

St. George's Church Vestry Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2022

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

Absent, excused: Sean Albert

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

Rich Unger moved to accept the September minutes; Sandee Hughes seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Senior Warden's Report

Cleaner

Fred Ledge has finishing cleaning and repairs in the Great Hall. The floor needs to be stripped and waxed, which he will complete with assistance from a buddy who owns a buffing machine. His next focus of attention will be the Rectory, where he will do a deep cleaning and complete minor repairs as allowed by the budget.

Boilers

The church boiler is functioning enough to keep the sanctuary warm in current temperatures as we scramble to replace it before the very cold weather begins. The total cost of repairs is uncertain but will most certainly exceed \$110,000. A purchase order and payment have been submitted to the manufacturer via Jack Guarneri. There is a long waiting list for this type of item, which must be custom-built.

In the meantime, for safety, a temporary video system is being installed to monitor the old boiler for leaks and shut down the unit if necessary.

The smaller Cranmer Hall boiler is back on-line. It should last for some years with proper maintenance.

Wi-Fi

Our video equipment installer quoted approximately \$5,000 for putting wi-fi in the Great Hall, thus David has resolved to do the job in-house with Jon Pearson's assistance.

We will only be out of pocket for materials (approximately \$850, as projected in the April Vestry minutes). The installation was approved by Vestry in July.

Having wi-fi in the hall would probably also cover Brian Taylor's residence. Brian's office, however, continues to lack connectivity. David says he can run a line from the first floor of Cranmer to the upstairs where Brian will then be able to obtain either hard-wired or wireless Internet access.

Upcoming Services & Supply Clergy

- 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 procession
- November 27—Fr. Marshall Vang, Great Litany
- December 4—Fr. Jonathan Beck
- December 11—Fr. Peter Schofield
- December 18—Fr. John Wengrovius
- December 24—Fr. Marshall Vang
- December 25—Fr. Marshall Vang
- January 1—?
- January 6—? (Epiphany, 7 p.m.)
- 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—Fr. Marshall Vang (Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m.)
- February 26—Fr. Marshall Vang
- March 5—?
- March 12—Fr. Marshall Vang
- March 19—?
- March 26—Fr. Marshall Vang

Activities Calendar

- October 30 —Forum on Outreach/Mission
- October ?—Stewardship Campaign kickoff (need campaign coordinator)
- November 1—All Saints’ Day, 7 p.m., preceded by potluck supper
- November 13—All Souls’ Day (transferred from Nov 2), Sunday, 10 a.m.
- November 13? —Choral Evensong?
- November 27—1st Sunday of Advent
- December 24—Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, 8 p.m.
- December 25—Christmas Day, 11 a.m.

Junior Warden’s Report

Jon Ewbank updated Vestry on the work being done on the main sanctuary doorway by Chris Peters and the Rectory façade by Nick Plowman.

Rich Unger jumped in briefly to explain more about the Rectory paint job and the need to maintain a consistent color palette within the Stockade Historic District. He also expressed frustration with shortcomings in the church door project and lapses in accountability by the craftsman doing that work. Mr. Peters knows of our concerns, however, and has pledged to make it right. We also expect him to commence contracted repairs shortly on the windows and radiators of St. George’s house.

Per Jon, the Asset Management Committee is constrained by current budgetary issues (boiler replacement) so no further major maintenance projects will be launched during the current budget year. Projects proposed for the 2023 Budget Year will be reviewed by the committee and addressed as feasible in the ongoing 2023 budgeting process.

Jon inquired whether the Finance Committee would deem it appropriate for St. George’s to secure a bank loan or mortgage to finance current boiler repairs. This would free up other money to carry out necessary building upgrades and possibly help us avoid taking endowment principal. Jeff Wengrovius agreed that it is reasonable to consider spreading the boiler costs over time, but he needs to work with Jon Pearson to look at all the angles. The current interest rate for business loans is about 7% to 8%.

Treasurer’s Report

Jeff Wengrovius advised Vestry that we are already \$63,000 out of pocket for payments towards a new boiler and repairs to the second boiler. We took \$28,857 of accumulated endowment interest from the General and approved Restricted Endowment Funds in

October. Our cash position is not good. Vestry may want to consider taking interest from the Howe Lecture Series and Columbarium funds (as we have before when needed for building repairs). We will tap principal in RBC if we must.

A dedicated boiler repair fund has been established, and \$1,100 received so far. Jeff will personally write thank you notes to all who contribute. David stated that he will continue to highlight the boiler fund in regular announcements, and that he himself will write a check for \$5,000. He urged Vestry also to be generous. David proposed, and Vestry agreed, that a goal of \$35,000 is appropriate for this special fundraising effort.

Jeff is on-target with 2023 budget planning. He has received input from the Finance Committee and continues to improve the formatting. In response to previously expressed Vestry concerns about not having a balanced budget, he also added a line item entitled "Anticipated Principal to Balance Budget Shortfall" and tentatively filled in the amount of \$98,381. We will review a semi-final 2023 budget at our November meeting, and should have no issues approving the document at our December meeting.

Jeff asked Vestry if we felt it would be possible to increase our Diocesan contribution in 2023. Our assessment is much higher than the \$8,000 we have been giving annually. We would like to be more generous, but Vestry agreed that, in light of extraordinary boiler costs at this time, we should keep the amount the same for next year.

At this point in the proceedings, Sandee moved that we go into Executive Session to discuss staff salaries. Carol seconded the motion and all approved. Discussion was promptly concluded and Vestry returned to regular business.

Community Liaison Report

Rich Unger advised Vestry that the annual Stockade-athon footrace will be held November 13. This involves streets closings before 9 a.m. Members of the choir and anyone arriving early to prepare for the service should plan ahead and be prepared for the slight possibility of detours.

Stockade Candlelight (Ghost) tour tickets are still available for 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on October 13, 14, 19, 26, 27, and 28. The Historical Society may be contacted.

Garden Ministry

Meg Hughes says Garden Ministry will continue meeting until after the first frost to clean up perennials. They are also using up the mulch pile and organizing the shed.

Book Club

Pattie Wareh is accepting suggestions for 2023 reading selections. The next meeting will be on January 15. Paul Smigelski noted that Pattie should work with him to update the church's events page online.

Hospitality Committee

Sandee Hughes will obtain bagels and cream cheese to make coffee hour more of a meal for our October 30 Outreach Forum. She'd like to have folks sign up for the November 1 potluck at that time, also.

She continues to be mystified as to who is using the Great Hall for food and coffee preparation and leaving crumbs and mess. This carelessness isn't helping the effort to rid the kitchen of mice. Perhaps a sign urging better kitchen hygiene is in order.

Communications

Lynn Paska is pleased to note that pictures of the Pet Blessing and field trip to Johnson Hall are now up on our website. Her deadline for the December *Georgian Report* is Friday, December 2.

Archives

Sean Albert was unable to get much work done in the archives over the summer, but would like to convene a work party on a Saturday in November for an hour or two. Contact Sean if interested.

Outreach

Paul Smigelski announced that donations to SiCM's food pantry remain robust. If we can come up with another 500 pounds of donated items before the end of the year, we will have delivered a literal ton of food.

A parish meeting on Outreach is set for Sunday, October 30, in the Great Hall after church. The intent is to provide an overview of St. George's outreach mission and brainstorm to get a sense of how St George's envisions its capacity to serve within the community and beyond.

The committee will launch a bedding collection for YWCA on October 23. Women and children going into emergency shelters frequently arrive with nothing. There is an

ongoing need for pillows, twin size blankets, and comforters. Blankets and comforters may be gently used but pillows must be new and in their store-bought packaging.

Jon Pearson is trying to gauge interest in the annual Salvation Army bell-ringing day for Georgians. Is it time to retire this tradition or should we step up to the kettle? Stay tuned for information.

Pastoral Care

Jim Wingate and Ann Duff have brought communion to Helen Parker, Charles Stamm, and Aileen Smith-Caruso. They recently had a good talk with Stella Schultz who seems happy and asked for news on St. George's. They planned to take Nancy Angus from her new apartment in Coburg Village to Queensbury for a visit with Gene and Judy DeLong.

New Business

Audit Committee

The audit committee met with Jeff Wengrovius and Bob McCloskey on October 10 to discuss dates for the audit. Currently, it looks like the best time for Jason Marra from Cusack & Company to be onsite will be November 16-18 (and it may not take all three days). Bob and Jeff have positioned St. George's for a successful audit.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Vestry adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Rector Search—6:30 p.m., Thursday, November 3

Regular Vestry—6:30 p.m., Thursday, November 17

Respectfully,

Meg Hughes, Vestry Clerk