

Minutes
St. Paul's Vestry
November 26, 2024

Vestry Members Present: Bob North, Bob Ozinga, Judy Webster, Pat Jamison, Peggy Andrews, Wendy Emerson, Laura Bittinger, Diane Freestate, Kim Hazuda, Sheri Ward

Vestry Members Absent: Julia Eaton, Charlie Ackerman

Guest: Mark Freestate, Chris Pupke, Tom Andrews, Rt Reverend Santosh Marray, Cannon of the Ordinary John Dragone

Call to Order: Bob North.

Opening Prayer: Pat Jameson

Lectio Divina: Luke 21: 25-36

Update & Briefing from Transition and Search Committee

Bob Ozinga: Chair Transition and Search Committee

-Thanked Bishop Marray and Mr. Dragone for attending the vestry meeting.

-He explained the structure of the committee and provided a written report for the Bishop and Mr Dragone.
(Packet attached)

Chris Pupke: Co-chair, Communications Team

Explained:

- Why "Holy Cow" was selected to provide and act as interpreter of the church survey.
- How the list of parishioners to receive the survey was determined. Any parishioner who has received communion in the past year were eligible to receive the survey.
- Notices stating the survey would be open Sept. 5-Sept 30 were sent out by email, bulletins, and newsletter.
- A Zoom meeting was held on October 29th with "Holy Cow" to explain to the Vestry and the Transition/Search committee their findings, and to answer questions.
- December 8th there will be a meeting with the parishioners to review the results of the survey and to answer questions.

The Bishop asked the vestry for their "gut feeling" regarding the results of the survey. The vestry indicated that they are pleased with the results, especially the number of parishioners who completed the survey. The Bishop stressed that the committee make sure (for the Dec. 8th meeting) that it be made clear that the results are the parishioners results.

The Bishop stated that a number of churches in the Easton Diocese are searching for a new rector. However, it is his feeling that in the long run, the Diocese will benefit from the new blood, and new ideas. He assured the vestry that St Paul's will find a new rector. It is important that the Transition/Search Committee and the vestry not feel defeated at anytime during this process-keep the faith.

The Bishop also advised the vestry to consider getting an Interim Priest. An Interim Priest can help keep the church stable and help the parish to adjust to having a new priest.

Mr. Dragone stated that he is available if there are questions. He is in his office Monday-Wednesday and is willing to meet if requested.

He talked about the shortage of applicants and agreed that the search may take some time. He also stated that St. Paul's is likely to get around 3 applications.

The Vestry thanked the Bishop and Mr. Dragone for their input and for attending the Vestry meeting. The Transition and Search Committee will keep the Diocese updated.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 2024 meeting were approved as presented.

Report of Senior Warden-Bob North

-Vestry representative schedule was reviewed.

-Date of next Vestry meeting: December 17th

-Important Dates:

December 1st is Pledge Sunday

December 7th from noon to 4 P.M. the Historical Society of QA County will sponsor a Christmas Tour which will include St. Paul's.

December 8th meeting with all parishioners to present the results of the parish survey

December 22nd will be the greening of the church

December 24th, 4:30 music and 5:00 Christmas service

January 26th, Annual meeting.

-The December Vestry meeting will be a pot luck dinner with guest .

Report of Junior Warden- Charlie Ackermann

In his absence, a written report was given (attached)

Report of the Treasurer-Diane Freestate

-A packet of financial information was provided for the vestry to review.

-Diane indicated that the cost to date are in line with the budget.

-Budget 2025

-The Transition Team has supplied a budget number for the 2025 budget.

-Pledges are coming in, but are \$50,000 short of where they need to be. If the pledges to cover the shortages do not come in, there may be the need to cut programs in order to maintain a balanced 2025 budget.

-Stef Scaggiari has requested approval to hold a concert April, 2025. The cost to St. Paul's would be \$1500. After discussion by the Vestry, a motion was made to deny the request, stating that there are too many unknowns with the 2025 budget. The vestry approved the motion.

Old Business: Pat Jamison asked for the status of the Safe Church/Safe Community program. In response, Tom Andrews, co-chair of the Transition Team will be meeting with the Diocese. A report will be given at the December Vestry meeting.

New Business: There will be a nominating committee formed (including the 3 retiring vestry members) over the next few days, to search for at least 3 vestry members to be voted on at the Annual meeting, Jan. 26th.

Bob North was asked to put together instructions on how the process is to work.

Next Vestry meeting: December 17, 2024 at 5:30

Closing: Bob North

Respectfully submitted:

Elsie Ozinga

Registrar