

## St. George's Church Annual Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2021

The Annual Meeting of St. George's Episcopal Church, Schenectady, was held in the sanctuary following the regular 10 a.m. Sunday Mass. There were several congregants in attendance and more watching the proceedings via YouTube livestream at home.

### **Appointment of Clerk**

Meg Hughes was nominated by Anne Kennison to serve as clerk of the meeting and take notes. Alice Polumbo seconded the motion, which was passed by general acclamation of those present.

### **Rector's Comments**

Father Matthew R. Stromberg, rector, offered a prayer of convocation thanking God for having sustained St. George's through a challenging year, and asking for His continued blessing on the church.

He went on to describe a few of the challenges we overcame in 2020, chief among them being a three-month shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing barriers to in-person worship. Sadly, some in our congregation have battled illness, one long-time parishioner died, and many have lost loved ones. Father noted: "We grieve, but are unable to mourn together."

The year was a challenging one for our nation, too, with racial tensions and a hotly-contested election leading to deep divisions and deadly riots. "But by God's grace we have persevered and even managed to thrive as a vibrant community," Father remarked.

With the unstinting support of Music Director Dr. Brian Taylor, David and Anne Kennison, and Dr. Jeffrey Wengrovius, the church pivoted to an online format, first broadcasting via Facebook and using personal cellphones, and then eventually upgrading our audio-visual system and livestreaming on YouTube.

St. George's also managed to remain financially stable, thanks to generous parishioner contributions and a federal COVID-relief loan. Parish Administrator and Financial Secretary Bob McCloskey was instrumental in helping the church accomplish numerous maintenance projects in 2020. Treasurer Jeff Wengrovius, Senior Warden David Kennison, and Junior Warden Jon Ewbank were also lauded for their great energy and expertise in protecting our physical plant. Father gratefully acknowledged the role many other parishioners have played to help our church adapt and even improve, and urged all to review the reports in the Annual Meeting packet for details.

Father Matt sought forgiveness for any perceived pastoral shortcomings over the past year, and urged all in the parish to assist him in keeping our social network intact by using the Church Directory produced by Bob and Lynn Paska. It is an invaluable resource that provides contact information so we can easily check in with one another.

In closing, Father mused on the St. Augustine quote that President Joseph R. Biden used in his recent inaugural address: “A people is the association of a multitude of rational beings united by a common agreement on the objects of their love.” As long as the source of our common love is God, Father declared, “Let us not grow weary; 2021 will be a good year for St. George’s!”

### **Elections of Wardens, Treasurer, and Vestry Members**

Congregants had already demonstrated their support for the following slate of candidates via online voting. Father thanked these individuals for their willingness to serve.

- David Kennison, having consented to succeed Suzanne Hartz as Senior Warden, was confirmed to fill Sue’s unexpired term until 2022, at which time he will be eligible to stand for his own first two-year term.
- Jon Ewbank, having completed a temporary term as Junior Warden (filling a vacancy left by the resignation of Chris Henry), was elected to his own first official term. Jon’s first two-year term will expire in 2023.
- Jeff Wengrovius, having completed an unexpired term vacated by Jon Pearson, was elected to a renewed full three-year Vestry term, to expire in 2024. Jeff also serves as Vestry Treasurer.
- Meg Hughes and Sandee Hughes, both completing their first three-year terms as Vestry members, were reelected. Their second three-year terms will expire in 2024.
- Sean Albert, having consented to step into a Vestry vacancy left by the departure of Jim Turley, was confirmed. Sean will complete Jim’s unexpired term ending in 2023, at which time he will be eligible to stand for his own first three-year term.

### **Conclusion of Meeting**

There being no further business to transact nor any potluck luncheon to consume, Jon Pearson moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Alice Pumbo and the Annual Meeting concluded at 11:25 a.m.

Signed,

Meg Hughes, Clerk of the Meeting