

St. George's Church Vestry Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2022

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

Absent, excused: Lynn Paska, Rich Unger

Senior Warden David Kennison convened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. in the Shaw Lounge with a prayer for Vestry.

Sandee Hughes moved to accept the October minutes; Jeff Wengrovius seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Senior Warden's Report

Cleaning of Church Property

Our new cleaner Fred Ledge has done a magnificent job in the Great Hall, particularly in the kitchen, doing deep cleaning and minor repairs. He is over budget in terms of hours, but now that things are in good shape, he should need only 10 hours a week to maintain the church, Great Hall, and Cranmer. We also need him to move on to some major tasks at the Rectory.

Boilers

The revised estimated cost (including new feedwater/condensate tank) now stands at \$130,000. We still have no firm date for delivery, but our prepayment has gained us a slightly better position in the months-long queue.

In the meantime, according to Senior Warden David Kennison, the old, repaired church boiler is "hanging in there." He is checking it regularly and a remote monitoring system has been installed. So far, only Brian Taylor, using his Galaxy phone, has been able to employ the computer app that is the key to checking on the boiler remotely. David and others who have attempted to access the remote feature on iPhones have been unsuccessful.

The smaller Cranmer Hall boiler is performing adequately and should continue to be fine with proper maintenance.

Boiler Capital Campaign

The church has collected nearly \$28,000, with some very generous pledges yet to arrive. We should easily surpass our \$35,000 goal. This is an outstanding expression of concern and support from parishioners both current and past.

Web Site

Mark Rose of Groupiehead recommended to Jon Pearson several critical security changes to our site, totaling \$225. David approved the cost to be covered within the 2022 budget.

Mr. Rose later recommended that we also upgrade our site from http:// to https:// (reflecting enhanced security). We are currently considered “Not Secure” so some search engines will not find our site and/or may not open the site. The cost to enhance security is \$250, which would exceed our current budget. Vestry felt it was acceptable to postpone the upgrade briefly so that it can be covered by our 2023 budget.

Activities Calendar

- November 27—Stewardship Kickoff (with speech by Meg Hughes during announcements at the church) and Advent Forum by Mother Lisa Schoonmaker at Coffee Hour). Sandee will line up bagels and fruit for the Forum, and she will be reimbursed for the expense.
- December 24—Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, 8 p.m.
- December 25—Christmas Day, 11 a.m.

Vestry briefly discussed ideas for future Forums. Sandee says there has been some interest in a carol sing at the Great Hall some Sunday during Advent. Jeff has a presentation on old coins that he has volunteered to do, perhaps in January. He also would enjoy leading a sing-along of some classic American favorites, perhaps in conjunction with a dinner event at the Hall.

Upcoming Services & Supply Clergy

- November 20—Fr. Peter Schofield, Christ the King procession
- November 27—Fr. Marshall Vang, Great Litany
- December 4—Fr. Jonathan Beck
- December 11 (Gaudete Sunday)—Fr. Peter Schofield
- December 18 (Greening of the Church)—Fr. John Wengrovius
- December 24 (Carols 7:30, Mass 8 p.m.)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- December 25 (Mass 11 a.m.)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- January 1—?
- January 6— (Epiphany, 7 p.m.) —Fr. Marshall Vang

- January 8—Fr. Marshall Vang
- January 15—?
- January 22—Fr. Marshall Vang
- January 29—Fr. Marshall Vang
- February 5—?
- February 12—Fr. Marshall Vang
- February 19—?
- February 22 (Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m.)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- February 26—Fr. Marshall Vang
- March 5—?
- March 12—Fr. Marshall Vang
- March 19—?
- March 26—Fr. Marshall Vang

Junior Warden's Report

Jon Ewbank updated Vestry on progress (or lack thereof) towards some major repair initiatives. The painting and repainting of the Rectory facade was concluded satisfactorily. We have been let down, however, by the performance of a different craftsperson contracted to refurbish the front doors of the church and carry out several repairs at St. George's House. With the onset of cold weather, it doesn't look like the painting of trim around the door will be able to be completed, and the St. George's House effort hasn't even begun.

In an email sent to Vestry shortly before the meeting, Rich Unger stated on behalf of the Asset Management Committee: "We recommend transferring any contractual outstanding payments into a banking account for payment at such time as the contract is complete. At this time that amount would be \$7,450."

Vestry agreed that it is appropriate to withhold final payments to the contractor in question, and we will leave it to our Treasurer as to how and when to accomplish this effort.

Also from Rich: "We are awaiting an estimate for the cost to clean/repair the interior of the Rectory from Fred. Fred has been given a walk-through of the Rectory, so he does know and understand the work effort to be done...we need to get from Fred a detailed cost estimate of work to be done in the rectory for our final budget."

A chronic leaking problem over the dining room of the Rectory has worsened and urgently needs to be addressed. Fred can do a lot of the demolition necessary to get at the leak, and a licensed plumber will complete needed repairs. There is some damage to the dining room floor which will also need to be remediated.

Treasurer's Report

Jeff Wengrovius reports that we have been able to balance expenses and income thanks to generous boiler fund gifts. He has written thank you notes to all contributors.

Endowment principal is recovering, which will generate more income. Perkins and Green Funds are over budget for the year. Rent income is over budget.

Pledge income is under budget. We are over budget on copier expenses, maintenance supplies, and cleaner wages.

The long-anticipated external audit is finally underway and going well. Jason Marra is onsite and doing a thorough walkthrough of our financial procedures. He will have one more day here, and ultimately will furnish us with a report including suggestions for future process improvements.

There haven't been any major changes to the draft 2023 budget since our last discussion of it, so there was no immediate action required of Vestry, although Jeff did encourage everyone to speak up if we have concerns. We will have our final look at the budget next month.

Community Liaison Report

Rich Unger, in his emailed report, updated Vestry regarding the annual Stockade Christmas tree lighting. The event will begin at the statue at 5 p.m., Sunday, December 4, and will be followed by a potluck supper in our Great Hall. Food will be provided by neighborhood residents, and everyone at St George's is welcome to both the tree lighting and the potluck.

Garden Ministry

Meg Hughes notes that Jean Greenspan has joined Garden Ministry. The group was able to winterize the church's many garden beds and concluded its work for the season on November 8.

Book Club

Pattie Wareh has circulated a schedule of meeting dates and reading selections for 2023:

- January 15: *The Sentence*, by Louise Erdrich, suggested by Suzy Unger and seconded by Alice Polumbo and Meg Hughes.
- March 19: A selection by Alice Polumbo, to be announced at the January meeting.
- May 21: *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks, recommended by both Meg Hughes and Suzy Unger.
- July 16: *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, by Pip Williams, recommended by Lea Crowe.
- September 17: *Metrofix: The Combative Comeback of a Company Town*, a non-fiction book about Schenectady by William B. Patrick, suggested by Jon Pearson.
- November 18: TBD

Hospitality Committee

Sandee Hughes commented gratefully on Fred's heroic feats of cleaning in the Great Hall kitchen. She reports that a festive parish potluck was enjoyed in the Hall before Mass on the evening of All Saints Day.

Sandee served bagels, cream cheese, and fruit at the Outreach Forum on October 30, and was pleased to note that the leftovers remained fresh in the refrigerator and were appreciated once again at Coffee Hour on the following Sunday.

Communications

Lynn Paska announced that pictures are now up on the website from the Johnson Hall field trip and the Outreach Forum. Her deadline for the December *Georgian Report* is Friday, December 2.

Archives

Sean Albert is anticipating an archives workday on Saturday, November 19. He says that Gloria Kishton is interested in working with the group.

Outreach

Paul Smigelski updated Vestry on the SICM Food Drive, which now stands at 1,802 pounds. We hope we can garner an additional 200 pounds before the end of the year so we can top out at a ton of donated food.

Also underway now is a bedding drive for the YWCA. New or gently used single-sized quilts and blankets and new pillows may be left at the back of church.

The outreach forum on October 30 was well received. Meg's notes on the suggestions shared will be reviewed, and a strategy developed for 2023.

Pastoral Care

Jim Wingate continues his good work in visiting homebound parishioners. He has made a difference in the lives of many (most recently, Pat Gibbons and Charlie Stamm).

New Business

Vestry Terms Expiring

The following Vestry terms are expiring January 2023: Jon Ewbank (first term as Junior Warden), Sean Albert (partial term ends), Carol Gaike (first term ends). We also have an open seat as a result of Debbie Lambeth's resignation during her first term. No action was taken but we need to begin planning for the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Vestry, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. with a blessing.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Rector Search—6:30 p.m., Thursday, December 1

Regular Vestry—6:30 p.m., Thursday, December 15

Respectfully,

Meg Hughes, Vestry Clerk