



St Margaret's Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Draft Minutes 21 November (first)

Attending: Peter Mayer (Rector), Patti Sachs (Assistant Rector), Paul O'Donnell (Senior Warden), Steve Brennen (Junior Warden), Jim Barnett (Clerk), Fran Becker, Maggy Cullman, Gwen Davis, Christine Feldman, Phil Graham, Tim Parker, Rex Pingle, Al Todd, Ruth Harmon

Absent: Charlie Lang (Treasurer), Sarah Westcott, Abby Wentz

1. Opening prayer was given at 7pm by Maggie Cullman
2. The Rector asked each member of the Vestry to "tell us the best thing you have done recently as Vestry." The responses were varied, fun, and poignant.
3. The minutes from the October meeting were approved as amended. They will include the various reports that were submitted and discussed at that meeting.

4. Submitted Reports

A. Rector's Report – Peter Mayer (no submitted report)

B. Assistant Rector's Report – Patti Sachs (not received by Clerk...yet)

Peter indicated that he has the most recent ADM map book for Anne Arundel County. His intent to plot the congregants' addresses on this map series to get a sensing of proximity such that groups of 7-10 can be loosely identified and a "Pastoral Captain" be identified for each aggregate. The idea is to make sure we are watching out for each other as a community. Christine Feldman mentioned that the Mission Commission was discussing just such a plan and would be very interested in supporting such an initiative. It represents one more layer of "connect." Fran Becker indicated that this had been considered under the New Comers initiative some time back but fits very nicely in our new strategy to "Invite, Welcome, Connect" We are still looking at the "Welcome" piece and discerning over the best practices that existed

under Jane Piche to chart a way ahead. The Rector reiterated his December and March events for new parishioners that will better inform them of St Margaret's and our community.

C. Treasurers Report – Peter Mayer in Charlie's absence (attached)

No questions but some discussion. Fran Becker wanted to know if attendance was up. While no official metric was proffered, the general sensing is that it has been over the past few Sundays. The Rector credited that to recent stability brought on in large part by staffing, specifically Patti Sachs and Jim Douglas (Music Director) but also the efficiency with which the entire staff interacts. The Rector also cited the very positive attitude of the Vestry in working through recent distractions that could have had a very detrimental impact on the well being of SMC. Maggie Cullman noted that Jim's energy and enthusiasm was having a very big impact on the choirs and the music program in general.

There was some discussion regarding the Capital Campaign (Building Fund) and it's status. It was recommended that the Treasurer provide an update on this effort and present options for paying off or converting the loan. The Rector will bring this up to the Treasurer, so the Vestry can review and decide on alternatives and options.

Formation Commission report – Gwen Davis and Ruth Harmon (attached)

We continue to search for an additional 4th-5th grade teacher. That having been said, the new curriculum for this age group through middle school is positive.

With all the volunteers and the synergy that could be attained by a "Volunteers Coordinator" position it puts additional pressure on staff to communicate across the various groups, something a paid Volunteers Coordinator could have enhanced. It is understood that both SMC's current fiscal constraints and the viability of hiring a limited hourly employee make this untenable at this time.

High school numbers are up but they remain "very busy." Monday night Faith and Fellowship is going "gang busters."

St Margaret's Day School (SMDS) remains fully enrolled with 126 students, 7 receiving financial aid. The new sidewalk (east end of the Formation Building) has been approved by both the B&G Committee and the School Board of Trustees. The SMDS will replace the major equipment in the playground. Full funding remains a question.

The Silent Auction in March will be held at the Annapolis Maritime Museum with the SMC Third Sunday Band providing music.

The departure of the SMCS School Board Chairman (Susan Roberts) was discussed. She has done an outstanding job in many ways but of particular note are her efforts to bring the two communities (SMDS and SMC) together for the benefit of both. A search committee has been formed and anyone with a thought or suggestion should see the Rector.

Ruth Harmon talked about Adult Formation. There is something for everyone in this ministry. They are looking for someone to take over the planning for Monday night adult formation.

There was general discussion in this regard with the changing culture of the congregation to a more youthful group, many with young children. The discussion focused on potential opportunities this culture change presents and how we can best address both the needs of these new members and current members and the needs of the church for volunteers. This will be an ongoing and evolving discussion with very positive potentials. The Rector noted, and the Clerk felt compelled to reflect that “We don’t take ourselves seriously, but we do take our work and our God very seriously.”

Budget Committee report- Tim Parker and Rex Pingel (attached in part)

The pledge campaign for 2019 is completed and while the results were not as hoped, we continue to have pledges come in and hope that both pledging units (individual pledges) and totals will increase. We do need to begin to think about how we will address the shortfall in the coming year. We lost some big donors this year. While on average the dollars per pledge was on track with last year, the number of pledges decreased slightly. We need to look at both increasing pledges as possible, and potentially reducing outlays not associated with staffing. At the same time, we need to consider the endowment and planning for those impacts. Tim and Rex would appreciate thoughts and considerations on options before the next Vestry meeting in December.

Junior Warden’s report – Steve Brennen (attached)

Issues surrounding the campus environment are covered in the report and discussed at length. We need to take a longer term look at the necessary maintenance that will help to baseline our buildings into the future. Short term fixes will continue to be required, but a longer-term look and anticipation will help to forestall many of those shorter term requirements.

The rental house was also discussed at length and several options were proposed. As with our campus buildings, longer term management of the property will help deter the short-term issues we are currently experiencing. The Endowment owns the property, so management remains an issue. It was proposed that a small group of parishioners be asked to look at the property and come back to the Vestry with options and recommendations. This should be done with the current Vestry since they have the near-term history and should be able to make recommendations before the annual meeting.

Senior Warden’s report – Paul O’Donnell (attached)

Further discussion on the recently concluded stewardship campaign.

Called attention to the 29 November ACT/IAF affiliated effort with Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church relational mixer.

For the good of the order – Gwen Davis

Gwen wanted to call to the attention of the Vestry the SMDS initiative to replace aging and no longer supportable, playground equipment. She wanted to Vestry to consider ways that SMC could contribute to this effort to support the school with this expensive but complementary endeavor. Christine Feldman recommended that the SMDS submit a request through the SMC Grant's process. The playground equipment will be replaced later this year or early next year, so Gwen wanted to plant the seed for future consideration.

5. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 with the singing of the Doxology.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday December 18th in the Formation Building.

Faithfully,

Jim Barnett

SMC Clerk



Formation
Commission Report



Financial report
SMC 11-2018.docx



SMC Junior Warden
Report 11 20 2018.preport



Senior Warden's
Report November 20



181120 Treasurer
Report.docx