

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2021

Members Present: Doug Merritt, Doug Morris, Ramona Curtis, Beverly Cook, Richard Searcy, Carol Canter, Joe Fesperman, Gwen Temple, Mark Williams, Mother Stephanie Parker

Others Present: John Harwell

The meeting started at 12:15 p.m. with a prayer by Mother Stephanie Parker.

Meeting Minutes: Gwen Temple made a motion that was seconded by Richard Searcy to approve the March 21, 2021 Vestry Meeting Minutes. The motion passed.

Financial Report: John Harwell advised that this was the strongest Q1 in recent history. Regular givers have increased. Expenses are in line. See addendum. Vestry must approve March and April financials at next meeting.

Crisis Assistance: Carol Canter advised that our Crisis program remains active.

Sr. Warden: Mark expressed gratitude to Ramona Curtis for her support as the substitute organist. Gwen Temple, Carol Canter, Doug Merritt and Mark Williams proposed revisions to the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery Guidelines and Regulations document. Gwen made a motion that was seconded by Joe to accept the changes to the cemetery guidelines and regulations. The updated Cemetery Guidelines and Regulations need to be shared on the website and e-news. Bonnie Merritt is being asked if she would oversee a workgroup related to overseeing the Cemetery.

Jr. Warden: Joe expressed gratitude for the work being done to beautify and maintain the grounds, including recognition of Doug Merritt, Diane Peabody, Jerry Barker, Rachel Minnick, Dave Barton and others for their time and talent. There is an open bid process for some revisions to the Chapel Sacristy to improve function and appearance. Pest control is actively working to limit insect activity. Steel grids have been put in place to detour squirrel and racoon habitation. Measures are in place to sanitize the restroom before, between and after Sunday services. Richard Searcy is in the process of reviewing a fix for the screws on bronze plaque in the labyrinth. Plans are being drafted for future church office modifications.

Rector's Report: Mother Stephanie advised that there is a continued effort to safely open the Church to in person Sunday morning services at a 30% capacity. Jeff Beard has been asked to schedule ushers, Drew and Pam Mayberry are scheduling Alter Guild and Acolytes. A Flower Guild lead is needed. Mother Stephanie is moving ahead with scheduling a Vestry Retreat in Valle Crucis for Jun 3-5. The focus will be on the need to explore conflict history, how to mend broken hearts and how to treat leaders and others in future conflicts. The probationary period for Parish Administrator position has completed and Morgen Love has been transitioned to a Full-Time with Benefits employee. In conjunction with the Parish directory updates currently in progress by Ramona and Ruth Harris, Carol Canter is going to explore options for a pictorial directory. A review of the monument and markers in the church cemetery is needed to ensure that there are not any safety hazards.

Led by Mother Stephanie, the meeting closed with a prayer at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Williams