



Meeting of the Vestry
May 16, 2022, 5-7 pm

Vestry members present: Jed Dennard, Martha Evans, Grant Ford, Gay Jolley (online), Carol Roberts, Caroline Rose, Jon-Paul Roy, Leslie Uddin, Michael Tarantino (online), Man Martin

Clergy present: The Rev. Monica Mainwaring (online), The Rev. Colin Brown (online)

Absent: Jodie Guest, Jim Reese

Call to order: The Vestry met in person in the library of the church with option to join by Zoom. Those who attended by Zoom are indicated above. Mother Monica called the meeting to order shortly after 5:00 and led us in opening prayers for the Church and for the Parish.

Clerk's report (Caroline Rose):

- Certified quorum was present
- Vestry approved April minutes
- Next Vestry meeting scheduled for June 20 from 5-7 pm followed by dinner
- Man Martin assigned to submit next Vestry update to newsletter

Rector's report (Monica Mainwaring):

- Will be returning to California for her father's memorial service next week
- Her family were all recovering from COVID. Though CDC guidelines don't require a negative antigen test, Jodie expressed concern about her returning before testing negative, so she joined via Zoom.
- Going to add another nursery staff member - Beth Kelley
- Has put word out to replace Sexton; Jon Paul suggested we check with Ann Marie regarding previous searches
- Will be on vacation following trip to California; Colin will take his vacation afterward maintaining Clergy coverage throughout summer.

Treasurer's report (Jed Dennard):

- Picked up 2 additional pledges in April, slowly closing 337K gap in annual budget. Will likely end up in the negative \$284-100K range.
- Deficit of revenues to expenses through April is 33K.

- Still running over on copier and postage, though very small line item and we don't want people to disconnect by no longer offering printed newsletter.
- Music expenses higher in April due to Easter.
- Capex for property maintenance and supplies remains below budget. Trying to get Endowment to cover these types of expenses.
- Held discussions with Synovus and State Street to assess generating some sort of yield from cash accounts. Also considered no-fee investment account like TD Ameritrade, as money is just sitting and not yielding anything. Spoke with Finance Committee about possibly pulling cash to fill any gaps we have in budget. Monica mentioned project funds need to be backed per auditor's recommendation. There are no official bylaws, but the understanding is that this money is for guilds to spend as they choose. Jed will discuss guild funds with Leslie and come back with suggestions at our next meeting.
- Investments and Endowment both down, which is unremarkable given current market conditions.

Senior Warden's report (Martha Evans):

- Current chair of SMES Board invited Martha, Monica, and Grant to discuss and jointly address issues such as bylaws, budget, and other joint concerns. Next meeting with both executive committees is scheduled for the week of June 20 and will hopefully continue on a quarterly basis.
- To better welcome newcomers/returning parishioners, Martha has created and sent a Sign-Up Genius for greeters. Encouraged all of us to choose a couple of slots. Grant suggested ushers also serve as greeters and the rest of us fill in the gaps.
- Jon Paul suggested "welcome plus" on first Sunday of month to do more than greeter table, e.g., Realm sign ups, photos, etc.

Junior Warden's report (Grant Ford):

- Having trees trimmed on Ashford Dunwoody and in Prayer Garden, where limb fell recently. Endowment fund is covering expense. We will explore additional tree trimming around the property.
- Going to buy 2 tankless hot water heaters for staff room and kitchen. Endowment also funding.
- Have initially approached Endowment Committee regarding Gable Hall refresh, which will include carpet downstairs, shelving, furniture, etc. Vestry discussed reviewing any investments prior to approaching Endowment Committee to prioritize what is really required.
- School is aligned and willing to invest to beautify campus.

Liaison reports:

- Finance/Leslie: Spoke with Leslie Rose who expressed confidence that we are within budget
- Children and Youth/Monica:

- This coming Sunday we will recognize teachers during services.
- She encouraged us to get involved/support/visit VBS, which will be held the week of 6/13.
- Provided update on Mission Trip to Koinonia Farm, which will focus on justice and include a community project. Program designed in concert with Stephanie Dennard is much like Kanuga, an opportunity to be together, which was a blast! Initially focused on signing up families and youth but have not yet had a huge response so opening registration to entire congregation.
- Development/Caroline: Brookhaven Reporter visited church this week and met with Lauren Bacon and Mary Jo Sibbald to get more info on the Suthers Center. Mother Monica was also interviewed, and we hope to see article in the next few weeks.
- School/Monica: School sent letter regarding the intent to purchase Morrison Farms property for fields and sell existing property in Buford Highway corridor.
- Worship committee/Colin:
 - Choir is scaling back a bit for summer.
 - One St. Martins service was fantastic – 155 people! Next one will be held during Pentecost. Monica and Victoria will be gone. Endowment fund hosting meal.
 - We will retain current schedule on other Sundays for rest of summer.

New Business

- Chris Elwell joined to provide clarity around the recommendation from the Reference Committee for organization structural review. He explained that our current structure could create challenges and bog down the strategic planning process. Specifically, he mentioned 3 areas to address:
 - Church/school relationship – legal, social, and temporal.
 - Governance – are we Lay-Led? Rector-led? Mission-led?
 - Staffing – in order to allocate scarce resources we need a clear mission to rule decision making. We have more opportunities than resources to address.
- Recommended we address the following before moving ahead in strategic planning:
 - Healing from past
 - Accuracy of reliability of demographic data – need to understand who is coming and at what stage of life to sustain the number of people coming through our doors. Discussed use of Realm and to identify what we want to know from the data as well as do a limited engagement with technologist about what Realm can do for the church.
- Martha to send a Doodle for ½ day meeting to follow up on strategic planning discussion.