



St. Margaret's Church  
Westminster Parish  
Vestry Meeting  
Tuesday, June 19, 2018



Day after Bernard Mizeki, Catechist and Martyr in Mashonaland, 1896



It is noted by new Assistant Patti Sachs+ that June 19 is also known as "Juneteenth". Juneteenth is the oldest known US celebration of the end of slavery. African-Americans and others mark the anniversary much like the Fourth of July, with parties, picnics and gatherings with family and friends.

Attending:

Peter Mayer+, Rector  
Steve Brennan, Junior Warden  
Maggy Cullman  
Tim Parker  
Sarah Westcott

Patti Sachs+, Assistant  
Charlie Lang, Treasurer  
Gwen Davis  
Rex Pingle  
Brian Williams

Paul O'Donnell, Senior Warden  
Fran Becker  
Phil Graham  
Al Todd

Absent: Steve Brennan, Junior Warden; Jim Barnett, Clerk; Christine Feldmann, Ruth Harmon, Abby Wenz  
Also attending: Kathy Polk, Temporary Clerk

1. Opening prayer was given at 7pm by Kathy Polk.
2. The minutes from the May meeting were amended and approved.
3. Submitted Reports

A. **Rector's Report** – Peter Mayer

Everyone welcomed our new assistant the Rev. Patti Sachs+ to the church and our vestry meeting. Patti+ will be ordained to the priesthood on September 15 at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore.

In addition to the Rector's submitted report that included information about VBS, Invite Welcome Connect, and the Eucharistic Celebration with younger members, Peter+ added that St. Margaret's lost two long time members recently. There was a service for Celeste Stinchcomb on Monday, June 18. The service for B.J. Davidson will be June 28, 2018 at 2pm. Peter+ is grateful for having Patti+ take over Vacation Bible School next Monday. We are also grateful to Sarah Westcott, Gwen Davis, Al and Teresa Todd, and Jen Albanese for all their contributions to the program. There will be a follow-up with non-church families to see if they might be interested in a greater relationship with St. Margaret's.

The Music Director candidate originally considered has taken another position. There are still other excellent candidates. Mel Kessler was thanked for his dedication to the search. The next candidate meeting will be Tuesday. Interviews are scheduled for June 28 and two in July. Continue to pray.

Peter+ met with United Church of Christ Pastor Ryan Sirmons regarding the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF). "Founded in 1940, the Industrial Areas Foundation is the nation's largest and longest-standing network of local faith and community-based organizations. The IAF partners with religious congregations and civic organizations at the local level to build broad-based organizing projects, which create new capacity in a community for leadership development, citizen-led action and relationships across the lines that often divide our communities. The IAF created the modern model of faith- and broad-based organizing and is widely recognized as having the strongest track record in the nation for citizen leadership

development and for helping congregations and other civic organizations act on their missions to achieve lasting change in the world." Cynthia Marshall is another person involved with this organization. Commitment and accountability are required of members. They are asking for 1% of a church's operating budget or a minimum \$2000 for participation. There is power in a group of churches acting together. They are not into "controversial issues" but rather "common sense" issues. The membership donation gives you training, a seat at the table, and resources towards a full time community organizer. Treasurer Charlie noted that 1% of our budget would amount to \$9000 and that the minimum \$2000 may more easily be considered. Peter+ asked that vestry members prayerfully consider this proposal to join with area churches.

#### B. **Treasurer's Report** – Charlie Lang

Charlie submitted written reports and highlighted that things are looking better. The investments remain the same. Money (\$4,717.41) was transferred from the Operating account to the Formation Savings Account and \$2,821.93 was transferred from the Operating account to the Designated account. The first 11 of 13-- 2018 grants approved by the vestry were withdrawn from the Endowment in May. The total amount was \$85,900. The remaining to grants totaling \$9,100 will be withdrawn in June to make the final total of \$95,000 approved by the vestry. We are approximately \$20,000 behind projections for pledges at this point but slightly ahead with plate/donations. Expenses are slightly under projections at this point due primarily to staff payroll costs.

#### C. **Worship Report** – Maggy Cullman

Maggy submitted a written report reflecting that all components (ushers, lectors, greeter, altar guild, flower guild, Eucharistic visitors) continue to do splendid work. Peter+ is working on recruiting additional acolytes. There are 62 possible candidates. Back-up replacements for those having served multiple years are being sought. Al Todd added that he is working on a contemporary music workshop.

#### 4. **Lighthouse Funding Vote** – Christine Feldmann (absent)

With the absence of Christine Feldmann, Charlie explained that the Endowment has traditionally allotted \$12,000 annually to maintain a position on the Lighthouse Board. Through omission, St. Margaret's did not make a contribution last year. George Tolley, our representative to the Lighthouse (and Lighthouse Treasurer) has requested St. Margaret's to pay the \$12K from last year as well as this year in order to guarantee a "seat on the Board". It is worth exploring the worth or wisdom of paying for a seat at the table. Does SMC need to be on the Lighthouse Board forever?

**MOTION: To pay the Lighthouse \$12,000 for 2017 and \$12,000 for 2018. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

It was noted that St. Margaret's is a "partnered congregation" and that \$12,000 goes into the operating budget. Future payments should be made in February of the year.

#### 5. **Investment Policy Update** – John Goldwait (absent)

In the absence of John Goldwait, Tim Parker explained a new revision of language in the investment policy. The risk profile is not changed with regards to small cap/large cap. We will continue to benchmark 60/40 and to watch the equity line. The original language is outdated. Investments will be "socially responsible" when possible.

#### 6. **Warden's Reports**

##### A. **Junior Warden** – Steve Brennan (absent)

Steve sent a written report. In his absence, it was explained that there is a clogged water drain that cost \$750 to remove debris. The lighting in the parish hall has been replaced for less than previously approved. A correction that the benches in the Admin Building were made by Len Morgan and Al Todd will install them. We have received a bid for clearing invasive plants from the playground and adjoining property for \$3500. This will include clearing and spraying to prevent sprouting. It will probably need annual re-spraying. The removal of these invasive plants may allow expansion of the playground for "passive" use". There are currently no shade trees in the playground area.

**MOTION: To approve \$3500 for the removal of invasive plants and spraying to prevent sprouting. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Senior Warden – Paul O'Donnell**

Paul submitted a written report. He highlighted his comments regarding using church facilities as rental income. The presence of Jim Bowersox, Facilities Operations Assistant, has been a welcome addition to the campus. Jim also provides the means to produce rental income. It is necessary to coordinate with the Day School. Security may be the greatest issue. So far, there has been no advertising for rental space as we were waiting for Jim's arrival. Elizabeth is looking into cost comparisons. It was noted that the Formation Building was designed for use by and for the community.

Longer term, we are looking at enlarging the sanctuary seating. It is possible that a new capital campaign towards the goal of increased seating would involve newer members of the parish who have joined since the Formation Building campaign. This "new campaign" could also be used to reduce the debt. There are multiple considerations besides just increased seating that include parking lot issues, bathroom considerations, sprinklers. The "enlarged seating" may just be for 25-30 more people but less crowding.

The new music candidate will be in any organ replacement discussions. Sprinklers could only be considered AFTER county water reaches the campus.

It is important to frequently point out exits and make everyone aware of safety. Security is a concern with a sanctuary that is open 24 hours a day. There is no way to secure the front doors if ushers saw an armed person coming towards the church from the parking lot, for example. Maybe we could make "active shooter" training available through the Anne Arundel County Police Department or a similar agency. It has been considered to have an interior locking key available only to a few to be able to secure the front doors.

The Third Sunday Band is creating a new album and looking for financing. They have done a wedding renewal ceremony and are scheduled for a funeral.

The Youth lock-in was an incredible success. Jeff Conover is in Maine currently but will return to take a group of young people to North Carolina for a work project.

Brian William said that if we are filming entire services, we may need to explore paying for music licenses for broadcasting.

**7. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm with the singing of the doxology.

Next regular meeting is Tuesday July 17, 2018 in the Formation Building.

Upcoming dates:

June 25 – 29: Vacation Bible School

August 6-10: Camp Allen

August 12: Bishop Chilton Knudsen visits

September 9: Formation Open House and Registration

September 15: Priestly Ordination of the Rev. Patti Sachs

March 25 – April 1, 2019: Winter Relief

Faithfully,

Kathy Polk  
Temporary Acting Clerk

