

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

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

The meeting was held via Zoom due to expected inclement weather. Senior Warden David Kennison convened the meeting at 6:37 p.m. with a prayer for Vestry. Additionally, he led the group in a prayer for parishioner Jamie Taft, who is hospitalized in Albany with serious injuries, having been struck by a car Monday afternoon.

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

**Senior Warden's Report**

*Rectory Cleaning and Repairs*

Fred Ledge has made great strides in restoring the kitchen at the rectory, which needed deep cleaning and some repairs. He and David removed the dining room ceiling panels so that plumber Brandon Kristel could fix an upstairs bathroom leak stemming from work done in 2009. The dining room floor now needs to be sanded and sealed, at an estimated cost of about \$1,000 for labor and materials.

*Boilers*

The church boiler has developed new irreparable leaks. David is monitoring it closely to ensure that the water level remains OK. We expect delivery of the new boiler in January. The Cranmer boiler is still working but requires further maintenance.

*Boiler Capital Campaign*

Total collected to date is \$38.6K, with fulfillment of a few verbal commitments pending.

*Funeral/Burial Services*

Shirley Kerr died December 3 and her funeral was on the 12th at a funeral home in Latham with Fr. Peter Schofield officiating.

The remains of Julia Burgess will be committed in the Columbarium on December 26, with David leading the service.

### *Facilities Rental*

The First Reformed Church inquired of St. George's if we had housing for their new pastor for a month while their parsonage is being renovated. Our sexton apartment was briefly considered but it is in bad shape, and we had to decline. Current estimate by our cleaner/handyman is that it would take two months of full-time work to get the sexton apartment in decent condition.

Bob McCloskey reports that the Schenectady School District needs classrooms for incoming students. He will arrange a tour of the rooms over the Great Hall. The school may have grant money to help bring our facilities up to code.

### *Activities Calendar*

- December 24—Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, 8 p.m.
- December 25—Christmas Day, 11 a.m.
- Lent—Considering a Lenten series of potluck dinners, presentations, and Stations of the Cross. Need speakers or perhaps a video series.

### *Upcoming Services & Supply Clergy*

- 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 (Feast of The Holy Name)—Morning Prayer Lessons & Carols
- 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 2 Candlemas Presentation of Our Lord
- 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 reports that the contracted repair work and repainting of the Rectory façade have been completed.

Work on the main sanctuary doorway and repairs to St. George's House have stalled and attempts to get the contractor restarted have been unsuccessful.

The Vestry has given the Finance Committee approval to investigate the feasibility of securing a loan or mortgage for the repairs/replacement of the sanctuary boiler, but that was "back burnered" while the audit was underway.

A hole in the roof of St. George's House (below the western-most dormer window) had gone unnoticed due to the summer foliage and was discovered after the leaves fell. An emergency temporary patch has been made by Mid-States Roofing, and they will return as soon as possible to effect a more permanent repair.

### **Community Liaison Report**

Rich Unger relayed gratitude from the Stockade community to St. George's for granting the use of the Great Hall for a pot-luck reception after the tree lighting. The party was a great success.

### **Garden Ministry/Book Club**

Meg Hughes had no report for either ministry.

### **Hospitality Committee**

Sandee Hughes has arranged food to be served on Sunday in the Great Hall during the greening of the church. She will begin signing folks up to bring sweet and savory refreshments for the reception to be held after Christmas Eve Mass.

### **Communications**

Lynn Paska advised that pictures are now up on the website for All Saints and All Souls. Soon she will have the photos from the Salvation Army bell-ringing posted. The December *Georgian* is now available. The deadline for the spring issue is March 3.

## **Archives**

Sean Albert did not have anything new to report.

## **Outreach**

Paul Smigelski commented that St. George's successfully met our goal of 2,000 pounds of food donated to SICM this year. Also within the past week, a collection of bedding was delivered to the YWCA and happily received. Paul is trying to get more information on an initiative to assemble care packages for Union College students remaining in Schenectady over the holidays.

## **Pastoral Care**

Jim Wingate had no report.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Jeff Wengrovius reports that expenses and income are still balanced, thanks to boiler fund gifts. Jeff has written more than 30 thank you notes to boiler campaign givers.

Jeff presented a stewardship forum on December 4. He thanked Meg Hughes in advance for writing out cards to thank parishioners who have submitted pledges for 2023 (only 14 individuals/families so far). Our 2023 pledge envelopes have been readied for distribution and can be picked up at church beginning this coming Sunday.

The onsite audit is complete, and a draft audit report received. Next step is review of the report by the audit committee. Eventually Vestry will also review the full report and any steps that the audit committee will be making as a result.

Endowment principal is recovering, and income is still strong. The Perkins and Green Funds are over budget for the year. Rent income is also over budget.

Pledge income, however, is under budget, which may reflect that people are giving to the boiler fund instead. Parishioners who are behind on their 2022 pledge giving have been contacted.

Jeff presented a final 2023 budget to the Vestry for review more than two weeks ago. He made a motion that the budget be approved. David seconded the motion, and a vote was taken. Eight members agreed to approve the budget. There was one "nay" vote and an abstention. Jeff remarked that he has endeavored to improve the budget process

and will continue to do so. His goals are transparency and consensus, and he welcomes constructive feedback.

## **New Business**

### *Parish Choice Election Form*

David explained that the Diocese annually gives each parish a chance to indicate how they wish to direct 15 percent of their diocesan assessment. We were asked to select from among: the national Episcopal Church; missions (foreign and domestic); Christ the King Center; the Cathedral of All Saints; diocesan youth ministry; and general diocesan initiatives. Our selection is largely symbolic and may not result in actual budgetary changes for these areas. Still, it is an opportunity to register a preference. Meg made a motion that we earmark 10 percent of our diocesan pledge to the Cathedral, and five percent to youth ministry. Rich seconded the motion, and all voted aye. David will complete the form and have it signed by the appropriate representatives here at St. George's.

### *Gazette Advertisement*

David inquired whether Vestry thought it was appropriate to spend \$160 on a two-column x 4" display ad in the December 23 *Daily Gazette*. Several Vestry members opined that it was well worth the modest expense. Sandee made a motion that it be approved, and Sean seconded it. All voted aye. David and Lynn will cooperate on the ad copy.

Apropos of advertising our holiday worship schedule, Meg noted that many churches change their recorded telephone greeting to include an announcement of Christmas service times, thereby making it easier for the general public to research their holiday worship options. David will ask Bob McCloskey to prepare a holiday announcement for the phone.

### *Annual Meeting*

After some discussion, Vestry agreed that Annual Meeting will be held on January 22, 2023. Those of us who coordinate a ministry should prepare a report on the accomplishments of 2022 and submit it to David by no later than January 15.

### *Vestry Terms Expiring*

The following Vestry terms are expiring January 2023: Jon Ewbank (first term as Junior Warden), Sean Albert (partial term ends), Carol Gaigne (first term ends). Jon and Carol

are willing to stand for reelection. Sean asked that his seat on the Vestry be listed as open in 2023. We also have an open seat as a result of Debbie Lambeth's resignation during her first term.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Vestry, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Rector Search—6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 5

Regular Vestry—6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 19

Respectfully,

Meg Hughes, Vestry Clerk