



St. Margaret's Church  
Westminster Parish  
Vestry Meeting  
Tuesday, March 27, 2018



Feast of Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1711



Attending:

Peter Mayer+, Rector  
Charlie Lang, Treasurer  
Gwen Davis  
Ruth Harmon  
Al Todd  
Brian Williams

Anne Sessions, Senior Warden  
Jim Barnett, Clerk  
Christine Feldmann  
Paul O'Donnell  
Sarah Westcott

Steve Brennan, Junior Warden  
Fran Becker  
Phil Graham  
Rex Pingle  
Abby Wenz

Absent: Maggy Cullman Tim Parker  
Also Attending: Harry Caldwell

1. Opening prayer was given at 7pm by Christine Feldman.
2. The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

3. General Introductory Comments:

The Rector advised the Vestry that a vote was required for the officers of the Church (Bylaws Article III)

Call for nominations **for Senior Warden – Anne Sessions – so moved and elected.**

Call for nominations **for Junior Warden – Steve Brennan – so moved and elected.**

Call for nominations **for Treasurer – Charlie Lang – so moved and elected.**

Call for nominations **for Clerk – Jim Barnett – So moved and elected.**

Recommendation **for Assistant Treasurer – Gordon Piche – agreed, moved, and elected** (in absentia) (section 8).

It was noted that the Clerk will be out of town for the June and July meetings and substitutes are sought.

The Rector indicated that a Parochial Report (annual requirement) is due to the Dioceses, and needs to be approved by the Vestry, and signed by the Rector, Treasurer, and Clerk of the Vestry.

The report, as required, was handed out and questions called.

The Treasurer indicated that the numbers looked good to him but a question regarding Grants applicability for inclusion was fielded. This report only refers to "operating budget" and Grants do not come from that budget.

In the "volunteers" section it was suggested that SMDS volunteers be included. Changes will be made. Further question in this section regarded the Winter Relief volunteers and the noted number will be changed to "many volunteers." "Meals Provided" number also requires review. The Rector discussed the "Rolls" process within SMC and that the new database will provide greater granularity in the future.

**The Vestry moved and passed the report as proposed with noted amendments.**  
The Treasurer, Clerk and Rector then sign for forwarding.

The Rector then indicated that an additional report was required for the Rector's Housing Allowance and that the appropriate language would be provided for the minutes to wit:

**Resolved, that the total compensation paid to the Rev. Peter W. Mayer for calendar year 2018 shall be \$xxxxx of which \$37,000 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance. Moved, and passed by the Vestry.**

5. Parishioner Harry Caldwell made a presentation to the Vestry (with handout) regarding homelessness and the raising concern for this issue. The reason for concern centers on the reduced availability of affordable housing, the rising difficulty for an increasing number to citizens to be able to afford the increasing costs associated with supply and demand issue. Projected into the future, this situation will only get worse.

He addressed some of the remediations being under taken in Maryland and specifically Anne Arundel County but that more certainly needs to be done.

Much of the solution will fall to the faith community and SMC can play a part in this solution. Winter relief is certainly a start, but there are other areas where our congregation can contribute.

Harry discussed an emergent initiative that will provide grants to individuals and families to cover the security deposits often beyond their immediate ability to pay. This requires funding, and is something to consider.

Other efforts were discussed like the ice delivery SMC undertook last year. These "bite size tasks" can make a big difference to our disadvantaged populace.

The Vestry then discussed several initiatives that might be helpful and agreed to continue the dialogue.

#### 6. Submitted Reports

##### A. Rector's Report – Peter Mayer (not held by the recently elected Clerk.)

Holy Week is going "all right."

There was some discussion around the issue of maintenance of the Church organ.

The Rector wants to intensify the ongoing discussion relevant to his "Invite, Welcome, Connect" strategy for "More Church." We are doing some of the "low hanging fruit" but we need to polish it up.

The curate search is nearing completion and a name should be announced in the next 2 weeks.

We will continue to need a lay person to assist with Formation.

The new Facilities Operations Assistant (Jim Bowersox) is now working. We will let him get his feet wet before we engage.

##### B. Treasurer's Report – Charlie Lang (not held by the recently elected Clerk.)

The P&L reflects a downward trend from last year but last year was banner year for SMC.

No clear reason for the trend and no reason to be overly concerned this early in the budget year.

##### C. Parish Life Report – Sarah Westcott (report submitted and held by Clerk)

There is a raising concern regarding a lack of volunteers in the various Committees.

The Senior Warden recommended that we get creative in our recruiting of volunteers. For instance, there seems to be a reluctance to attend "meetings" so call it something else. It's all about the fun and service. The discussion will continue.

#### 4. Warden's Reports

##### A. Junior Warden – Steve Brennan (report submitted and held by the Clerk)

There will be a campus "walk around" on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April that anyone can join. The idea is to identify projects that need to be undertaken in the near and longer term and potentially, budgeted. Following the walk about there will be an organization and clean up of the shed in the playground.

##### B. Senior Warden – Anne Sessions (report submitted and held by the Clerk)

**Mark your calendars, Winter Relief for next year will be 25 March – 1 April.**

The Saturday "March for our Lives" was transformational and well attended by youth and adults from SMC. It was "diverse and on point."

There was some discussion regarding the Interfaith group that met last month and that this will probably be a sustaining event. The group needs to focus on some specific issues.

**5. SMDS Liaison report on progress with the Vestry Report – Gwen Davis**

This was an interim report to the Vestry to ensure them that progress was being made with respect to the recommendations, but final resolution will take additional time.

Ms Davis did a walk around the SMDS School Board table (from the last meeting at which this report was the subject) to familiarize the Vestry with the personalities, talents, and responsibilities of the Board members.

She, and the Rector, want to avoid falling into a "we versus they" approach as we work toward a better connection and reinforced that the Day School is part of the Church and therefore, they are us and we are they.

She explained that the school board's first impression from reading the report was that the Vestry might think the Board is not doing its job and that the Vestry needs to take more control. After discussion, they understood that the primary goal is to give the Vestry a better understanding of how the school operates and to make sure operations are consistent with church policies. The Board thinks most of the recommendations will improve confidence in the school and is working very hard to resolve the issues addressed in the report and had, in fact, resolved most of them. It will take a little longer to get them all addressed but the approach the school board is taking is very positive.

The Rector (who sits on the SMDS School Board as ex officio and is also the Director's supervisor) reflected that the Board needed to understand the "roll of the Vestry" relative to the operations of the school.

The Treasurer indicated that he would have a full financial status (P&L) report for the school for presentation at the April Vestry meeting. This will be a quarterly summary, in a format similar to the church's report that the Vestry will be comfortable reviewing.

5. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with the singing of the doxology.

Next regular meeting is Tuesday, April 17, 2017 in the Formation Building.

Faithfully,

Jim Barnett  
Clerk