



St Margaret's Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes 19 March 2019 DRAFT

Attending: Peter Mayer (Rector), Patti Sachs (Assistant Rector), Paul O'Donnell (Senior Warden), Steve Brennan (Junior Warden), Charlie Lang (Treasurer), Jim Barnett (Clerk), Elizabeth Radley (Director of Operations), Cory Greene, Luke Morgan, Stacia Bontempo, Maggy Cullman, Gwen Davis, Sarah Westcott, , Rex Pingle,

Absent: Barbara Friedman (next door at Grants Committee meeting)

Al Todd, Phil Graham, Brian Williams (mission adventure)

1. Opening prayer was given at 7pm by Gwen Davis.
2. The minutes from the February meeting were approved as amended. The presence of a quorum was noted (8 plus the Rector in accordance with the existing By Laws)
3. Peter+ noted that the SMDS Silent Auction was well attended by parishioners and Vestry and was fun for all present. Financial results should be available at the next Vestry meeting.

4. Submitted Reports

A. Rector's Report – Peter Mayer+ (report attached)

Peter+ gave an update on the ongoing mail theft issue so that those present could be best prepared to answer parishioners' questions as they come up. It appears that between \$15K and \$20K checks meant for SMC have been frequently cashed by unknown persons. Since the donation was never received by the Church, there is nothing SMC can do and it is incumbent on parishioners to track their accounts and refer discrepancies to their banks who can then contact SMC for validation of non-receipt. The locking mail boxes were installed 16 March, and this should mitigate future related issues. The Church is not withholding any information and leadership will keep everyone updated as additional detail comes available.

We will be relooking at the 2018 books to see if this issue existed before the current year.

Everyone was encouraged to check their bank accounts monthly for errors such as this.

B. Assistant Rector's Report – Patti Sachs+ (report attached)

Patti+ noted that she had made repairs to 3 of the pews that had significant cracks.

C. Treasurers Report – Charlie Lang (report attached)

The negative balance (\$40,969.65) is an annual occurrence as pledgers tend to wait until later in the year to fulfill their pledges and by the fall the books are more balanced.

Charlie noted that in addition to the interest payment on the building loan, he made an \$80,000 payment against the principal. The balance is down to \$120,000.

D. St Margaret's Formation Commission Report – Gwen Davis (report attached)

We continue to need Sunday School teachers for next year.

There is a lot of energy and enthusiasm for the summer Vacation Bible School 24-28 June. While volunteers are coming forward, teachers are always needed.

We do charge for our VBS but that affords SMC opportunities that might not otherwise exist: Teachers that support the program from SMDS are paid and are a critical asset. We offer scholarships to those who need them. We try to "bank" any overage to support the program next summer with extended scholarship opportunities and special events. If anyone detects that financial aid might encourage an attendee, refer the parents to the leadership. This includes kids in our neighborhood who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Peter+ indicated that Laura (Tayman) is working on our summer program. We need to keep our parishioners engaged with the church even when their kids are not going to school. She is looking at interactive classes with lessons in the Fellowship Hall, as an example.

E. Junior Warden's report – Steve Brennan (attached)

Steve indicated that B&G did not meet this month. Security measures continue apace.

F. Senior Warden's report – Paul O'Donnell (attached)

Five parishioners supported Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church in Arnold on Ash Wednesday with Their Winter Relief dinner. Paul intends to continue this interaction and hopes we can learn from their approach to what they call "Warm Nights."

Paul wanted to ensure that we continue to review our commitment to the Lighthouse Shelter of Annapolis. It was noted that while we provide financial support to the LHS, they, in

turn, provide funding to the ACT (Anne Arundel County Together). At the same time, we provide funding to ACT. We need to remain attentive to this arrangement.

5. For the Good of the Order

Peter+ noted that Winter Relief efforts were continuing but there remains room on the sign up for additional support. We continue to need volunteers on the weekend, and particularly Sunday.

The Rector reflected that while reviewing the Easter letters and intended recipients that he recognized 95% of the recipient names. Our efforts to refine our membership rolls has resulted in a much more realistic appreciation of who we are. While it may appear that our numbers are down, the rolls reflect a more accurate list of our membership.

Peter+ noted that attendance seems to be increasing, certainly last Sunday was an example. But he also noted that we are experiencing a new cultural dynamic as our population includes more Generation X and Millennials. We need to focus on how we connect with this population and how we remain connected with them. "How can we capture that level of participation and understand that generational change?"

Rex indicated that the neighborhood aggregations is having a positive effect in his area. They had a meeting that was attended by 18 parishioners and their kids. Peter+ indicated that we have 26 groupings and 20 "Captains" so we are making progress thanks to the efforts of Susan Roberts. This is not a preemption for Pastoral engagement, this is just another mechanism for connecting and staying connected at SMC.

There was a brief discussion regarding upgrades and expansion of the ACS accounting system and how that will improve office efficiency. There is a cost involved and that is reflected in the Rector's Report. Elizabeth is working this and will keep everyone posted on progress.

6. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned with the singing of the Doxology at 8:15 PM.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday April 16, at 7 PM, in the Formation Building classroom E. This meeting will include a report from the Worship Commission liaison.

Faithfully,

Jim Barnett

SMC Clerk



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Rector's Report March 2019.pdf



Assistant Rector.pdf



Assistant Rector.pdf



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