

St. George's Church Vestry Meeting Minutes September 15, 2022

Present: Sean Albert, Jon Ewbank, Carol Gaige, Meg Hughes, Sandee Hughes, David Kennison, Lynn Paska, Paul Smigelski, Rich Unger, Jeff Wengrovius

Absent: None

Vestry convened at 6:34 p.m. in the Shaw Lounge, with Senior Warden David Kennison offering a prayer.

Rich Unger moved to accept the August minutes; Jeff Wengrovius seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Senior Warden's Report

Staff Updates

Fred Ledge has thoroughly cleaned the church and will do upkeep going forward. He has completed a preliminary cleaning in Cranmer Hall and begun work in the Great Hall. He is cleaning all seven bathrooms on the campus weekly.

Rector Search

Our Office of Transition Ministry Profile was posted online August 30th and our Episcopal News Service ad went live September 8th. Several inquiries have been received and need to be vetted by Mtr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis. Note: She is departing on a trip to the Holy Land October 13th.

Bishop Search

A lengthy Diocesan Profile was issued September 14th. It includes five pages of history, 12 pages of statistics, 10 pages on ministries, and four pages each on finances and "What We Want in a Bishop." It makes no mention of past controversy over same-sex marriage, but does state that an important attribute we seek in our new leader is conflict resolution.

Upcoming Services & Supply Clergy

- September 25—Fr. Marshall Vang
- October 2—Fr. Marshall Vang
- October 9—Morning Prayer (and Johnson Hall trip)

- October 16—Fr. Peter Schofield
- October 23—Fr. Marshall Vang
- October 30—Fr. Marshall Vang
- November 1—Fr. Marshall Vang (and All Saints' Day, potluck supper)
- November 6—?
- November 13—Fr. Marshall Vang, All Souls' (transferred from Nov 2)
- November 20—Fr. Peter Schofield, Christ the King, Daughters of the King procession & tea
- November 27—Fr. Marshall Vang, Great Litany
- December 4—?
- December 11—Fr. Peter Schofield (?)
- December 18—Fr. John Wengrovius
- December 24—Fr. Marshall Vang
- December 25—Fr. Tom Papazoglakis (?)

Activities Calendar

- September 18—Start-Up Sunday/Ministry Sign-up
- September 24—Stockade Walkabout
- October 2—Blessing of the Animals (St. Francis' Day Oct. 4)
- October 9—Field Trip to Johnson Hall and lunch at Partner's Pub, Johnstown
- October 16—Book Club meeting
- October ?—Parish Dinner (need theme, menu & organization)
- October 30 —Forum on Outreach/Mission
- October ?—Stewardship Campaign kickoff (need campaign coordinator)
- November 1—All Saints' Day & potluck supper
- November 2—All Souls' Day (transferred to Nov 13)
- December 24—Christmas Eve "Midnight Mass" at 8 p.m.
- December 25—Christmas is a Sunday this year. Mass will be at 11 a.m.

Junior Warden's Report

Jon Ewbank advised Vestry that on August 4 while accompanying an inspector performing an annual insurance-mandated boiler inspection, our Senior Warden had noted that the feedwater pump for the church boiler was running constantly, but no water was visible in the sight glass. The pump was turned off. Additionally, he noted

that a pipe leading to/from the Cranmer House boiler was rusted through. This boiler feedwater pump was also secured.

On August 31, David and Jeff Wengrovius accompanied Jack Guarneri (the contractor who installed the new Great Hall boiler) for an appraisal of the extent of needed repairs. Initial indications are that the automatic fill valve to the church boiler's feedwater pump has failed, which caused the pump to run continuously (therefor the sight glass was full, so no water level was discernable). A new valve has been acquired. On the Cranmer house boiler, in addition to the rusted pipe, the inspection ports are also rusted through. The boilers need to be opened for Jack to determine the full extent of the work needed, make a recommendation, and develop a cost estimate.

A contract has been signed with Chris Peters for work on the church west entrance, to sand, repair, seal, and repaint, including the doors, half-round window, and threshold. The work has begun, with the front doors removed and a temporary portal in place. (Note: That interim door will be reused to create an access point between St. George's House and the Great Hall.)

In St. George's House (music director's residence), Chris will repair, caulk, and repaint the northside windows; repair the leaking radiator in the master bedroom; and sand, clean, and paint the living room ceiling.

A contract with Nick Plowman has been agreed upon (but not signed) for exterior work on the Rectory, including scraping, pointing up, repairing, priming, and painting the façade, including the garage door, front fence, doorway, and trim. He will also scrape, prime, and paint the cornice and fascia; resecure and repaint the front door railing; and repair windows and trim as indicated.

Further projects as recommended by the Asset Management Committee are being held pending the boiler repair estimate(s) referenced above. Treasurer Jeff Wengrovius registered a concern that the specific financial details of the above contracts were never brought to his attention. Jon agreed to keep Jeff informed regarding all financial agreements going forward.

Treasurer's Report

Jeff notes that our budget continues to be in remarkably good shape, thanks to the absence of a Rector's salary and benefits. Our cash position is strong and that will help us meet current and future maintenance obligations.

Jeff is on track with the budget process as laid out in the August minutes. Vestry members received a draft budget for review. There were a few general questions about the budget process and one concern about an apparent discrepancy in the music director's fringe benefits for the coming year. Jeff will look into it.

All are aware of the heavy financial burden of maintaining our aging infrastructure. Jeff encouraged the Asset Management Committee to be more aggressive in their goal of analyzing our current real estate holdings and determining if there are any feasible means of divesting ourselves of any buildings. That analysis is underway and no simple solutions are seen at this point.

Audit Update

Jeff has provided Jason Marra of Cusack & Co. with an array of documentation illustrating the church's finances and financial processes. An onsite review has been tentatively scheduled for mid-October.

Community Liaison Report

Rich Unger reminded Vestry that the Stockade Walkabout is set for Saturday, September 24, and St. George's will be one of the buildings open for tours. He also advised that the annual Stockade candlelight (ghost) tours will be held October 12-28. Tickets are \$13 and sell out quickly. The event is jointly sponsored by the Schenectady Historical Society and the Schenectady Heritage Foundation. Suzy Unger will be one of the guides.

Garden Ministry

Meg Hughes organized a field trip to the Berkshire Botanical Gardens on September 13 as a thank you to Suzy Unger, Barb Wengrovius, Gloria Kishton, and Debbie Lambeth. The event also served as a farewell to Debbie, who is moving to Sarasota, FL in mid-October.

Book Club

The current reading selection, "Bloody Mohawk," will be discussed on October 16. On the Sunday before that (October 9), all Georgians are welcome to participate in a field trip to the 18th century home of William Johnson (an original founder of St. George's Church) in Johnstown. Plans also call for a lunch break at Partner's Pub. To date, 27 parishioners have signed up. Meg is planning to cap participation at 35 so that we can readily be accommodated at both the restaurant and the historic site.

Hospitality Committee

Sandee Hughes announced that coffee hour is moving back into the Great Hall as of this coming Sunday. She thanked Jon and Meredith Ewbank for the Keurig coffee maker and coffee pods that we have been using for the past few weeks, and Barb Wengrovius, who also generously donated coffee pods.

Sandee continues to see evidence of mice in the Great Hall kitchen. She is redoubling efforts to make the facility less inviting to pests and is frustrated when others leave crumbs or inadequately packaged edibles for the mice to nibble. Please, everyone, keep the Great Hall kitchen scrupulously clean. Mice have chewed into bags of sugar, coffee, and individual creamers. These items must now be stored in sealed containers, the refrigerator, or Dr. Taylor's apartment.

Communications

Lynn Paska is working on the September issue of *The Georgian*. Shortly she will have photos from the Art Show Café posted on the website.

Archives

Sean Albert had no formal report but stated that he will be working with Mtr. Lisa Schoonmaker on reviewing and sorting the contents of the church's library. He also inquired whether anyone was aware of any pictures of the rood screen that was removed from the sanctuary during a remodel in 1952.

Outreach

Paul Smigelski noted that the church has collected 1,392 pounds of food so far in 2022.

Pastoral Care

Jim Wingate had no report.

Art Show Café

Brian Taylor filed a detailed report on this traditional fun event. He was greatly appreciative of the efforts of all who volunteered their time on September 10. We took in more than \$1,000 but expenses totaled \$525 and there is a good deal of food left over. He would like to try some new menu items next year.

New Business

Sean Albert has obtained a “Little Lending Library” and proposed erecting it on the southwest corner of the church’s property, bordering Ferry Street. He has also volunteered to pay a one-time \$50 registration fee so that it will be featured on a nationwide website listing such locations. By general consensus Vestry approved the effort. Meg offered to assist him in installing it.

Old Business

None

Adjournment

Vestry adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Rector Search—6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 6

Regular Vestry—6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 20

Respectfully,

Meg Hughes, Vestry Clerk