10:30 service today. Molin is graduating from NIU in May and will be traveling throughout the United States over the

next three months with her parents, who are visiting from China. We wish Molin well in her travels as well as her continued musical performances and studies. Ning Pai, also a graduate student at NIU, will be our choir accompanist for the remainder of the choir year ending May 20th."

Rector's Report: See Addendum I for Rev. Stacy's written report.

Rev. Stacy sent a subsequent e-mail noting that we will have Plant the Garden Sunday on Pentecost, May 27th. Parishioners will be invited to wear their gardening clothes to church; after the 10:30 service we will plant the St. Paul's Garden. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for people to donate plants and seeds.

Also, the church office will be closed on Monday May 28th for Memorial Day.

Old Business:

Mission and Vision of St. Paul's – table discussion until May Vestry meeting.

New Business:

It was proposed that the Parish Picnic take place on July 29, 2012, with one service at 10:30. Mike motioned and Freyja seconded that this be the official date. Motion carried.

Service times will not change in the summer.

Luke Krueger briefly discussed the Love INC banquet and said that he will send out a report.

Freyja read a closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Freyja Rasmussen-Johns

ADDENDUM I

I. Pastoral Care

- a. I will be meeting with Dorathea Beard this week to plan Dick's funeral to be held on Saturday, April 28th, 11AM at St. Paul's.
- b. I am following up with parishioners I reconnected with during Holy Week and Easter as well as some of our guests (visitors). This will be my main planned pastoral care work in the month ahead.
- c. I also plan to visit Norma Fitzgerald during Eastertide.

II. Liturgy

- a. This past Holy Week and Easter was a real joy for me as your priest at St. Paul's, and I think the congregation as a whole had a good time as well. God's presence was very tangible in our worship and gatherings. For which I say, "Alleluia! Thanks be to God!"
- b. I am hoping in the next month to have more conversations about a creative liturgy team (I had several during Holy Week and Easter Sunday). Perhaps by next month I will have had more conversations and perhaps a meeting for a creative liturgy team on the calendar. We will see where the Holy Spirit leads us.
- c. The nursery will likely be closed on Pentecost (May 27th) which is also on Memorial Day weekend. All of the nursery staff have family plans that weekend, which is completely understandable. We were very blessed to have a staffed nursery on Easter Sunday! I will take an informal poll of which young families will be in town, and perhaps plan a child friendly service that day at 1030AM instead.

III. Christian Education

1. Events that are coming up for Children's and Youth Sunday School as they wrap up their year are as follows:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 children and youth Sunday School for the 2011/2012 academic year.
2. Adult Christian Education
 - a. Saturday May 5th, 2012 9AM to 4PM St. Paul's will be hosting a diocesan workshop entitled "Anglicanism Remixed" with the Rev. Stephanie Spellers as our workshop leader. More information is available at <http://www.episcopalchicago.org/>

- i. Please contact the parish office if you plan to attend, or sign-up on the sheet in the parish hall. We will receive a group discount if we register together.
- ii. We may need some volunteers that day as well, let me know of your availability.
- b. We will start an Eastertide Soup for the Soul four week series on the Gospel of Luke on Wednesday, April 25th, 2012. Dinner at 545PM, program 615-715PM. Childcare provided.
- c. "Big Questions" adults small group met for our second meeting on March 31st at the home of Brad and Rochelle Cripe. We welcomed two more adults to the group. The third group is scheduled to meet on April 21st (while I am away for a family funeral). The group is coming together well and people are having interesting and authentic conversations about spirituality and faith. 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.
- d. Adult Christian Education is reading Desmond and Mpho Tutu's book *Made for Goodness* for the next four weeks on Sunday mornings at 930AM.

IV. Administration

- a. Staff reviews for 2012 are now complete.
- b. Nursery
 - 1. I met with the three nursery staff on Sunday, March 25th, 2012 working with them to establish guidelines for the nursery at St. Paul's. This is still a work in progress but we hope to have some guidelines set up in the next month or so.
 - 2. As Alicia Dailey will be leaving sometime this summer to move to a residential university degree program, I will be looking more intently for a new nursery worker in the weeks to come.
- c. We will be hosting Joseph Butler as an intern in June 2012 at St. Paul's
 - 1. I anticipate hearing from Mr. Butler soon to discuss the details of his internship.

V. Mission and Community Activities

- a. Saturday, April 28th at 5PM the Islamic Society at NIU (ISNIU) will be hosting their second neighborhood meeting at St. Paul's Parish Hall. Dinner will be served as a part of this program. If you did not have a chance to attend last month's meeting, I strongly encourage you to attend. It was an excellent opportunity for us not only to meet our Muslim neighbors, but also the other neighbors who live in our neighborhood. Please contact the parish office by Monday if you plan to attend so we can rsvp to ISNIU for dinner.

VI. Other

- a. I am gone today (April 22nd, 2012) for the funeral of my grandmother in Kansas. I plan to be back in the office Monday, April 23rd.
- 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 will be attending a continuing education conference June 4th through June 8th at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. I will be traveling on Sunday, June 3rd and will make arrangements to have a supply priest at the 8AM and 1030AM services that day. I will be back in the office and pulpit on Sunday, June 10th.
- d. Please feel free to set a date for the parish picnic now that you know the Sundays this summer I plan to be gone (June 3rd, July 8th and July 15th). Let me know what you decide so I can put it on my calendar!