

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
August 19, 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

The meeting came to order at 12:25 p.m. with an opening prayer led by Rev. Stacy.

Appreciations

- For all the thoughts and prayers for Gretchen's dad
- To Rev. Stacy for her help and prayers for Gretchen's dad
- For the garden
- To Marilyn Sjoholm for giving her cat to Pat
- The floors in the sanctuary look great
- To Rich for moving furniture on to the patio so that the carpet could be cleaned
- For the runners/walkers for Nets for Life
- For Alicia Dailey
- To the people at American Midwest Bank for their help with interpreting the financial reports
- To Rochelle Cripe, Peg Newby and Pat McMahan for agreeing to serve on the Nominating Committee
- To Pat McMahan and Jim Torma for agreeing to serve on the Finance Committee

Today's Gospel, John 6:51-58, was read and discussed.

There were no minutes from July because there were not enough members present to have a quorum. Therefore, the minutes from the June 17th meeting were reviewed. Gretchen made a motion, which was seconded by Pat, to approve the June meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Senior Warden's Report

The following report was sent from Mike by e-mail:

"Senior Warden Report, July 2012

I am continuing to work on entering our utility data into the EPA Profile Manager site for benchmarking purposes for the Diocesan Energy Audit. The data for the church building is entered and is considered current. We have a baseline energy rating of 60 and a current rating of 69. In order to qualify for Energy Star status, we must have a rating of 75 or higher. I will now direct my efforts toward getting data entered for the rectory and contacting a firm to conduct our energy audit.

I have read the Parish Bylaws and have suggested points for discussion. The Bylaws revision committee will meet sometime after August 1 to draw up suggested amendments to bring our Bylaws up to date. I have been following the developments relating to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, as it is our church-wide legislative assembly, and in many ways it is the public face of our Church. In the interest of good communication, I would like you to know what I consider to be the most important results of the General Convention. Bishop Lee summarized what he considered to be the most important developments in a

YouTube video from the General Convention, here: <http://youtu.be/8VHHFX2Kq5M>. In brief, those developments are as follows (I have put explanatory notes in [brackets]):

1. Anglican Covenant [a proposed agreement that would codify how churches in the Anglican Communion work together, to reduce controversy – see <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/final/text.cfm/> and <http://noanglican covenant.org/> for more information from opposing points of view] – 2 resolutions
 - a. Reaffirmed the commitment of the Episcopal Church to fully participate in the Anglican Communion
 - b. Declaration that the Episcopal Church refuses to take a position on the Anglican Covenant
2. Blessing of Same Sex Unions
 - a. Episcopal Church authorized a church-wide rite. Bishops, clergy, and congregations are not obligated to adopt the rite.
 - b. The Diocese already has a provision for the Blessing of Same Sex Unions with a rite.
3. Worship – Holy Communion – Communication
 - a. We are connected to each other in the Church, and this is reflected in daily worship at General Convention
 - b. Social networking has played a bigger part in General Convention than ever before
4. Restructuring the Episcopal Church
 - a. A 24 person task force will be put together to study the governing structure of the Episcopal Church and suggest revisions
5. Election of the Rev. Gay Jennings as President of the House of Deputies [the legislative house of General Convention consisting of deputations of lay persons and clergy from every diocese], and the Hon. Byron Rushing as Vice-President of the House of Deputies

I would add to Bishop Lee's summary one other important resolution from General Convention, and that one is D022, which calls for a church-wide response to the problem of bullying. See www.generalconvention.org/resolutions/download/314-1342121747 for the resolution text.

Because of the General Convention's importance to the Church, and the Church's role in society, it usually attracts media attention. I am struck by the apparent obsession of the news media with the Episcopal Church's position (as well as that of other mainline Protestant denominations) on sexual matters and declining Church membership. Two news items were published in mainstream news sources that are worthy of mention. One is "What Ails the Episcopalians" by Jay Akasie, published in the Wall Street Journal on July 12 (available at <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303919504577520950409252574.html>). In my opinion, this piece is the sloppiest and most malicious report on the Episcopal Church that I have read in the mainstream news, as it essentially labels our church-wide assembly as a bacchanalian farce that wastes resources and passes frivolous legislation. The piece runs counter to the reports coming from the General Convention from other news sources and social media. I bring this to your attention because you, as elected leaders of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, should be aware of this attack against our denomination. The Rev. Scott Gunn, of Forward Movement publications, offered a rebuttal of Asakie's article on his blog "Seven Whole Days" at <http://www.sevenwholedays.org/2012/07/13/errors-wsj/>. This rebuttal not only offers a balanced point of view, but also points out errors and falsehoods in Asakie's article.

The other news item worthy of mention is "Can Liberal Christianity Be Saved?" by Ross Douthat, published in the New York Times on July 15 (available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/15/opinion/sunday/douthat-can-liberal-christianity-be-saved.html>). This piece is not an attack on the Church, per se, but rather an op-ed on the declining membership in the Episcopal Church, other mainline Protestant churches, and liberal religious

orders in the Catholic Church. The thesis of his criticism is “the leaders of the Episcopal Church and similar bodies often don’t seem to be offering anything you can’t already get from a purely secular liberalism.” This is a challenge to our Church to define itself in religious terms. Douthat fails to take into consideration the fact that Episcopal Church assemblies and legislation are rooted in scripture, tradition, and reason, which are not features of purely secular liberalism. Diana Butler Bass offered a well-reasoned response to Douthat’s piece in “Can Christianity Be Saved? A Response to Ross Douthat,” published in the Huffington Post on July 16 (available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/diana-butler-bass/can-christianity-be-saved_1_b_1674807.html).

I bring these news items and their responses to your attention so that if you hear about these pieces and their criticisms of the Church in your day-to-day interactions, you will be able speak about them with a balanced point of view.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Duffy, Senior Warden"

Junior Warden's Report

The following report was sent from Dave by e-mail:

" Building and Grounds Report
July, 2012 Vestry Meeting

Sanctuary Painting and Repair

Flores Construction finished the patching, repair, and painting of the ceiling and walls in the Sanctuary and sanctuary hallways. There was a major damaged area above the pulpit, as well as many cracks, some big enough to put your thumb through, as well as many water spots. They were quite meticulous in covering the stone walls, pews, and floors to prevent drips, and worked with the doors closed in the heat to prevent dust blowing in on the fresh paint. They also painted the altar and dividers around the organ and pulpit. Mr. Carlos Flores needed to move a few pews, and upon discovering some were not anchored correctly, added anchors. Needless to say, they did an excellent job. I stopped by each day to visit with him and check on the work, as did some of you. He appreciated that.

Pew Repair

K and J Decorating sanded, stained, and applied two finish coats to the first five pews on the north side that had been damaged by the roof leak. Mr. Ken Kline also did a fine job and the pews look very nice. The only problem was getting him in the building in the mornings, and Mike and I took care of that until Melissa got back. The pews, he discovered, have a very thin veneer and he was unable to sand too deeply.

Carpet Cleaning and Floors

I got a bid from Ecosteam to strip and re-wax the floors in the bathrooms and kitchen, and clean the carpets in the fellowship hall, old nursery room, conference room, hallways, and two offices. John offered to do the sanctuary and heavy traffic areas in the rectory for free, as they had done in the past when they cleaned our carpets. Some members of the Vestry requested that I get more bids and hence I will. Always happy to spend more hours and make more trips to St. Paul’s! I do know Ecosteam does excellent work and I do trust them.

Sacristy/Small Rooms Sanctuary

Jocelyn Prall pointed out to me cracks in the ceiling in the sacristy. The walls in the Rector dressing room also are dirty. I did get a bid from Flores Construction to repair and paint these rooms and will share that with you.

I apologize for the detail above, but I know a couple of Vestry members will be absent so they can read this in the minutes.

August, 2012 Vestry Meeting

Pews

The six pews mentioned above have been finished. Pat Brown mentioned she and Vince McMahan thought they looked great, and wondered if we could get all of them done. I contacted the insurance office, told them that the six pews really stood out, and requested that we get the rest of the pews re-stained. They have agreed to this, since we will still be under the insurance estimate. After Labor Day, Ken Kline will be refinishing the rest of the pews at a cost of \$6500.

Carpet Cleaning

As mentioned in a previous email, I sent you the three bid amounts for the cleaning of carpets and floors. On August 14, Ecosteam will be cleaning our carpets. "

Dave also reported that the rest of the pews will be refinished. Flores Construction gave a bid of \$800 for painting the sacristy and the other small rooms. He spoke with Vince and Rick about the clogged drain situation. The B&G committee will discuss replacing the front sign with a sideways sign, readable from the road. The kitchen and family room in the rectory were also painted – this falls under rectory maintenance.

Fellowship Report:

Freyja sent the following report by e-mail:

" Fellowship Committee Report for August 2012

On June 28th, the members of St. Peter's and St. Paul's, along with members of St. Bride's and St. Luke's, celebrated the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul at St. Peter's in Sycamore with a service and a dinner afterward. Approximately 110 people were present for the service, with about 90 people staying for dinner despite the 90-plus degree temperatures. It was truly a joy to gather with all these people, and the food tables were absolutely groaning with amazing amounts of delicious dishes. It was a wonderful idea put forth by St. Peter's ECW to have the main dish and dessert catered.

St. Paul's church picnic on July 28th was quite well attended – almost 50 people. Musical accompaniment was provided by Christina Krueger and Rick Johns on guitar, Yuki Nakano playing the steel drum, and Rev. Stacy on her flute. A small group of vocalists including Maureen Gerrity, Tricia Wagner, Jan Bach, and Freyja Rasmussen-Johns helped lead the hymns. The weather was just perfect – not too hot, and there was plenty of sunshine. Of course, the food was wonderful – the grilling team of Dave Anderson and Terry Dickow fired up hot dogs, burgers and brats, while parishioners brought plenty of delicious dishes to share.

September 9th is Kick-off Sunday, and the Fellowship Committee is planning to hold an ice cream social following the 10:30 service with treats from Ollie's.

We are working on sign-up sheets and announcements for the new season of Fellowship Dinner Groups. The deadline for signing up will be September 9th so that we can organize groups and get started by late September or early October.

Ellen and I have also made a list of all the social events taking place during the year, and we're planning to ask volunteers to sign up and take responsibility for the coordination of one or two events, thereby relieving the two of us from having to coordinate all events. The sign up sheet will be ready by Kick-off Sunday."

Freyja also asked about the possibility of updating the church directory.

Music Ministries Report:

Lorraine thanked Rev Stacy, Melissa London and Kathleen___ for their work while she was on vacation, leaving her to actually enjoy her vacation. She reminded us that choir practice begins again this Thursday, August 23.

Rector's Report:

The following report was e-mailed by Rev. Stacy

I. Pastoral Care

- a. I have visited or talked to Gail and Lonnie Piper weekly since her return to the DeKalb area (home and Kish hospital). Jennie Cummings and I have been working together to help provide appropriate pastoral support from the parish.
- b. I have also made several friendly phone calls in August to connect with parishioners who have not been present at worship much this summer. II.

Liturgy

- a. The creative liturgy team had its first meeting on Tuesday afternoon August 14th. We have a meeting set for 4PM Tuesday September 11th to discuss plans for All Saints Sunday and Advent and Epiphany.
- b. We will have a blessing of the backpacks prayer to send students and teachers back to school on August 26th, 2012 at the 1030AM service. The Salvation Army was distributing backpacks in early August so I decided we would not combine a school supplies drive with the backpack blessing this year.

III. Christian Education

- a. Sunday School will resume the Sunday after Labor Day (September 9). b.

Children and Youth Education

1. St. Paul's hosted a Godly Play training yesterday (Saturday, August 18th) with Vicki Garvey from the bishop's staff as our trainer. Guests from St. Ann's, Woodstock were also in attendance.
2. I will be contacting students in the Jr./Sr. High Sunday School class and their families in late August to invite them to Sunday School. I will be the youth Sunday School teacher at least for the fall, perhaps for the winter and spring as well. We are using the re:form Ancestors Old Testament course. More info to come in the Mars Hill Proclaimer.
- c. An Adult Christian Education team met with me for the first time on Monday, August 13th to plan Sunday School for the 2012/2013 year. Marilyn Cleland, Brad Cripe, and Gretchen Schlabach will work together to lead our adult Sunday School this year. We think it is going to be great year! Look for updates to come in the Mars Hill Proclaimer.
- d. Soup for the Soul is planned just for Lent this year. I have been in conversation with some members who are interested in starting small groups for Bible study in their homes. We will see what develops.

IV. Administration a.

Nursery

1. Alicia Dailey had her last Sunday as a nursery attendant this morning.
2. Julie Rogers and I interviewed two candidates for nursery attendant on Tuesday, August 14th. Nancy Dailey will visit the nursery on August 19th and Betsey Adams will visit on August 26th. I will make my final decision on hiring in consultation with Julie Rogers after those visits
3. After much discussion, Julie and I decided if at all possible to hire two additional nursery workers so we have a pool of people to work with as most nursery attendants do not want to work every Sunday.
4. As of now, the plan is to have two attendants each Sunday for the rest of 2012. However if we add more children to the nursery we may need to have three attendants each Sunday.

b. Endowment Fund

1. I have arranged for a consultant from the Episcopal Church Foundation, Terri Mathes, to meet with the Endowment Fund committee on Friday, August 24, 2012 from 9AM-11AM at St. Paul's.
2. Mrs. Mathes is under contract with the Diocese of Chicago to advise on the capital campaign for the plaza renovations at St. James Commons. She is also available at no additional charge to consult with congregations within the diocese.

c. Diocesan Convention

1. I have been in contact with our delegates and alternates who were elected at the annual meeting in January. I hope to register our delegation by the end of August as well as send the certification for lay delegates.
2. The September Proclaimer will have info about Diocesan convention for those who would like to attend as a visitor or volunteer.

V. Mission and Community Activities

1. The executive committee of the vestry agreed with my suggestion to send a fruit basket to the Islamic Society at NIU to wish them a "Happy Eid" which is celebrated today. ISNIU sent me a fruit basket on Christmas Eve last year. I see this as a continued expression of our friendship and being a good neighbor to our interfaith friends. This will come from Rector's business expense line item.
2. I continue to be VERY active with the Grace Place Campus Ministry board. At this time I am leading a search for a musician for this year. I have also been active in other areas of program support for the fall. Grace Place is currently on track to call a long-term minister starting in January 2013. Prayers are appreciated!
3. I was also active this month with Love Inc. at a fundraiser at Culver's in July and attended the August Love Inc. board meeting. The Love Inc. Board retreat will be held at St. Paul's on Saturday, October 13th 830AM-1230PM.
4. I also attended (as a guest) the August meeting of the Diocesan Commission on Global Ministry at St. Mark's in Evanston. The September 8th meeting of the DCGM is tentatively scheduled to be held at St. Paul's, DeKalb.
5. Diocese of Chicago NetsforLife at the DeKalb Corn Classic 3K/10K. We have a group of 12

runners and walkers who will be participating from St. Paul's. We are collecting donations for nets through August 26 through cash or check, and online donations through August 30th. I hope to have a count on how many nets purchased by sometime in early September. Come cheer us on: race starts at 755AM at Huntley Middle School on Saturday morning August 25th.

VI. Other

1. I will attend the Rockford Deanery Diocesan Healthcare Taskforce (of which I am a member) meeting on August 23, 2012 at White Pines. Mike Duffy will accompany me as our lay representative from St. Paul's.
2. I will be away for Continuing Education Monday, September 24th through Thursday, September 27th in Austin, Texas at the Seminary of the Southwest. This is for our alumni lecture series and alumni steering committee meeting (of which I am a member).
3. I have also made arrangements for The Rev. Bill McLemore to be our guest priest and preacher on Sunday, November 25th, 2012. For the first time in many years the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend is not Advent 1, so I will be using my final vacation days for 2012 to travel to visit family for Thanksgiving. I will be gone November 21st thru November 25th or 26th. Our Thanksgiving service this year will be on Tuesday evening, November 20th, time tbd.
4. Stewardship! I am seeking leadership from the vestry and other lay people in the parish to design our stewardship pledge campaign for 2013. It is time to plan and get the ball rolling!
5. I will be looking for at least one member of the Vestry to accompany at least one member from the Endowment Fund, and perhaps myself as well to a Planned Giving workshop on Saturday, September 15, 2012. This will be led by the Episcopal Church Foundation for congregations in the Diocese of Chicago at St. James the Less, Northfield. A flyer for this workshop is in your mailbox at St. Paul's. I plan to ask Ms. Mathes at the Endowment Fund Committee meeting (August 24th) if this workshop would be of further assistance to us beyond her services.

Treasurer's Report:

Pat submitted two financial reports. The first she had prepared for the July meeting (but there weren't enough Vestry members present for a quorum), which covered the first five months of the year through May 31, 2012. The second report covered the first seven months of the year, and included figures for June and July 2012.

She indicated that a CD was coming due the next day and asked if the money should be put back into a CD or into the Money Market fund.

Mike motioned to ask Pat to compare the interest rates for a CD and a Money Market fund, and to put the money from the current CD into whichever fund has better interest. Bill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill motioned and Mike seconded that the treasurer's report be filed for audit. Motion carried.

Gretchen made a motion to move the operating account from Castle Bank to American Midwest Bank. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

We may need volunteers to attend the Endowment meeting on September 15, 2012.

Volunteers are needed for the Stewardship committee.

Old Business:

Mission and Vision. Mike suggested we table this discussion until next month.

New Business:

The Love INC donation was taken out of the line item for charities (we are in partnership with them). ECW gave them approximately \$400. Rev. Stacy proposed we give part of \$600 to them. Mike motioned and Bill seconded that we give them \$300 from the outreach fund. Motion carried.

Appointment of the Nomination Committee:

Rev. Stacy appointed the two wardens, Mike Duffy and Dave Anderson, along with Pat McMahon, Peg Newby and Rochelle Cripe to the Nomination Committee.

Guidelines for the Solemnization of Holy Union has been adopted as available liturgy. There was discussion about whether our church should adopt (perform) this liturgy. It was decided to hold a special congregational meeting on September 23rd between services (9:00-10:00 a.m.). The Vestry will then hold a discussion in October. Luke and Mike will meet with Rev. Stacy to talk about how to start the conversation. The date will be put into the September newsletter.

Dave motioned and Mike seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Mike closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Freyja Rasmussen-Johns
Clerk of the Vestry