

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
October 21, 2012

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

Members Absent: Bill Cummings (excused)

Guest: Lorraine Langer, Director of Music Ministries

Rev. Stacy opened the meeting with a prayer at 12:27 p.m.

Appreciations:

To Freyja for taking minutes

The sermons have been awesome

To the participants in Crop Walk

To Henry for organizing St. Paul's efforts in Crop Walk

To Terry and Jackie Dickow for coordinating the kids' pumpkin decorating event today

For the pet blessing ceremony

To members of the parish who came to the discussion on same sex civil union and for all the thoughtfulness and discussion

To Mike for organizing the above discussion

For Jeffrey Lee and all the help through the diocese; Jeff is always willing to share his resources

For all the work on the pews and to Dave for coordinating the effort

To Pat for counting for Mike last week

Also to Pat for all her work she puts in on her reports

Luke was grateful for the casserole they received after a funeral last week

Review and approval of September minutes: Gretchen moved and Dave seconded to approve last month's meeting minutes. Motion carried

Senior Warden's Report: Mike submitted the following report:

The Nominating Committee also needs to meet.

I received a call from Lisa Rogers Lee today, who informed me of an option to have ComEd or Nicor provide a free energy audit. Alternatively, we could pursue a paid audit (approximately \$1500). This would help us to apply for grant money if we decide to pursue any capital improvement projects. We could pursue a free audit now and a paid audit at a later date if we decide to apply for capital improvement grants.

The Stewardship team met twice. We will kick off the stewardship campaign on November 4 as we dedicate the Timothy Center for Spiritual Formation, and Luke Krueger and Sue Ouellette will speak in November 11 and 18, respectively, at both services on the topic of stewardship. Brad Cripe looked into options for electronic giving to the parish. Peg Newby and Mike Duffy are looking at visiting groups that regularly meet at church to discuss why people come to church and why they support the parish.

The Bylaws revision committee still needs to meet.

Mike also said that the Stewardship Committee (Rev. Stacy, Brad Cripe, Peggy Newby and Mike) have been talking to parish members about why they give.

There was some discussion about how the name, "Timothy Center for Spiritual Formation" was decided, and who exactly Timothy is. Rev. Stacy said that St. Timothy is the spiritual son of St. Paul, and so the Sunday school teachers thought this was an appropriate name to use. Mike moved and Dave seconded to approve the name "Timothy Center for Spiritual Formation." Motion carried. After more discussion, Dave suggested that we add "Saint" to Timothy's name for clarity. Dave made a motion, seconded by Mike to approve the undercroft name be modified to "The Saint Timothy Center for Spiritual Formation". Motion carried.

The Center will be blessed and dedicated on November 4th.

Junior Warden Report:

Dave reported that the work on the pews is complete. The next project is drain work. The Grounds Committee will try pulling off the cap to unplug it, but there's been too much rain this week to work on it. Alternatively down spout may need to be run to take the pressure off the drain. The committee will be planting some bushes soon, and Pat said there's enough money in the mowing budget to pay for the bushes.

Treasurer's Report: Pat distributed the following budget report (along with the spreadsheet):

Treasurer's Report September 30, 2012 – October 21, 2012 Vestry Meeting – Submitted by Pat Brown, Treasurer

This report covers the first nine months of the year, through September 30, 2012. The previous months have been revised and updated. We have transferred funds to the American Midwest Bank so that checking account is our primary account. Beginning in October, all checks and deposits will be made to the AMB account. Please use the deposit slips, deposit stamp and bank bag for the American Midwest Bank. Castle Bank is no longer our bank for Operating Funds.

Receipts through September 30, 2012

We have received 83.1 % of the pledged amount and 81.59% of the total budgeted receipts by the end of this nine month period. Total operating receipts through September were \$167,746.60. This includes a second allocation of \$30,000 from the Endowment Fund. Remaining funds to be received are \$37,861.40. This includes \$14,397 from the Endowment Fund which will only be allocated if needed.

Disbursements through September 30, 2012

Total operating disbursements for the first nine months were \$148,571.34. That is 72.26% of the total allocated. The difference of receipts over disbursements is a positive \$19,175.26. \$6,500 was disbursed from the insurance funds for the pew refinishing.

We paid out \$14,000 of the \$25,000 in insurance funds by the end of September. The remaining \$11,000 will be returned to the insurance company as soon as the paperwork is collated. That

amount is still in the Castle Bank Account which had a balance of \$16,974.93 at the end of September. The balance in AMB is \$31,785.64 for a total of \$48,760.57

Building Fund

The balance in the building fund at the end of September \$96,857.23, with \$85,944.33 at Edward Jones, and \$10,912.90 at Castle Bank.

Endowment Fund

The value of the Endowment Fund at the end of September was \$1,847,480.68. Change in value for the first nine months was a positive \$141,422.45. If we subtract the \$60,000 we have allocated for operating expenses and add the \$22,496.26 income we are a net \$103,918.71 positive.

Apache Stock was worth \$18,533.46 on September 30, 2012. We now have 214.334 shares. That is an increase of \$154.32 from August. It was about the same value Oct 20.

On September 30, 2012 the balance in the Flower Fund was \$380.28. The balance in the Discretionary Fund was \$1,508.80

Please see accompanying spreadsheet for details of the transactions.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Brown, Treasurer

October 21, 2012

Pat reiterated that all deposits should now go to American Midwest Bank and no longer to Castle Bank. E-mail should go to T.J. Johnson.

Freyja moved and Mike seconded to approve and file for audit the October Financial Report. Motion carried.

Fellowship Report: No report

Music Ministries Report: Lorraine submitted the following report:

The **Adult/Youth Choir** is doing a great job in rehearsals, and assisting with the music liturgy for our Sunday morning worship services. This past week, a visitor shared, "...the choir was really great this morning and quite incredible for such a small group..." We continue to explore new choral and service literature, and intersperse them in our Sunday morning anthem offerings.

The **Children's Choir** is awesome! They continue to rehearse (& have fun) in the undercroft during the 10:30 AM service [10:40-11:00]. I believe this is working out well for everyone. We have a total of 11 kids at about three different age levels. We have 4-6 adults present. A special "note" of thanks to Julie Rogers, and all of the nursery staff (Nancy, Brittany, Alicia, Betsey) as well as Heather, for assisting! We are adding more text and note reading into the rehearsal times. The children will be assisting the adult/youth choir, with leading the opening hymn for our late service on All Saints Sunday (11-04).

Organist Vacation Days: Kathleen Johnson took her third of four vacation Sundays (10-14). Her last one for 2012 will be Nov. 18. I will continue to work with Andrew Voelker as he fills in as our substitute organist.

St. Paul's is very fortunate to have so many talented and giving musicians of all ages

Lorraine also thanked Julie Rogers and the rest of the nursery staff for all their assistance in getting the kids to choir practice. She discussed her work with the kids and thanked the creative liturgy team of Sue Ouellette and Luke. Stacy thanked Lorraine for all of her work.

Rector's Report: Rev. Stacy submitted the following report:

I. Pastoral Care

- a. I have continued to provide pastoral care support to Gail Piper in the past month, including visiting her at Sandwich Rehab and Nursing Center.
- b. I also visited Norma Fitzgerald in the last month.

II. Liturgy

- a. The creative liturgy team had its third meeting on Tuesday afternoon October 16th. We finalized plans for All Saints Sunday.
- b. Our 4th Annual Pet Blessing on October 7th was well attended: 44 people, 18 dogs, 4 cats, 1 rabbit, 1 guinea pig, and 1 fish. TAILS Humane Society was also in attendance for the 2nd year in a row, and we collected a large basket of supplies for the animals at TAILS.
- c. We are already looking ahead to St. Nicholas Sunday on December 9th and the feast of the Epiphany of January 6th, 2013.
- d. Upcoming dates for non-Sunday worship opportunities at St. Paul's:
 1. Thanksgiving "Day" Holy Eucharist: Tuesday, November 20th, 2012 at 7PM
 2. Blue Christmas service of Light: Wednesday, December 5th at 7PM
 3. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharists: Monday, December 24th 4PM Children's Service, 6PM Festival Eucharist with Choir.
 4. I will check in with families, but I do not anticipate needing to staff the nursery for Thanksgiving or Blue Christmas.

III. Christian Education

- a. Children and Youth Education
 1. Classes have begun and attendance has been steady.
 2. Teachers and students are looking forward to the Dedication and Blessing of the Timothy Center on All Saints Sunday, November 4th, 2012 at 9:15AM. VESTRY MEMBERS—PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND SPREAD THE WORD!
- b. Adult Christian Education has been well attended so far and seems to be having a great time. Thanks to Brad Cripe, Marilyn Cleland, and Gretchen Schlabach for their leadership.

IV. Administration

- a. Nursery

1. Julie Rogers requested a meeting with me to update our policies for the nursery. We will be sending a note to our families with children in the nursery soon to appraise them of changes in our policies.
 2. The main issue that needed to be addressed pick up time.
 3. All else is going well in the nursery. The new childcare workers are doing well. Toys and equipment are clean and well cared for.
 4. Background checks have been completed on one of our new workers, we are awaiting the return of the second worker's background check.
 5. I am in communication with the diocese about scheduling a Keeping God's People Safe training in the next few months.
- b. Annual Giving Stewardship Team
1. Our third meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30th 12-1PM at St. Paul's.
 2. We will finalize our participation plans for our kick-off stewardship event at the dedication and blessing of the lower level Christian Education center on All Saints Sunday, November 4th at 915AM.
 3. A letter with pledge card will be sent to all communicants/members the week of November 4th.
 4. We will also have two stewardship witness talks. One on Sunday, November 11th and one on Sunday, November 18th.
 5. Sunday, November 18th will be the official close of our stewardship season this year.
- c. I also took minutes and assisted in leading our congregational meeting on September 23, 2012 regarding the rite of Holy Union at St. Paul's.

V. Mission and Community Activities

1. I continue to be VERY active with the Grace Place Campus Ministry board. I am working with student leaders to plan Bishop Lee's visit to Grace Place on October 31st, 2012.
 - a. Bishop Lee will be giving a lecture from 7-8PM on "What it means to be an Episcopalian." Dinner will follow provided by the St. Paul's Casserole Ministry (Big thanks to Jennie Cummings!). Worship will be a liturgy for All Hallow's Eve starting at 9PM.
 - b. You are welcome to come for any portion or all of those activities. And I encourage you to come for what you can. Grace Place really needs our support of spiritual friendship and encouragement during this time of transition.
 - c. I have also been attending all of the fall lectures at Grace Place and staying for dinner and occasionally for worship as well.
2. I also attended the retreat of the Love INC board held at St. Paul's on Saturday morning, October 13, 2012.

VI. Other

1. I continue to be active in the Rockford Deanery clergy meetings and will assume my role as the dean of the Rockford Deanery at Diocesan Convention (November 16-17, 2012).
2. 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 26th. Our Thanksgiving service this year will be on Tuesday evening, November 20th at 7PM.

3. I am also applying for the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program at Association of Theological Schools in Chicago (ACTS). This is a three step application process, including a portion to be completed by the vestry. At our executive committee meeting this month we decided to address the application portion to be completed by the vestry at our November 18th, 2012 meeting. A hard copy of that application is in your mailbox at St. Paul's. <http://www.actsdminpreaching.com/>
4. Mark your calendars to attend an Advent Open House on Sunday afternoon/early evening, December 9th. Exact time tba. Rich, Oscar, Rowan, and I are looking forward to hosting the people of St. Paul's in our home for our third annual Advent open house. Members of St. Luke's, Dixon will also join us this year.

Rev. Stacy reported that Jack Krusbe passed away this past Friday evening (Oct. 19). He had had a heart attack on Wednesday, and she went to the hospital and prayed with the family. Father Timore of St. Mary's will officiate the funeral. She will send out an announcement about the wake and the time of the funeral.

The Bishop's next visit to St. Paul's will be October 6, 2013 (which also will be the day of the pet blessing).

Grace Place – the Bishop will be giving a lecture there on October 31st. They are getting ready to interview candidates for a new full-time chaplain.

Old Business

Pat is working on the Financial Review Team for 2010 and 2011.

New Business

Rev. Stacy wrote a draft of a resolution for the blessing of civil unions in consultation with Jim Naughton and Rebecca Wilson of Canticle Communications for the Vestry to consider. She said that it is important that when discussing this matter with others, we should emphasize families, loving relationships, support of family, etc. The draft appears here:

The Vestry and Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in DeKalb, Illinois resolve to extend the blessing of mutually loving and committed relationships to same sex couples in our parish through the rite of Holy Union in accordance with the policies of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and under the leadership of our bishop, The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee.

Be it further resolved that in making this historic decision the people of St. Paul's are saying that we have seen the evidence of God's blessing in the lives of same-sex

couples and wish to offer a sacramental rite that speaks to the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of these couples.

Be it further resolved that while same sex couples will have the option to seek a blessing of a civil union at St. Paul's through the rite of Holy Union we recognize that in the state of Illinois a civil union does not at this date carry all the rights and privileges of a civil marriage. Therefore we will understand if couples respectfully decline the rite of Holy Union.

Be it further resolved that in making this decision we remain committed to the spiritual support and friendship of same sex couples, their families, friends and allies.

Be it further resolved that as an act of evangelism and proclaiming the Gospel we will seek to share the story of our decision to offer the sacramental rite of Holy Union at St. Paul's with the larger community. We will do this through the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek to reflect the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and follow in his example through his acts of hospitality that he showed to everyone he encountered.

Signed the twenty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two-thousand and twelve.

St. Paul's Vestry and Rector

Mike suggested a slight change in the third paragraph from "respectfully decline" to "choose not to pursue" rite of Holy Union.

There was some discussion about publicizing this resolution. Rev. Stacy said that Jim and Rebecca suggested that after we submit a news article, they will help us write a press release.

Luke motioned, seconded by Pat to support this resolution. Motion carried. The resolution will appear in this month's newsletter.

The meeting went into executive session for the Rector's evaluation.

Dave closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Freyja Rasmussen-Johns
Clerk of the Vestry