

**Vestry Minutes (draft)**  
**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
**July 8, 2018**  
***"Opening hearts and minds to all"***

**Purpose:** *The purpose of St. Mary's Episcopal Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.*

**Core Values:** *Commitment, Care, Compassion, Celebration*

**2018 Vestry Goals:** Create a Path to Sustainability ✕

Foster Growth: Spiritual, Commitment, Numbers ✕

Develop a Vision Statement Centered Around the Long-Term Goals of the Congregation

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Vestry Members Present: Bruce Jackson, Richard Lange, Mark Nill, Jake Pfau, Hayley Sharpe, Scott Siers, Al White.

Officers Present: Lois Anderson

Clergy: Rev. Anne Largent Smith

Visitors Present: Karen Lawler

Vestry Members Absent: Rod Pugh, Abe Nyoka

### **Monthly Business**

- Meeting started at 12:02 pm.
- Opening Prayer: Anne
- Consent Agenda: June Minutes, May Financials, Priest-in-Charge report, Wardens' reports
- Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** Moved by Scott, seconded by Richard, motion carried, to accept consent agenda as presented.

- Appointment of timekeeper - Jake, and action item tracker – Hayley.
- Vestry Report Assignments for **7/15**  
8:00: Hayley                      10:00: Mark

### **Formation**

- Lectio Divina: Matthew 6:19-20

### **Decisions**

- ***Karen Lawler application for candidacy:*** Karen explained to all what she has been doing and is almost ready for ordination. It is advisable for Karen to apply for candidacy before our bishop resigns and a new bishop is in place. Karen is researching what the Diocese is currently doing in the healing ministry. This is her area of interest. The vestry endorses Karen application for candidacy and officially signed the endorsement.
- ***Sidewalk repair:*** Working on scheduling appointments for bids. Also going to get a bid for replacing the wooden ramp on the east side with concrete. The bids will be sent to vestry by e-mail before the next vestry meeting.
- ***SMUD Easement Access Request:*** Our neighbor to the west must have the utility poles in front of our property moved in order to continue with developing their parcel. Mark moved, Richard seconded that we approve the Grant of Easement allowing SMUD access to our property to do that work. Motion carried.

## Discussion

- **Janitorial and Landscaping: time for new bids?** After discussion about landscaping, decided we are getting a good deal and are happy with his work. No need for a new quote. However, we are not happy with the janitorial service and will seek new bids for cleaning the church.
- **Pump Servicing:** Mark will call Nix Well to schedule the needed servicing.
- **Multicultural Festival:** Last month vestry agreed to not participate in the Multicultural Festival due to lack of personnel. Hayley has stepped forward with an idea and would like to have St. Mary's attend the festival. Her proposal is to set up a listening booth. People can tell us anything they'd like to share, and we can offer prayers for them. Our booth is free, event August 25, 2018, 10-5pm, in Elk Grove Park. She will recruit others to help. Vestry agreed to support Hayley in this effort.

## Goal Work

- **Sustainability:** Still no plan. Will drop this as a separate goal.
- **Growth (including Invite, Welcome, Connect):** All steps through July 8 have been completed. Plan to offer a spaghetti dinner every month starting in September. This will be open to all. Plan to walk the neighborhood to see where there is need – lawns unkept, weeds, older people, mobility issues, garbage cans? Then we can find someone in the parish to lend aid. Developing protocols for accidents/ medical needs during church events. Anne will direct Sarah to sign the church up for the NextDoor app to get information about our neighborhood.. Scheduling a field trip to Elk Grove Food Bank and one to St. James Episcopal Church in Lincoln to experience their special service for people on the Autism spectrum.
- **Property:** First three steps are accomplished. There will be a congregational meeting on August 19. It will be scheduled between the 8 and 10 services. Sending out e-mails to expand the brainstorming group. Progress will be reported at next month's vestry meeting.

## Information

- Calendar:
  - Rivercats Game, July 14, 7 pm (meet at St. Mary's at 5 pm to carpool). Have sold 34 tickets so far. Suggestion that St. Mary's needs official tee shirts for events such as this. Jake will look into this. Al will help. Other events are also being considered – soccer, concerts, hockey, etc. Bruce will contact a new couple now attending and offer them tickets to the game on Saturday.
  - St. Mary's Day Celebration, August 12, 9 am – 2 pm. Going to have some games – 8 am service against 10 am service; bocce ball and cornhole. There will be one combined service at 9 am.
  - Work Days: July 28, August 25, 8 am – finish

Anne's schedule – She will be on vacation August 3-11 and away for a Board of Trustees event in Eureka August 24-26.

### **Closing**

- Review action items
- Meeting review
- Closing Prayer Circle

### **Adjournment**

Closed at 2:04 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois B. Anderson  
Clerk of the Vestry

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### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Priest-in-Charge Report for June 2018**

##### *Property Development:*

Great news! Because our neighbor to the west has to move utility poles back (for the road expansion), SMUD is going to move the pole at the front of our property, too. That's the one we've worried about how to pay for! They can't leave it where it is, because the lines would be stretched too far along Calvine. They'll move it back about 20 feet, and then it will be in the right position for the road expansion in front of our property, too.

At some point between August 15 and September 30, the driveway to our parking lot will be blocked when the neighbor does their work on the storm drain at the corner of their property. They'll let us know what the dates are. The blockage will be during business hours (7 am to 5 pm), weekdays only (or that's the plan at this point) over the course of possibly 7 business days.

As of this writing, I anticipate a meeting with Kirk Bone and the County Planners office on Thursday, July 12 (1:30 pm) to discuss the application we intend to file to allow for the subdivision of the property. That's the next step in this work to see what a sale could look like.

We're in a very challenging time as far as our vision for our property goes. I think it's worth remembering that we committed to pursuing two options with equal openness to each. We need to honor the opinion expressed at our December congregational meeting that many people desire to stay where we are, and that keeping the front half of our property and developing that seemed like a good way forward. We also have to keep in mind that the Spirit may be calling us to ministry in another location and that moving could be what it takes to keep the church sustainable.

Toward that end, it's important that we are asking questions about how St. Mary's ministers to the community. Conversations have started with CSD and EGUSD; Hayley Sharpe is ready to

spearhead work in the neighborhoods adjacent to us to develop potential relationships there. Let's keep moving forward on all fronts so that when the moment comes, we'll be able to make our choice with intention and purpose.

*Invite, Welcome, Connect Conference:*

Hayley Sharpe and I had a great experience at the IWC Summit at Sewanee in TN (June 11 – 14). The conference generated some specific ideas that we would like to pursue, some of which will be part of the Growth goal that the Vestry has set for itself this year. IWC also invited us to shift our perspective as a parish, moving away from a mindset that we need people to come to church, toward a mindset that says we have something people want and need, and it is our great privilege to offer it. The more a church perceives itself as broken and in need of help, the less it remembers that the world is broken and needs the church's help.

*The "Buddy System":*

I continue to look for opportunities to connect people in ministry leadership, and to move away from a model that leaves single individuals stranded indefinitely with responsibility to make everything happen. The Altar Guild, Worship Team, Buildings and Grounds Team, and Stewardship Team are places where I see us having already made progress. I'm excited to see our Fellowship gatherings evolve along the same lines, and I hope that we can make some changes in our approach to children's Sunday School for the fall that will alleviate the heavy burden that's fallen on one person in particular. I also have my eye on our Adult Formation needs as an area where more collaborative leadership could serve us well.

In Christ,  
Rev. Anne

### **Senior Warden's Report**

Hope everyone had a safe and fun July 4th. Information for June:

- We have begun discussions with EGUSD to investigate possible ways for St. Mary's to partner with and offer up outreach and support. Emails have been traded with potential meeting happening in Early August.
- We have identified two contacts @ CSD with the hope to set up a similar meeting.
- We have opened discussion with Sheldon HS (LC to follow) to explore partnering with school cite academies to look at repairing/replacing ramp around the portables and also to discuss building a free-standing patio cover.
- Reserve study site visit was completed on Wednesday June 27.

– Mark Nill

### **Junior Warden's Report**

The work day in June was postponed to July 7th to accommodate Mark's trip to help move his son. Despite no workday, several things have been going on at St Mary's:

- We received a weed abatement letter from the county. Mark called his mower guy to come and mow all of the grass at St Mary's and on June 7th, we will weed whack the perimeter at the work day to be in compliance with the county.
- The sprinklers have been turned on for the summer as the weather has heated up. Mark and Scott contacted Randy to help understand the layout and operation of the sprinklers. We originally programmed them to 30 minutes for all stations. We have upped the time to 45 minutes as the lawn was not getting green. We now see patches of green but most of the yard is still brown so Scott upped the time to an hour. We will continue to monitor the grass to make sure watering is happening.
- We plan to fix the ramp on the side of the church at the next work day in addition to the weed whacking
- We are working on bids to get the cement walkway fixed. The root of the tree is pushing up on the concrete causing a dangerous lip that is now a tripping hazard.

– Scott Siers