



St. Margaret's Church  
Westminster Parish  
Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 24, 2021



**1. The Rector opened the Annual Meeting for 2021 with a prayer at 10:05 AM.** Because of the ongoing pandemic, the 2021 Annual Meeting was conducted over Zoom.

**2. Election of Secretary:** Jim Barnett, as the Clerk, assumed the secretarial duties for the 2021 Annual Meeting.

**3. Approval of the Minutes** from January 26, 2020 – with the striking of “and appreciated by all present.”  
**Motion to approve – Noted in the affirmative without exception.**

**4. Election of New Vestry Members:** The Rector noted that there were five candidates for Vestry this year to fill 6 open positions. The candidates are David Allen, Alden Gross, Kathy Lang, Chris Pender, and Susan Roberts.

**Motion to approve – Voted by acclamation and noted in the affirmative without exception.**

The Rector noted that with the projected movement of two current Vestry members completing their initial year, David Allen will serve the remaining two years for one and the other will be held open for future consideration.

**5. Rector's Report:** The Rev. Peter offered three steps he is taking for sustaining connections across the parish effectively. Safety from Covid remains the primary objective, with diocesan and scientific guidance. The diocese has indicated that St. Margaret's will probably not be granted authority to re-open until at least spring. We have two volunteers working diligently with staff to optimize our live-streaming capabilities. It is likely that we will need to continue online engagement even after we can meet in person. Clergy and staff continue to connect the parish with online programs, communications, and social media posts. He thanked the three outgoing Vestry members and welcomed the five new members. He also thanked the outgoing Wardens and the Treasurer for the support and energy over the past year.

**6. Senior Warden Report:** The outgoing Senior Warden Paul O'Donnell thanked staff for working with him safely while dealing with issues specifically related to SMC and the pandemic. He also thanked the other Vestry Officers and Clergy. He appreciated the hard work of the Vestry and their diligence in shepherding the Church's finances during the past year particularly. He appreciated their engagement and willingness to speak out on some very difficult issues. He spoke briefly of the initiative within SMC to address “reparations” as outlined by the Bishop at the Annual Dioceses Convention this past November. He intends to sustain his pursuit of a replacement organ and hopes to have the new organ in place before we reassemble in the sanctuary. He wants to ensure we have the right instrument for our “premium music program.” He further thanked the various ministries that support our church, saying, “It has been weird.”

**7. Music Report:** Director of Music Jim Douglas reported that the music program had to be pivoted to being online for the most part, cancelling planned retreats and workshops. Third Sunday Band kept busy with making recordings to offer in special services like the Bluegrass Mass and the Holiday Stewardship concert. The Chorister (children's) music program is on hiatus. The choirs however participated in outdoor practices and fellowship time on Zoom. A special thank you goes to the cantors who led music during the recorded worship services this year. The new organ design will be reviewed and approved some time in the spring and fundraising will continue. He thanked the members of the Organ Committee for their hard work.

**8. Missions Report:** Marti Engstrom, new chair of the Missions Committee, thanked Joanna Tillman for her leadership last year. She also thanked all of the parishioners who have proposed and received funding from the Committee for individual mission efforts and encouraged other parishioners to do the same. She also recommended all parishioners watch the videos on the Missions page of the website to see if there is something in our current mission programs they would like to do for the community.

Christine Feldmann, Grants Administrator for St. Margaret's, reported that the Endowment Grants Committee last year gave out 11 grants across the globe totaling \$113,000. She shared wonderful notes of thanks she received from three of the recipients (the Joel Mafuma Refugee Center in Rome, Italy, the Light House's Safe Harbor Rescue Center, and the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network. For 2021, the committee has received 31 applications.

**9. Formation Report:** Gwen Davis, the volunteer coordinator for children's formation this past year, thanked all of the Sunday School teachers who made special efforts to connect with their students this past year with videos and outdoor sessions.

Jeff Conover reported that the youth of St. Margaret's continue to meet on Monday nights for fellowship via Zoom. He is also conducting Zoom sessions for middle school youth on Wednesday evenings (studying the Nicene Creed) and high school students on Thursdays (looking at current events and how they interact with their faith). The youth had two outings in 2020 – volunteering at the Light House pumpkin patch and creating a drive-thru Halloween trick or treat event for the local community.

The Rev. Patti Sachs discussed all of the adult formation opportunities that were offered in 2020 in person and then on Zoom. Monday evening studies included the Presiding Bishop's new book "Love is the Way" and a Bible study led by parishioner David Allen. The Thursday morning book club continues their weekly sessions on Zoom with different leaders each week. Senior Sessions (for those ages 65+ with clergy) continue to meet on Zoom the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Live-streamed prayer sessions were conducted by the Rev. Patti Sachs live on Facebook on Friday evenings in the early part of 2020.

**10.. St. Margaret's Day School:** Jennifer Albanese reports that the Day School is open and operating safely with many new protocols in place, including purchasing air purifiers, a temperature scanning machine, and handwashing stations. She thanked the congregation for their continuing support.

**11. Stewardship Report:** Greg Smith, the Stewardship Committee Chair, reported that the church had 187 pledgers for 2021, pledging a total of \$896,000, observing that the total is "remarkable for these times." There were 14 new pledgers in that total. The appointment of Beth Kopack as the committee's vestry liaison was very helpful. New to the process this year were the Rev. Peter's "challenges" and the Stewardship Christmas pre-recorded concert by Third Sunday Band.

**12. Treasurers Report:** Charlie Lang will remain as the Assistant Treasurer as Katherine Wiernicki takes on the responsibilities as Treasurer. For 2020, 98% of pledges were collected. There were no special offerings collected due to cancellations of services, but there was also no endowment draw. The church received Payroll Protection Program (PPP) funding, and there was a gain on the sale of the church's rental house.

**13. New Business:**

It was requested that consideration be given to recognizing the Rideout family's commitment to St Margaret's Church over the past 250 years with official designation of the open space, formerly the jousting field, as Rideout Park.

It was noted that the recently initiated virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom is a "real shot in the arm."

**15. For the Good of the Order**

A special thanks to the staff and clergy for working through the unknowns of the past 10 months to both keep us effective within our community and connected across our congregation. Special thanks to the Rector for helping us get through the year.

**16.** With no further business, the Rector concluded with announcing that Kristen Berthelotte will stand for election as the new Senior Warden and Paul Schurke will become the new Junior Warden at the February 2021 Vestry Meeting. Peter+ thanked everyone for participating. The meeting was adjourned, and the Zoom session terminated.

Faithfully submitted,

Jim Barnett; Clerk and Secretary for the Annual Meeting