



Meeting of the Vestry
November 14, 2023, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Vestry members present: Leslie Uddin, Scott Madden, Chris Elwell, Gay Jolley, Grant Ford, Martha Evans, Man Martin, Jed Dennard, Caroline Rose, Diana Parise, Jim Reese; (Zoom): Nancy Easterlin-Smith

Clergy present: The Rev. Monica Mainwaring

Guest present: N/A

Call to order: The Vestry met in person in the library of the Church. Monica called the meeting to order. The Clerk certified a quorum and Monica led us in the opening prayer.

Dwelling in the Word: "How do we open ourselves to fair criticism from others, what habits do we have to break that prevent us from removing the planks from our eyes?"

- Try to get out of our own perspective and bring in other people's perspectives.
- "Where there is vanity, show me humility."
- Self-reflection and muscle memory plus 360-degree reflection.
- "This is how I see it. What am I missing?"

Clerk's Report (Scott Madden):

- Vestry approved the October minutes without amendment.
- The next Vestry meeting will be Tuesday, December 19th (if needed)(5:00 pm - 7:00 pm) followed by dinner.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Advent Party, December 8th (at Ford's home)(6:30-9:00 pm)(with white elephant gift exchange)
- Vestry Future Meetings: 12/19 (if needed), Annual meeting 1/21 @10:00 am (Vestry / Staff Lunch 1/21 @ 12:30 pm)
- Vestry Retreat - 2/3/24 (9am - 3:30pm)
- Kanuga Retreat 5/10-12
- Vestry / Staff Christmas Dinner 12/6/24

Monthly Reports:

Rector's Report: Monica Mainwaring

- New members
- Newsletter coming out that goes through epiphany
- Moving 8am service back to Right 1 for the holiday season (as a result of conversation).

- The 5pm service has been 1 time per month; attendance is VERY LOW. It currently mimics the 8am service. Vestry voted and unanimously approved disbanding the 5:00 pm service.
- We have 27 young adults on our roster currently - all are being invited to Monica's home for a Christmas event.
- The screen between the choir and altar is preventing the choir from seeing the congregation. Vestry voted to remove the doors and some of the lattice to improve visibility (as an experiment).
- SMES / SMEC Update - School and church executive committees will meet on December 4th to review ground lease and maintenance agreements.
- Vestry went into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss the ground lease.
- Monica and Maria (Head of School) discussed the potential use of Gable Hall as a shared space with the school.
- Church is Lay Led and Clergy Supported - per Bishop Wright.
- To get a clergy in the neighborhood, the church would need to buy a rectory. Monica will continue to speak up when there is an opportunity for that purchase.

Junior Warden's Report: Martha Evans

- Administrative commission meeting - 3 projects that may have an impact on strategic planning:
 - HVAC system - good news - David Pew and Quentin have done an extensive assessment and the equipment is mainly from 2010 - they recommend fine tuning the parts that frustrate the parishioners and finding ways to make it more efficient rather than replacing anything. (around \$2k) - Caveat - the pipes which service the boilers are working, but are VERY old. They are not an immediate concern.
 - Limited application elevator was investigated for accessibility to lower Gable (choir and bell choir). This project has been left on hold - checking accessibility requirements for Brookhaven.
 - Kitchen - Colin's friend (and his colleagues in the industry) visited the kitchen to discuss what could be done in that footprint. Martha requested from the Finance commission a CAD design; a survey will be circulated during One St Martin to get feedback from the parishioners. Finance committee is concerned about funding this year due to other commitments. Martha wants approval from the Vestry for \$10k to pay for the CAD design.

Senior Warden's Report: Grant Ford

- Vestry elections are the next two Sundays - Grant could use some help manning the voting booth. (After the 8am service until Wonder church starts; between Wonder church and 11am, and after the 11am service).

Treasurer's Report: Jed Dennard

- We started the year with a budget shortfall of \$249,982. In October, the revenues exceeded expenses by \$16,917. The YTD deficit is now \$312,267. In October, we sold another \$45,000 in investments to maintain our cash position. These assets came out of the Synovus money market account.
- Stewardship - no changes for 2023.
- Stewardship for 2024 - 147 pledges for \$849k.
- All the big expenses should have been paid at this point and we should begin to close the deficit.

- The gap between 2023 pledges made and the pledges received is \$276,291. Hope to finish the deficit around \$150k this year.

New Business

Audit for 2022 - Jed Dennard

- Finance commission agreed the audit for 2022 was clean.
- The vestry voted to accept the clean audit and it was approved unanimously.

Budget for 2024 - Jed Dennard

- Jed shared the recommended budget for 2024 with the Vestry.
- The Finance commission decided to go with a 5% cost of living adjustment (it was 4% last year). This is in line with government agencies across the past two years.
- The budget would have a shortfall of \$239,846.
- Several levers were discussed to close the budget gap including exhausting excess cash (\$123k), additional Endowment gifts (\$50k), and potentially Ground Lease and Shared Stewardship with the School.
- Vestry voted to approve the budget unanimously.

Closing prayer (Monica Mainwaring)

Executive Committee Addendum

- There was no Vestry meeting in December 2023.
- On behalf of the Vestry, the Executive Committee agreed at their December meeting to provide a housing allowance for the Rector. This allowance will be reviewed by the Vestry during its January meeting.