

Vestry Meeting: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, DeKalb, Illinois

April 17, 2016, 12:15PM

VESTRY MINUTES

Members Present: *Senior Warden*, Rick Johns, *Junior Warden*: Bill Cummings, Marilyn Cleland, Julie Stubblefield, Mary Lincoln, Brad Smith, Linda Lorbach, Rev. Stacy Walker-Frontjes, *Music Director*: Lorraine Langer, *Clerk*: Gretchen Schlabach.

Absent: *Treasurer*: Pat Brown,

Announcements;

- I. Opening Prayer—Rev. Stacy
- II. Appreciations: Appreciations were given for: all, who helped with the funerals and Holy Week; Brian Wagner, who helped with the church yard by picking up sticks; Greeks, who helped with the outdoor clean-up; spring weather; Lorraine, who provided pizza; Pat Brown for all her work and for her; Rick's birthday; Peg, Frejya, Jocelyn; all the musicians. Oscar, Rowen, Luke, and Ava.

III. Vestry Visioning Moment **(Items I.-III. 15 minutes)**—**Mission of the Church**

What is the mission of the church? Glorify God, worshipping God and doing good works. Bunch of people living separate lives and coming together as one. Story from ACTS is a story of about community coming together. It good to hang out with nice people. Would people miss St. Paul's if we weren't here

- IV. Review and Approval March 20, 2016 Vestry meeting minutes **(5 minutes)**—Clerk, Gretchen Schlabach

Motion to approve the minutes passed

V. Committee Reports **(25 minutes) Please do not read aloud what was in your written report!**

- a. Treasurer's Report for January--Pat Brown **ATTACHMENT A**

No report

- b. Senior Warden's Report —Rick Johns **ATTACHMENT B**
Bylaws hasn't made any progress. Ash tree Lobster boil is producing some anxiety for a variety of reasons.

- c. Junior Warden's report and Buildings and Grounds report—Bill Cummings

ATTACHMENT C

No report

Building and Grounds – Discussion noted that more donuts are needed to feed the hungry next year during the Spring Clean. Relative to rectory repairs, Greg Spears provided a bids.

1. Rectory Repairs update

- d. Fellowship—Julie Stubblefield **ATTACHMENT D**

Peggy is doing the confirmation and need help setting up. Choir at 9:30, confirmants 10:00. Feast of the Assension (May 5th).

- e. Music—Lorraine Langer, Director of Music Ministries **ATTACHMENT E**

No other comments

- f. Christian Education—Gretchen Schlabach **ATTACHMENT F**

Noted that Adult Christian Education had not determined if they would be meeting on Sunday morning in the summer. Thoughts also centered on the possibility of reading one book, perhaps Early Christianity.

- g. Rector's Report—Rev. Stacy **ATTACHMENT G**

1. ISNIU Visit on Saturday, May 14th 1:30P.M.—hospitality
2. May 3&4, Prayers2Pass
3. Bishop Lee visiting with Vestry Saturday, April 23, 2016

MMR – in the past we had the whole vestry involved in the review. But now it is the Rector, Wardens, and two vestry members. The OTHER vestry members – discuss a form. May (month) other vestry meeting vestry (May 15th)

May 14th ISLAMIC SOCIETY – Julie Fellowship. Sat. 11:30

MAY 3RD AND 4TH – Prayers to pass. Donate water or mints.

1. Bishop Lee visiting with Vestry Saturday, April 23, 2016

VI. Old Business (10 minutes)

- a. Sanctuary rearrangement—report on formation of team

Sunday May 1st, set up committee chair and clerk. Look at the church and get ideas. Lights and overhang bugs.

MEMBERS Bill, Linda, Julie, Reece/Jocelyn, Terry/Jackie.

VII. New Business **(25 minutes)**

bradmech58@gmail.com

- a. Sunday morning service schedule change?

April 10th talked to the 8 o'clockers. It is not a question of **if** but rather than **when**. 8 o'clock will be canceled. Sunday after the Lobster Boil, May 22nd ONE SERVICE.

- b. Long-time parishioner award

Reminded of the award Eva and Henry received. Rose Mary Osberg is getting ready to move. It would be nice to do that to her.

May 7th 3pm – Marilyn and Frejya are organizing it tomorrow. Plaque (contact Peg Newby)

VIII. Closing Prayer and Adjournment—Linda Lorbach

Next vestry meeting will be the *Third Sunday, May 15th, 2016 at 12:15PM. Next Executive Committee Agenda Planning Meeting Monday, May 9th, 2016 at 1P.M. Next meeting closing prayer led by Bill Cummings.*

Agenda for Action (I will follow up on these items):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

ATTACHMENT A
Treasurer's Report
No Report

ATTACHMENT B
Senior Warden's Report

Senior Warden's Report April 2016

--Our insurance agent Jeff Lyngaas confirmed that we have raised our deductible to \$2500.

--The big ash tree by the parking lot is going to be removed by A-1 Tree Service "real soon now", hopefully within the next week.

--We now have new signs at the entrance to the parking lot and near the turnoff to the parish hall, pointing the way to 910 Normal Rd (the rectory) and to the parish office.

--The church Clean-up Day was a big success due to the help of about 30-40 NIU students who were members of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and the Kappa Phi Lambda sorority. They picked up trash and sticks, trimmed bushes, and moved 12 yards of mulch to all the beds around the church and around the trees, plus set up the 8 new raised bed gardens and filled them with soil. NIU Cares Day was a great thing for us this year.

--an important priority for the coming week is going to be writing thank you notes to these organizations.

--the two funerals, for Thea Beard and Eva Leonard, went well, with lots of help from a number of church members.

--Holy Week was great! I love the Easter Vigil service: it's my favorite of the entire year.

--I was unable to start a discussion about the church at the Low Sunday Brunch. Everyone seemed to be having too good a time to be that serious. Maybe some other time we will do this.

--No progress on the by-laws either. Susan has emailed them to us, but I am not going to have time to deal with them until mid-May.

--Bishop Lee is coming to do a confirmation next Saturday, April 23, with the service starting at 11 and lunch following. Also, he is going to meet with the vestry after lunch. Please be there for this meeting!

--I have done a lot of work on Lobster Boil. We have the fliers ready to be mailed on April 18, plus fliers and posters for the congregation, I have talked with our trucker Mark Dudgeon to get this on his calendar, and I have talked with the James Hook lobster people in Boston to let them know we will be ordering from them again (and to be sure that they still existed). I have also made sure we have enough bags and other supplies.

ATTACHMENT C
Junior Warden's Report
No Report

ATTACHMENT D
Fellowship Report

*Holy Week was busy, yet fun!

Easter Vigil celebration had plenty of food and champagne (thanks Rick and Freyja)

Easter Sunday was exciting with the hunt and The Chronicle visiting!!

Low Sunday Brunch had plenty of food and lots of friends!

*Up Next....

Bishop's Visit.... April 23rd. Peg Newby has offered to help me out with this.

Feast of the Ascension.. May 5th

Crepes on the Patio..... Mid to late July

Julie

ATTACHMENT E
Music

Vestry Meeting, April 17, 2016
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - DeKalb,
IL Music Ministries Report

1. The Adult/Youth and Children's Choirs

- Both choirs are preparing for the remainder of Easter and beginning of Pentecost. Both choirs are working on some new anthems! They are a joy to work with and sound great!
- I continue to reach out weekly relative to inviting adults and children from the Sunday morning pews, to join us in singing and ringing bells on Sundays and to share their talents and prayers in worship. I believe this is a great open door (inclusive) policy that is unique to St. Paul's in comparison to other churches with volunteer choirs in the Diocese. We have a wonderful core group of (adults/youth/children's) choir members that are talented, kind and inspiring, in an openly giving and receiving community to make this possible. This is huge in the long-term growth of our music program. **Thank You, Musicians and Families!**

2. Administrative Work

The following is in progress:

- Networking to collaborate with singers (adult/youth/children), organists and choir directors, from the three Episcopal Churches [St. Peter's-Sycamore, Calvary-Lombard, St. Luke-Dixon], that will be participating in the Regional Confirmation Service on 4/23/2016. **Two inclusive and celebratory regional confirmation community choirs, adult/youth and children!**
- Selecting music (hymns, service music, anthems) for 2016,
- Collaborating weekly with Administrative Assistant with music edits in our bulletins via Drop Box. In addition to updating music citations, this often includes importing hymns into music software and extensive time editing, to make the hymns user

- friendly for the bulletins, and congregation.
- Preparing performance reviews for the organist and pianist. I have and continue to share feed back with them on a weekly basis. Huixin Chen will be having an exit review, as she graduates from NIU in May.
 - Networking with NIU (beginning search for pianist position 2016-2017).
3. **Additionally**, I participated in much of the music planning and rehearsing as well as a little performing of special music for two funerals (Eva Leonard and Thea Beard) this month at St. Paul's. This was extra work and given as a gift to the families.

Lorraine Langer, Director of Music Ministries (Saturday 04-16-2016)

ATTACHMENT F Christian Education

Adult Christian Education continues to meet at 9:15 in the church's conference room. The class did not meet on April 3rd because of low Sunday brunch. April 10th focused on Acts 9:1-20 and the Gospel of John: 1-19. The class consists of a steady group of 8 attendees with 3-4 more members joining occasionally. Discussions are interesting and lively. All are welcome

ATTACHMENT G Rector's Report

Dear Vestry Members,

I this report you will find some areas of focus for me the past month, as well as looking ahead to the month to come. At the end will be a list of dates of note coming up in the weeks ahead. We have a lot going on between now and the end of May in particular. Please make a note of them and plan to participate in these events and services as you are able.

First and foremost, please plan to be in attendance for the regional diocesan confirmation service we are hosting on Saturday, April 23, 2016. The service begins at 11AM, and is followed by a reception. After the reception Bishop Lee will meet with our vestry. If you can help with the reception contact Peg Newby and Julie Stubblefield. If you are able to assist with the service, please contact myself or Susan King. We will have three candidates for reception from St. Paul's: Lorraine Langer, Marv Kombrink, and Pam Kombrink. Let's give a warm and joyful "official" welcome to the fellowship of the Communion of the Episcopal Church to Lorraine, Marv, Pam, and all the other candidates as well!

Pastoral Care

This past month I have spent the majority of my pastoral care time in preparing for the funerals of Eva Leonard and Thea Beard.

In the month to come I will be catching up with our homebound parishioners. As always, please do contact me if you are concerned someone is in need of a visit, and encourage people to contact me if they are experiencing health problems or other unexpected life changes.

We host a Holy Eucharist at the Oak Crest chapel on the third Wednesday of every month at 2:00P.M. The service generally lasts about thirty minutes. If you can attend, please do! Our older and homebound parishioners really enjoy praising God with you and visiting with you.

Liturgy

WE NEED USHERS! PERHAPS I'M NOT MAKING MYSELF CLEAR: **WE NEED**

USHERS! Please, if you are at all able, volunteer for this important ministry which includes greeting people as they enter our church! Invite others to consider this ministry, it is perfect for someone who may not want to say much, but likes to do something. No public speaking involved, simply a smile, a "hello, welcome!", and being available to help our guests feel right at home. Come to think of it, it's also perfect for a chatty and outgoing person. Let me know who you talk to and I will follow up with them. Let's revive this ever important ministry of hospitality and welcome!

My main work in the past two weeks has been the preparation for two funerals, and also for the April 23rd Confirmation service at St. Paul's.

On April 10th I had a conversation with the five parishioners who were at the 8AM service about the future of that service. We will talk more about this at this month's vestry meeting. However, it is not a question as to whether or not that service will continue—it will not. An ending date is yet to be determined.

Hospitality

March and early April were a lot busier than I anticipated with the increased need for pastoral care, so I have not had the signs made yet for our open sanctuary program. I have this on my list of things to do in April.

The Islamic Society of NIU and DeKalb will be our guests for an open house at St. Paul's on Saturday, May 14th, 2016 at 1:30P.M. I have ordered some literature to share with our guests (as I appreciated the literature they shared with us at their open house). I will also be preparing some brief remarks as an intro to the Episcopal Church and also a tour of our sanctuary: it's symbols, the way we worship and

pray, the sacraments of baptism and Holy Eucharist, etc. I welcome some partners in this endeavor! In particular in providing some hospitality in the form of refreshments, but also being available for conversation and Q&A. This is a unique opportunity for us to continue to build a friendship of mutual respect and interfaith cooperation with our Muslim neighbors. I pray you will plan to attend and help us show the best of what it means to be the Church.

Mission and Outreach

Our Vestry Visioning moment this month will be on the mission of the church. What is our mission as St. Paul's? What is the larger mission of the Church? And other questions and thoughts you bring will guide our discussion. Please give it some thought. Knowing who we are and being able to articulate that clearly to our neighbors is important.

On Sunday, April 10th we had our first meeting of the year for the **Thrive Neighborhood Market and Community Garden**. It was well attended. Plans are well underway to build the new raised beds and raise funds to cover the costs of these new beds. We will have three market dates this year on Saturdays from 11AM to 2PM: July 16, August 20, September 17. Plant the Garden Sunday will be on Sunday March 22nd immediately following the end of the 10:30A.M. service. And official Tuesday night garden nights will begin on May 31st from 6:30 to 7:30P.M. Promotional postcards are in for 2016. We will begin distributing these on April 16th with the help of volunteers from NIU Cares Day.

I also continue to attend the **NIU Interfaith Committee** monthly meetings. This committee will transition into being a Presidential Commission later this spring. There will be an Interfaith Panel Discussion at NIU on Thursday, April 21st from 6-8PM at the Regency Room at the Holmes Student Center. This will be a round table discussion format. I am volunteering to serve as one of the round table facilitators. For more information go to <http://www.niutoday.info/2016/04/13/diversity-dialogues-takes-on-interfaith-issues-april-21/>

Prayers2Pass is also right around the corner! Tuesday May 3rd and Wednesday May 4th, 10AM to 2PM or as our volunteers are available. This will be <gasp!> the fourth year we have offered this wonderfully simple and yet deeply appreciated prayer and kindness ministry to the students, faculty, and staff of NIU. We will be asking for donations of water bottles and rolls of mints and lifesavers very soon. Also, looking for some hospitality volunteers for those two days. Want to know more? Talk to Gretchen Schlabach, Terry Dickow, Jamie Stubblefield, and Rosemarie Ostberg for more information about what it's like to serve God by offering to pray for our neighbors. They will be happy to tell you. Or, call me!

The Ministry of Administration

In the next month I will be writing reviews for the administrative assistant and the director of music.

Christian Education

May 8th I will be leading the children's Sunday School in a baking communion bread activity and lesson. I would welcome volunteers. More information in the May newsletter.

Adult Christian Education is going strong. I will defer to Gretchen Schlabach to report on our Sunday morning class. My goal for the next couple of months is to in conversation with others from our Adult Sunday school to put together a series of events starting in late summer/early fall on the spirituality and theology of C.S. Lewis' Narnia. This is leading up to our November 20th Advent Retreat, "Advent in Narnia". We may also have a book club once over the summer for a title tbd.

Other news of note

Monday, June 6th thru Thursday June, 9th I will be attending the "Beautiful Authority" conference for women Episcopal priests in Seattle.

Sunday July 3rd through Friday, July 8th I will be on a preaching retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton, Wisconsin. The Rev. Dru Green will be our guest priest on July 3rd.

I have also planned my summer vacation for Thursday, July 21 thru Friday, August 5th, 2016. The Rev. Laura Gottardi-Littell will be our guest priest on July 24th. The Rev. Amy Fallon will be our guest priest on July 30th.

Dates to remember:

Saturday, April 16th 9A.M. to 12P.M.—Spring Cleanup with NIU Cares Day

Saturday, April 23rd 11A.M.—Regional Diocesan Confirmation service at St. Paul's (meeting with Bishop Lee and our Vestry after the reception)

Tuesday & Wednesday May 3rd and 4th midday—Prayers2Pass Finals week edition

Thursday, May 5th 6PM—Feast of the Ascension, potluck dinner after the service

Saturday, May 14th 1:30P.M.— ISNIU to visit St. Paul's for an open house with refreshments

Sunday, May 15th—Pentecost

Saturday, May 21st—Lobster Boil

Sunday, May 22nd—Plant the Garden Sunday and Children's and Youth Ministries Recognition Sunday

I look forward to seeing you all this Sunday.

In Christ,

Rev. Stacy+

