



St Margaret's Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes for 15 March 2022

Attending ("Z" connotes on Zoom) : Peter Mayer+ (Rector), Patti Sachs+ (Associate Rector)Z, Kristen Berthelotte (Senior Warden), Paul Shurke (Junior Warden)Z, Elizabeth Radley (Director of Operations)Z, Katherine Wiernicki (Treasurer), David AllenZ, Austin Canuel, Matt Chasse, Alden GrossZ, Janice John, Elizabeth Kopack, Kathy Lang, Chris Prender, Susan Roberts, Dan Tootle, Ernie Tucker, and Jim Barnett (Clerk).

Not Attending: Marti Engstrom.

This meeting was conducted in hybrid in Zoom and in person.

A Quorum was noted per the SMC Bylaws.

- 1. Opening prayer was given at 7:00 pm by the Elizabeth Kopack. Ernie Tucker offered a second prayer for the people of Ukraine.**
- 2. The meeting was called to order by the Rector. The February 2022 Vestry minutes were approved.**
- 4. Submitted reports:**

A. The Rector's report (posted).

On behalf of the entire staff, the Rector thanked the Vestry for the lovely gift baskets they received last week. It was an incredibly thoughtful and generous gesture for the entire staff and will not be soon forgotten.

Staff is working hard to fill the various volunteer slots that are reemerging as church reopens. We are canvassing new members to get them more engaged in these critical ministries. Every church is going through the same experience with volunteerism which seems to have taken a hit during the Pandemic.

The Bishop will join us for Palm Sunday, April 10th. He hopes to meet with Vestry after the 1115 service for a light lunch which will be provided by the church and organized by the Rector who would appreciate support for this event. The Bishop will answer questions. This will be his last

official visit to SMC before he retires in 2024. The Rector will try to meet with him before the Bishop's visit.

The Rector is concerned about the workload of the Director of Operations who has taken on the burden of SMC maintenance as well as her other duties. We need to get a few of these time-consuming issues off her desk so she can focus on the important things.

We continue to look for volunteers to help sustain our live streaming service. We need 4 or 5 volunteers who we can train and can be relied on to keep their scheduled appointments. Scott Tomss is here until April 17th, so we need to have someone shadow him to learn the function and then teach other volunteers.

B. Treasurer's report (posted).

We are two months into the church year, and we are doing well. Revenues to date exceed expenses by \$12,008. We are currently \$3,836 behind in our pledges. Expenditures are running behind budget by \$4,168. Buildings and grounds expenses are in excess of budget through February due to higher electrical and heating costs and increased snow removal.

The Endowment lost about \$144,000 as the markets continued to drop, it is going to be a bumpy year.

The Rector indicated that he is in the process of developing a new pledge card to send to parishioners he sees at church but who have not yet made a pledge. We are one short of the Rector's goal for March.

The Rector conducted an introductory meeting on March 23rd. We will wait 5 months to see what that looks like.

C. St Margaret's Day School (SMDS) report (posted)

As the school transitions beyond the departure of the Director and Board Chair, we will be meeting to review the church-school relationship. We will then proceed with getting into the shared budget detail. The current agreement calls for the school to provide \$1,500 per month to offset the costs shared across the campus. SMDS comes under the SMC tax ID and shares its non-profit status. The school is considered a mission of the church.

The annual Silent Auction to benefit the school will be held April 2nd and it is hoped that the Vestry will be present. It will again be held at the Eastport Maritime Museum and is always an enjoyable time for everyone.

It was requested that the new Director meet with the Vestry after the school's graduation.

The SMDS bylaws call at least 3 SMC parishioners on the school board.

The school has an excellent reputation in our community and is run very well.

There is a staffing vacancy and an opportunity to increase the diversity of the faculty if the right candidate applies.

The board of SMDS is a “standing committee” of the Vestry per the school’s bylaws.

D. Annual Parochial Report.

There is a requirement for SMC to submit an annual report to the Dioceses and it is now due. Elizabeth and Patti+ have been working hard to get this done. The treasurer will provide the requisite numbers. It will then be disseminated to the Vestry for electronic approval. The Senior Warden and Clerk will sign the approved report and it will be submitted.

E. Formation Report (posted).

Children’s’ Chapel has hosted up to 20 kids at each session, with new kids joining almost every month.

Sunday school has also been ramping up in numbers since January. All but the youngest class made welcome bags for our Winter Relief guests. They are also going to be collecting items to put together welcome bags for Afghan refugee children.

We will have a “stations of the cross” service for families on Good Friday. The Easter Egg Hunt will be at 10:30 on Easter Morning for all children.

In a few weeks there will be a combined “intro to being an acolyte and knowing the sanctuary” field trip for Sunday school classes grades 2 and up to encourage kids to sign up to be acolytes.

We in the beginning stages of planning for Vacation Bible School (VBS) which is planned for 27 June-1 July this year.

Youth formation numbers have been down somewhat this year but are still good at approximately 10 kids coming to each session.

There is a trip being arranged for the group to go up to Maine and perform a service project either this summer or next. We need at least five kids to sign up for this to be viable and at least two adults.

Monday adult formation is on hold for now pending a new plan. Monday night formation will have pizza night next Monday.

The Thursday book club remains robust and remains in a Zoom format.

We are trying to get an idea of what adults might want to do; what will appeal to adults. Many of our new parishioners have young families and we need to integrate their needs into our planning. We really need to think through Adult Formation. What sorts of programs might be more attractive to them? While we have lots of good ideas that we should try, the trick is in the execution.

Which led the Vestry into a discussion around the book the Rector provided and recommended everyone read title “How to Try.” The Author, Lorenzo Lebrija is part of the “Try Tank” and has indicated he would be willing to sit with the Vestry and discuss various ideas. The Rector is not sure SMC is ready for that quite yet. He would prefer to get past Easter. As always, the initial

step is to ask questions. What can we do to attract more people to Monday Night events? How can we partner with Asbury United Methodist Church? We need to consider questions that can help us grow and understand that it is all right to **fail** as the book outlines. Who do we want to reach and what do we want them to do? What activities can we generate to engage. We need to find new members to transform lives. SMC has something worth having. Who do you want to attract more of? We do not have a good young singles group so can that be added. We need to understand that we have a lot to offer already; but what more can we do? Time is often a driver as there are so many pressures on time, especially for folks with young children. The digital world is that natural world for many young people. How can we work this medium to bring folks to our church? What in our liturgy is going to draw people out of the conveniences? What was the cause of the growth of young families? How do we set the hook? How do we have the “bandwidth” and how do we pay for it?

Under the TRRTF Community Engagement sub panel, the outreach to our neighbors continues. As they pursued the history of the “colored” school in Severna Park they engaged the Banneker-Douglass Museum and that led down various related paths. One was the Rosenwald School Project, and this represents just one example of organization. While undertaking such outreach, it is important to project that we are from St Margaret’s. These are the types of relationships that are vital for us to initiate and sustain.

D. Junior Warden’s report (**posted**).

The floor of the Parish Hall looks better but will take about \$13,000 to replace the entire floor. We are planning to replace a few tiles. We continue to get estimates on the roof, and we need to be financially prepared for that expanse. We will look at asbestos mitigation at the same time and the viability of insurance coverage. We are just looking at it at this point.

The Adopt a Bed project is a success to date. We had 20 people for the Sunday afternoon event and walk about.

E. Senior Warden’s report (**posted**).

Thank you for all of your contributions of time and/or food to our breakfast for Winter Relief on March 1st. Thank you, also for your help in putting together staff gifts baskets. We received several thank you notes.

I am really excited about the care of the grounds of St. Margaret’s. Al Todd gave a great tour of the campus. Now we need to keep it going. There is a lot of interest, so we have been able to subdivide the beds to accommodate more parishioners who want to participate.

David Allen is heading up coordination of our earth-themed event May 1st. Our working title is “Good Seed” Sunday. It is a spring complement to the fall festival. We are talking to someone

who can probably come in and talk about bees. We hope to have a food truck. We need a "Welcome" table. This is an opportunity to get the word out, but we are looking for help. If interested in helping, please talk to the Senior Warden. The purpose of the event is to show how we can take better care of the earth. We will be looking for practical, helpful, positing things. We will hopefully use this event to broaden our stewardship efforts. The Day School will be involved. Again, we want to showcase the values of our church. We are considering a budget for advertising outside. And maybe money for small things we need.

As always, I am here to listen to your ideas, and can also be a listening ear for your celebrations and concerns. Feel free to reach out any time.

For the Good of the Order.

The meeting ended at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Barnett