

Minutes  
St. Paul's Vestry  
November 28, 2023  
Donaldson Hall 5:30 pm

**Vestry Members Present:** Charlie Ackerman, Laura Bittinger, Sharon Burak, Wendy Emerson, Kim Hazuda, Carol Lorditch, Dan McCreary, Bob North, Elsie Ozinga, and Bob Ozinga

**Vestry Members Absent:** Julia Eaton and Diane Freestate.

**Call to Order:** Rev. Mary Friel

**Opening Prayer:** Bob Ozinga

**Lectio Divina: Mark 13: 24-37**

- Word or Phrase: "My words will not pass away, keep awake, but about that day or hour no one knows...."
- Thought:
  - The first paragraph was very visual.
  - Grand and comforting
  - We will definitely not know the time...be aware
- Calling us to do:
  - Be ready.
  - Nothing will be the same except God's words.

**Minutes of October 2023 Meeting: Registrar Carol Lorditch**

- Correction: spelling of Hazuda
- Correction: wording regarding D & G Cleaners and Schumann cleaners.
- Minutes approved by consensus with corrections.

**Report of Rector- Rev. Mary:**

- Home School Update:
  - Donaldson Hall is being used on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday without any issues.
  - Class size is growing which is encouraging.
  - Person in charge of the Home School group is working through the Safe Church, Safe Community program.
  - It is wonderful seeing young children in our church yard during their recess time.
- Greening of the Church:
  - Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, after 10 am Holy Eucharist service.
    - Pot Luck Coffee Hour immediately after greening.
  - Asking that parishioners bring Creches and Nativity scenes December 24<sup>th</sup>
- Ecumenical Services:
  - No vote is necessary; following discussion is only informational.

- Since Mary's arrival to St. Paul's, we have been invited to join the Mother of Sorrows and Centreville Methodist Church for Ecumenical services for Thanksgiving and Easter Sunday
  - Attendance from St. Paul's Parish at either of the events was minimal at best, 3-4 people. (The Friel and Ozinga families)
  - The local United Methodist Church has made a unified and deliberate choice to move to the Global Methodist Church over LGBTQ policies. The Global Church doctrine does not recognize same-sex marriages or the ordination of LGBTQ individuals.
  - Rev. Mary, in all good consciousness, felt this action is not what the Episcopal Church teaches. We ordain LGBTQ individuals if they are qualified, and we have same-sex marriages in our church and within our congregation.
    - After a conversation with the Methodist Pastor, Rev. Mary suggested that as a representative of St. Paul's she did not feel comfortable participating in Ecumenical services at this time.
- Rector's Vacation and supply priest:
  - As was previously stated, Rev. Mary had to cancel her previously scheduled Sabbatical due to her husband's treatment schedule.
  - May 19- June 6, 2024, Rev. Mary, with the doctor's consent is planning to participate in the Camino de Santiago walk with an Episcopal priest and a small group of people. It will not be a Sabbatical.
  - The retired, Rev. Allen Spicer has agreed to fill in for three (3) of the four (4) Sunday services, and all of the Wednesday services. Rev. Mary will be looking for priest to fill in on the open June 2<sup>nd</sup> date.
- Important Dates:
  - Tuesday, 12/5/23, 2 pm Small gathering to celebrate Michele Miller's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary working for St. Paul's. Vestry members and special friends will meet in the Harper Room.
  - 12/9/23, 7 pm. Tidewater Singers Concert in Church.
  - 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 2023, the Advent Series (3 Wednesdays in December) 11:45 am Harper Room. Debra Donnelly Barton will be presenting *Icons of Mary* during this series. Potluck soup lunch following service. Please advise if you will be attending.
  - 12/24, Sunday, 10 am. Advent IV Holy Eucharist Service
  - 12/24, Sunday, 4 pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist Service with a trumpet player.
  - 12/24, Sunday, 9:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service with choir.
  - 12/25, Monday, Christmas Day, 10 am Morning Prayer
  - 12/31, First Sunday after Christmas, 10 am Holy Eucharist

- 12/24-1/2/2024 Parish office will be closed.

### **Report of the Senior Warden: Bob North**

- Vestry Rep. Schedule review. (dates: 12/3/23- 1/28/24)
- *Thank You* from Rev. Mary, Vestry representative's attention to Name Tags is working well. Nice to see so many now wearing their name tags during service. No date available for arrival of new name tags.

### **Report of the Junior Warden: Charlie Ackermann**

- Update on cleaning services:
  - D & G Affordable Cleaners has been hired to do the deep cleaning since that has not been done for quite some time. Starting tomorrow 11/29/23
  - Schumann Cleaners has been hired to do the weekly cleaning. They will be starting within the week, probably cleaning during evening hours.
- Update on GEO Pump
  - Sommerset Wells Drilling Company, inspected the pumps and took pictures.
    - Sommerset sent an estimate of \$3000 for cost of repair and parts.
    - Estimate signed and parts ordered.
  - Recently discovered that the second GEO pump is experiencing similar leaking problems. This pump, which is a duplicate of the first pump, was replaced seven (7) years ago.
    - Junior Warden suggested adding this repair to the 2024 maintenance list.
      - No estimate has been set at this time.
- Rectory work:
  - The last water bill showed an increase in water usage.
    - After an inspection we found: one (1) commode was leaking along with the hot/cold valves for the washing machine.
    - Repairs were made and a pressure test for leakage was performed. Results of test indicated no apparent water leakage.
- Front Sidewalk Project.
  - Solidago has submitted a new estimate of \$6000 to remove/replace all of the brick/slate, look at the concrete under this area and determine if we need to repair or replace the concrete.
    - Second option was \$4000 which included removing all of the brick/slate, and pour a new concrete walkway.
    - Building Committee along with other parishioners would like to keep the look of the brick and slate walkway.
    - Regardless of option choice, we need to remember additional work has to be done to align the front walkway with the side walkway. The side

walkway also needs some minor repairs. At the same time, two existing tree stumps need to be removed.

- We can move forward if Vestry approves either of the above options.
- If we want to consider a second bid, which we have no company currently being considered, this project would be put on hold until spring.
- Vestry had approved the project, but the cost of the repair has not been approved.
- Decided to get a second estimate for the sidewalk project and in lieu of the winter conditions plan on doing the work in Spring. Further decision for this project will be tabled until the January 2024 meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report, Diane Freestate.**

- In Diane Freestate's absence, Bob North presented a written statement.
  - Steve Parkhurts has officially accepted the invitation to join the Finance Committee.
  - Michele Miller will be sending out the pledge statements showing any remaining balance.
  - Discussion of salary increases will begin next week.
    - Ned Aull has offered to supply some relevant information regarding raises.
    - Diane Freestate will put together some options which the Finance Committee can discuss.
  - This month's Treasurer's Report should be self-explanatory. Should anyone have any questions please feel free to contact Diane Freestate.

### **Old Business:**

- Bob Ozinga suggested a change of **procedure** for an electronic vote regarding a change of policy.
  - Develop a one page form that includes the following information:
    - Who is requesting this change?
    - Reason for the vote?
    - Person to contact for this vote?
  - Rev. Mary suggested this was a good idea. Further discussion TBD.
- Laura Bitteringer asked, "How are we doing with people soliciting at Church"?
  - Rev. Mary suggested that she has not seen or heard of any recent situations or complaints.

### **New Business:**

- Next Vestry Meeting, Tuesday, December 19, 6:00 pm at Rectory
  - There will be a short Vestry meeting while spouses visit in other areas.
  - Vestry members need to sign up for food items for this holiday celebration.

- In lieu of no cleaning services, Charlie Ackermann, will arrive early before Sunday services to check the bathrooms .

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol J. Lorditch Registrar