

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

June 19, 2016, 12:15PM

VESTRY MINUTES

Members Present: *Senior Warden*, Rick Johns; *Junior Warden*, Bill Cummings; Julie Stubblefield; Mary Lincoln; Linda Lorbach; *Rector*, Rev. Stacy Walker; *Clerk*, Gretchen Schlabach.

Others in Attendance: *Music Director*, Lorraine Langer

Absent: Julie Stubblefield; Brad Smith; *Treasurer*, Pat Brown

- I. Opening Prayer—Rev. Stacy
- II. Appreciations – Healing service; great sermons; the Mounts for cleaning-up parish hall very well after their family gathering; Jocelyn for her new retirement, youth ministry and plant the garden, those who helped with the Bishop's breakfast, lobster boil and for all the people who helped.
- III. Vestry Visioning Moment **(Items I.-III. 15 minutes)**—**Stewardship**  
Stewardship – giving money to the church. Stewardship should be on the Vestry agenda each month.
- IV. Review and Approval May 15, 2016 Vestry meeting minutes **(5 minutes)**—Clerk, Gretchen Schlabach  
April and May minutes **approved.**
- V. Committee Reports **( 25 minutes) Please do not read aloud what was in your written report!**
  - a. Treasurer's Report for May, postponed—Pat Brown on vacation **ATTACHMENT A**  
No report
  - b. Senior Warden's Report —Rick Johns **ATTACHMENT B**  
See report
  - c. Junior Warden's report and Buildings and Grounds report—Bill Cummings  
**ATTACHMENT C**  
Rectory repairs: Finding a suitable vanity has been challenging. Greg Spears is working on it. As soon as the vanity comes in, work can begin. Pinkston-Tadd roofing is eager to look at the roof. Looked under a shingle and there is wood decking and no insulation. The city requires insulation (5.5" – R30). Looking at a foam type of insulation, city may grandfather us in or use an R15. Gary Tadd will talk to the city. Hope to have some numbers relative to the cost and then message that information to the parish.

No audit report. Letter of assurance is a good idea.

- d. Fellowship—Julie Stubblefield **ATTACHMENT D**
- e. Music—Lorraine Langer, Director of Music Ministries **ATTACHMENT E**
- f. Christian Education—Gretchen Schlabach **ATTACHMENT F**
- g. Rector’s Report—Rev. Stacy **ATTACHMENT G**

Tomato vines on the bulletin board. Rick will count the money that thrive garden has taken in and will add that to the tomato vine.

VI. Old Business (**15 minutes**)

- a. By-laws review – nothing to report. Hope to get to it, soon.
- b. Rectory Repairs
- c. Roof

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

- a. Mutual Ministry Review executive session discussion with vestry members only (Wardens and Rector not present for this portion of the meeting).

Rosemary handled NIU Archive (newspaper clippings, special events). Jenny Cummings has taken over. Bill brought Jenny recent email to the vestry. Sarah Cain is the contact person.

VIII. Closing Prayer and Adjournment—Mary Lincoln

**Next vestry meeting will be the *Third* Sunday, July 17, 2016 at 12:15PM. Next Executive Committee Agenda Planning Meeting Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 12:30 P.M. Next meeting closing prayer led by Rick Johns.**

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

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**ATTACHMENT A  
Treasurer’s Report**

**ATTACHMENT B  
Senior Warden Report**

- Lobster Boil occurred smoothly and profitably.
- I sprayed the sidewalk cracks and parking lot for weeds, especially along the curb on the north side.
- I facilitated communications between various parties for the Doug George funeral
- I attended the Bishop’s Breakfast.
- I spent a fair amount of time pondering Monday’s Mutual Ministry Review
- We need to get A-1 Tree Service paid (\$1050)
- by-laws remain an un-dealt-with issue

**ATTACHMENT C**  
**Junior Warden Report**

**ATTACHMENT D**  
**Fellowship Report**

Nothing new to report!!

\*Up Next....

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

**Parish Picnic.....** August 21st

Sign up sheet in Parish Hall for remainder of events.

**ATTACHMENT E**  
**Vestry Meeting, Sunday, June 19, 2016**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church - DeKalb, IL**  
**Music Ministries Report**

**1. The Adult/Youth and Children's Choirs:**

- Are on summer break for the summer months (June, July, August),
- Will begin fall rehearsals Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> , and
- Will begin singing for worship services in the fall church school year on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

**2. Administrative Work Completed:**

- **Worship Music for the summer months** (hymns, preludes, postludes) are chosen and submitted to the Rector, Administrative Assistant, Altar Guild, Organist and Choirs. Additionally, a "Draft" of the **August Service & Picnic** (8/21) music is selected and sent to the aforementioned people.
- **Performance Reviews** of the Organist [Kathleen Johnson 6/5] and Pianist [Huixin Chen 5/21] Work Period: 2015 Jan-Dec/2016 Jan-June, **were given and submitted to the Rector.**

**3. Ongoing Administrative Work**

- **Pianist Search** is in progress for the **2016-2017 church choir year**. Advertising resources include: a. Our Church Website,  
b. NIU Music Department Gig Board,  
c. Craig's list and  
d. Indeed Inc.  
These resources have already proven to be successful as I have two auditions and interviews scheduled for June 19 and 20. Additionally, a new group of graduate students (pianists) will

be arriving in late August and I hope to audition and interview potential applicants from the NIU School of Music.

- **Music repertoire research and program planning includes**
  - a. Finding anthems that are technically and artistically challenging and worship appropriate,
  - b. Arranging new and old music (anthems and hymns) for the choirs and congregation,
  - c. Selecting new and old hymns, and service music to further enrich our worship services.
- **Collaborating weekly with the Administrative Assistant** (Susan King) on music edits in our bulletins via Drop Box. In addition to updating music citations, this often includes importing hymns into music software with extensive time editing, to make the hymns user friendly for the bulletins, and congregation.

*Lorraine Langer, Director of Music Ministries (Thursday 06-16-2016)*

#### **ATTACHMENT F**

##### **Adult Education**

Adult Education class is continuing to meet during the summer at 9:15 and are discussing Sister Joan Chittister's book, The Ten Commandments. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the group will be discussing Chapter Five, The Law of Life: You shall not kill. Also, everyone is welcome to a read-along with C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" in anticipation of the Advent Retreat on "Advent in Narnia" on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ATTACHMENT G**

##### **June 2016 Rector's Report to the Vestry, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, DeKalb, Illinois**

**Written June 16, 2016**

**The Very Rev. Stacy A. Walker, Rector**

Dear Vestry Members,

This month as we prepare for our annual Mutual Ministry Review I would encourage you to review the Vestry minutes from the past year, and also review my Rector's reports to the Vestry from the past year as well.

Here is a summary of the highlights of the work I have engaged in this past month as the Rector of St. Paul's.

##### **Pastoral Care**

This past month has continued to be an intensive time of pastoral care work. In late May I presided at the funeral of a community member at a local funeral home. On June 11<sup>th</sup> I presided at the funeral of the son of one of our members at another local funeral home. Additionally I have been following up with members of the parish in their time of bereavement, and visiting another member who has entered hospice care with more frequency (Maurgerite Harkness).

In addition to these more acute pastoral care situations I also presided at our monthly HOLY Eucharist at the Oak Crest Chapel on June 15<sup>th</sup>. We host a Holy Eucharist at the Oak Crest

chapel on the third Wednesday of every month at 2:00P.M. The future of this service is uncertain. I began a conversation with the two people in attendance yesterday about what pastoral care would look like and home communion if the service were to end. At this point they are going to talk to their friends including members of St. Peter's in Sycamore and see if we can increase our core group of attendees. Sometimes even good things come to their end, we are not there yet, but it is possible this service will end. For the time being we will continue as planned.

#### Liturgy

"First come, first to serve" on Sunday mornings this summer began on June 5th. It seems to be working well. Basically instead of trying to wrangle everyone's erratic summer calendars into a Sunday morning ministers schedule we simply put out name tags with each role in the service that volunteers pick up on that day and serve in that role. Roles such as usher, lector, intercessor, Eucharistic minister, acolyte. As we did last year, only I will vest. The acolyte and Eucharistic minister need not vest. Please remember this is a good time to encourage people not already serving as Sunday morning ministers to give one of the roles in the liturgy a try. Before you pick up the name tag several weeks in a row, please encourage folks who have not participated but may be willing to try to give it a go.

For the month of July we will be using Holy Eucharist Rite I as our Sunday liturgy. I know this language will sound a bit strange and old fashioned to many of you. Please keep in mind this is an act of hospitality to those few folks who were attending the 8 o'clock service. But that is only part of the reason for celebrating with Rite I. Rite I is a part of our liturgical heritage and has a theological view point and beauty all it's own. We will stumble over some of the responses, just smile and give your best to God. That's all we are ever asked to do, and God finds our best to be sufficient.

#### Hospitality

In June, Susan and I began opening the front doors of the Sanctuary Monday thru Thursday 9AM to 2PM, or as near to those times as possible. After yet another public tragedy and the largest loss of life in a mass shooting in U.S.history, we felt this was particular important for us to make the sanctuary available for anyone who needs it. Next week I will finally go to the sign shop and have those open sanctuary signs made! I will also have the signs in the front window updated to reflect our new Sunday morning schedule (9:15A.M. Sunday School, 10:30A.M. Holy Eucharist), and also to update my name.

#### Mission and Outreach

I have not had the opportunity to speak to anyone about a social justice committee, although it remains in my prayers. If you are interested in such a ministry, please contact me for further discussion.

Plant the Garden Sunday on May 22nd went very well. Now the real work has begun! We will have three market dates this year on Saturdays from 11AM to 2PM: July 16, August 20, September 17. Official Tuesday night garden nights have begun: 6:30 to 7:30P.M., weather permitting. We are still raising funds to pay for the garden renovations. Purchase a tomato today, do it for Jesus!

This past week I met with some other local pastors to plan an interfaith gathering in response to the tragic mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. An email with a pastoral letter from me was sent today, it also includes a link to Bishop Lee's pastoral letter. Our open house for our friends at the Islamic Society of DeKalb on May 14th was a successful event and has strengthened our ties of friendship. I mention this at this point in the report because this relationship is helping all of our faith communities come together at times like this, but also to bring us together to be proactive on issues of justice and peace in our own city. Because of our

faithful tending of our friendship with our Muslim neighbors I was able to reach out to them to invite them to participate in planning and attending this interfaith gathering in which a hate crime was committed against the LGBTQ community erroneously in the name of Islam. I believe our invitation will be accepted, that new friendships will be built between all of our faith communities who are participating, and that the image of God will be more fully honored and reflected in our community of faith and hope. The Interfaith Gathering to honor and lament those who died in Orlando will be held on Wednesday, June 29th at 7PM at First Lutheran Church in DeKalb, on third street by the DeKalb Public Library.

#### The Ministry of Administration

In the next month I will be writing reviews for the administrative assistant and the director of music. This really is on my calendar for this month! I would like the reviews to be complete before we begin working on the 2017 annual operating budget.

#### Christian Education

Adult Christian Education is going strong. I will defer to Gretchen Schlabach to report on our Sunday morning class.

I will be meeting next week with two lay leaders in our adult Sunday School to plan a read a long with C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" in anticipation of our Advent Retreat on "Advent in Narnia" on November 20th.

We will also have a guest teacher of a bible study from an LGBT perspective in September. I have confirmed this with Kristen Lash (they/them/theirs). Kristen is the author of this bible study which they wrote as an internship project for their home congregation--Westminster Presbyterian in DeKalb. More information about this in August.

Additionally I have been in conversation with Henry Leonard and Maureen Gerrity about a designation for some new Godly Play stories from some of the memorial funds St. Paul's has received in honor of Eva Leonard. A portion of the funds will also go towards the newly renovated Thrive Garden. I do not have the final numbers from Maureen, but it appears there will be some money to spare for adult education as well. I spoke to Henry about this and suggested subsidizing copies of the "Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe" and/or "Advent in Narnia" in anticipation of those upcoming education events. He thought this was a fine idea. More details next month.

#### Other news of note

Monday, June 6th thru Thursday June, 9th I attended the "Beautiful Authority" conference for women Episcopal priests in Seattle. Thank you for your support in my attending this conference. It was an excellent opportunity for networking and conversation about raising up women priests in leadership at all levels of the Episcopal Church. Gender equality work benefits us all in the long run.

Sunday July 3rd through Friday, July 8th I will be on a preaching preparation retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton, Wisconsin. I am trying something new--planning ahead on preaching for the next 6-12 months. Sermon writing can be a very time intensive process, and many weeks as the solo preacher I am stretched very thin. I hope this will lay some ground work that will come in handy during those particularly busy times. The Rev. Dru Green will be our guest priest on July 3rd. Fr. David Hedges will provide emergency pastoral care while I am away. 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. Fr. David Hedges will provide emergency pastoral care while I am away (July 25 thru August 5th specifically). For this vacation time I will be no further than a few hours' drive away, fyi.

I also have made plans to attend the alumni lectures at the Seminary of the Southwest in September. I will be gone September 23rd through September 29th in Austin, Texas. Fr. Bob Trask will be our guest priest on Sunday, September 25th.

I am planning to take a few days of vacation at the end of October including Sunday October 30th, Fr. Bob Trask will be our guest priest that day. This would be using the remainder of my vacation time for 2016.

Dates to remember:

Saturday, July 16—Thrive Market

Saturday, August 20—Thrive Market

Sunday, August 21—Parish Picnic

Tuesday and Wednesday August 23 & 24—Prayers2pass welcome week edition

Sunday, September 11th—Children's Sunday School kick-off

Saturday, September 17—Thrive Market

I look forward to seeing you all this Sunday.

In Christ,

Rev. Stacy+