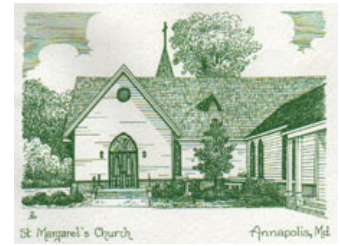




St. Margaret's Church
Westminster Parish
Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 2017



Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, and Martyr, c 115



Attending:

Peter Mayer+, Rector
Charlie Lang, Treasurer
Fran Becker
Ruth Harmon
Trish Schilling
Valery Weekley

Anne Sessions, Senior Warden
Kathy Polk, Clerk
Maggy Cullman
Tim Parker
Doug Seybert
Tom Wenz

Gwen Davis
Paul O'Donnell
Al Todd

Absent: Steve Brennan, Nellie Bowers, Christine Feldmann

Also Attending: Ken Brown, Canon for Music and Worship at the Cathedral in Baltimore; also VP of R.A. Daffer Organs

1. Opening prayer was given at 7pm by Valery Weekley.
2. The minutes from September were approved with corrections and accepted. Thank you to Kathy Lang for volunteering to fill in.

3. Submitted Reports

Rector's Report: The Rev. Peter Mayer

In addition to his submitted report, Peter+ said the job description for the curate (1st year priest) is being finalized. The candidate will be working with Formation. Ruth Harmon and Gwen Davis have been doing an excellent job taking over for Janelle. There are already four good candidates from the Virginia Episcopal Seminary. A search committee will be formed this week. They will receive resumes, interview candidates, hire in March-April with a start in July. The candidate will also work with outreach and adult education. Many of our programs are already Lay lead with staff reporting.

Leah Drooff has a team that has been working with pastoral care. They are identifying people in the parish who may need more attention from clergy or other lay leaders.

Gwen and Ruth will report next month. They need a reliable person to be responsible on Monday nights. Rhetta+ should be that Monday person. Peter+ will speak to her regarding this. The Tomko family is taking on the Advent wreath-making workshop.

We are still seeking candidates to serve as the Volunteer Coordinator. Interviews have been conducted over the past two weeks, and several top candidates have risen to the top of the list. Peter+ extended an offer to a candidate for the volunteer coordinator position. If that candidate declines, there is a back-up person just as qualified. The data-base has been under discussion for maximum utilization. The coordinator should start around November 1st.

There will be child care for all the events surrounding the historic weekend. Eucharist will only be on Sunday morning at all three services. Vestry members are encouraged to write thank-you notes to the organizers.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Lang

In addition to his submitted reports, Charlie was happy to report good news. There was a transfer from the Operating account to the Formation Building Savings made on 5 October 2017 in the amount of \$33,501.33. Having met the state requirements for the bond, there was \$112,737.91 designated for the Formation Building Savings. Nothing was taken from the Endowment in September.

4. Peter+ introduced **Ken Brown, Canon for Music and Worship at the Cathedral in Baltimore as well as the VP of R.A. Daffer Organs** to present information about digital and hybrid organs. Ken had hand-outs and promised digital copies will be made available for all vestry members. Generally a digital organ has a life expectancy of 35 years. As technology evolves the components also change. Power supplies are different. As parts wear out or cease functioning, it may be challenging to find compatible components. Music Director James Fitzpatrick has suggested a Makin 3/45 Drawknob Organ for St. Margaret's. It comes with specific speakers. (Over time, speakers have gotten smaller with new advances in technology.) This electronic organ would sound like a pipe organ without taking the space or the money required by pipe organs. Pipes need tuning 3-4 times per year. Schoenstein suggested \$1600 for tuning twice a year. A pipe organ has on-going maintenance while an electronic organ maintenance is on an as-needed basis. Nothing lasts forever except maybe the pipes themselves. Some companies are retrofitting old pipe organs with electronic. In a hybrid organ, you would use most of the pipes that look best. A pipe organ would involve extensive renovation. He suggested a \$300K hybrid would be appropriate for St. Margaret's. The installation would take two days—essentially three months from a signed contract the organ would be in place. He agreed that a better organ may attract a better organist but the better salary is of greater significance. A nine rank organ has a small range—or you could add digital for an 11 rank. Digital has more robust range and variety. Historically, operating system upgrades have been offered for free but most churches decline as they like what they have. Humidity is not a concern for an electronic organ as digitally one can compensate. He welcomes people to come to his showroom to listen and compare. Ken compared the technology with our phones today. Years ago, you used a phone to talk to someone. Now your *expectations* have expanded to include texting, photography, games, and internet connections for example. Currently St. Margaret's has a Rodgers electronic organ. Ken Brown recommends Makin. Peter+ thanked him for his time and presentation.

Daffer sold us our current organ in 1992 and expects the life span to be 35 years. Daffer has made repairs to our current organ since its purchase but its last record of repairs is December 2012. Daffer is offering a trade-in value of \$9,000. The Third Sunday Band uses its own sound system. Fran Becker recommended that we engage a service call on our existing organ to better assess its life expectancy. We need to have more communication with the parish. Peter+ asked that everyone be speaking with the same information—that a pipe organ would cost approximately \$420,000 with an additional \$100-\$150K for the façade around the pipes. A digital organ would cost \$85,000. An early estimate of \$60K has been offered towards required modifications for a pipe organ. Similar modifications could be desirable but optional for a digital organ. A field trip may be necessary. We should have a decision by January regarding how and where to proceed. James Fitzpatrick has received pledge commitments already towards a pipe organ. We're considering a pipe organ with 11 ranks, a small-moderate size that would limit the capability to fully play many traditional Anglican hymns. All agreed that no consensus has been reached and more dissemination is required. It is a topic with myriad components and emotions. Peter+ ended the discussion with the question: How does our music transform our lives?

5. Brad Callahan reported that he and Doug Seybert, Greg Smith, and Paul Westcott have been busy with the stewardship project. They have designated 8 weeks. We are already at 75% of our goal. Brad asked that the vestry make phone calls. Cards were distributed to members for personal contact. Doug will e-mail a "script" for the phone call and/or e-mail. The e-mail will include a link for a pledge card. If people gave as much as they did last year, we would be at 100% of our goal.

6. Wardens' Reports

Junior Warden's Report – Steve Brennan (absent)

Steve has a leg injury and has gotten an MRI. Prayers for his recovery. Elizabeth Radley is in Disney World with her wife and child.

Steve's written report included a recommendation: **MOTION: Approval of entering into a contract with T2 Energy Solutions to implement the "Lighting Upgrade Proposal" with the contract to be paid from the Capital Improvements/Maintenance**

portion of the 2017 Endowment Budget. Passed unanimously. It was noted that this will wipe out the maintenance budget for the rest of the year.

Senior Warden's Report – Anne Sessions

Project 3.25 merchandise is available for purchase and can be picked up in the conference room. Anne is amenable to “organ listening” field trips.

7. **Mission Report** – A written report was submitted. Fran Becker highlighted that the Missions Commissions has become a beacon of caring on the Broadneck Peninsula. Joanna Tillman has been funded for a 3-day training in Love vs. Love Thy Neighbor.

8. Adjournment with the singing of the Doxology at 9:05 pm.. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 21. Ruth Harmon will lead the opening prayer. There was some question about conflicting “reporting schedules”. Peter+ will resolve the discrepancies.

Respectfully,

Kathy Polk
Clerk

NOTE: E-mail corrections

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hydroman1037@gmail.com	Al Todd