

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Wilmington, NC
Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2023**

Present: The Rev. Caleb Lee (Rector), Bill Anlyan (Rector's Warden), Brian Buss, Tori Cannon (Vestry Clerk), Layne Dupree, Ashley Eason, Carol Field, Steve Haughey, Anne O'Dell (People's Warden), Lisa Sanders-Park, Denise Sheehan, Tom Sramek, David Tousignant

Absent: Judy Wilson (Treasurer)

Fr. Lee called the meeting to order at 6pm and offered an opening prayer.

Approval of the February Meeting Minutes

Bill Anlyan made a motion to accept the March minutes and the motion was seconded by David Tousignant. The minutes were unanimously approved without correction.

Rector's Report

Holy Week and Easter numbers - 779 total for the week

Palm Sunday attendance was 33 at 8AM and 230 at 10:30AM

Easter Sunday attendance was 32 at 8AM and 310 at 10:30 AM

Leadership team meetings (Bill, Ann, Judy, and myself) have begun to stay on top of and ahead of the various things going on here at St. Paul's so that we can properly plan for and budget for them.

The deadline to apply for the Director of Music position is today. We have received 8 applications so far. Over the next couple of weeks I will be gathering up a group of individuals who will help me decide who it will be, and if it will be any of these candidates. This includes everything from interviews to hospitality and travel arrangements for interviews.

Yale - It was a pleasure to get into the Leader's Way Program at The Berkley Divinity School at Yale and to receive financial scholarship. That residency will be June 19 - 24, 2023

Prepping for the bishop's visit. The bishop will be here on Sunday, April 23. We have a handful of folks getting confirmed or received. He will be here for a 9:30 forum in the Parish Hall. He and I have been in conversation about a variety of things here at St. Paul's. Hopefully he will speak to that in some way within his forum hour and within his sermon. Hospitality is on it with reception plans. Just so y'all know my expectations about bishop's visits. The place should be operating like it always is.

We have taken out a 1/3 page ad in Wilmington Today to advertise for Weddings at St. Paul's. With this advertisement we hope to create a new and reliable income stream for St. Paul's.

As you know, Steve Martin has resigned from the Vestry. My opinion is that we are in no need or rush to replace his position on the vestry at this point. But that is not my call. That is the decision of the Vestry.

In a brief discussion following Fr. Caleb's report, the Vestry agreed that the current members are willing and able to absorb Steve Martin's responsibilities. Bill Anlyan offered to take his turn as Vestry Person of the Day.

In response to Fr. Caleb's announcement of increased attendance during Holy Week, a discussion may be necessary at some point to consider adding an additional service. Additionally, the question "What is St. Paul's niche or aim?" was offered for consideration in light of 8 other Episcopal churches in New Hanover County.

People's Warden Report—Anne O'Dell

On behalf of the vestry, I would like to offer sincere thanks and appreciation to our clergy, especially Fr. Caleb, for leading St. Paul's through the marathon of Holy Week and Easter. It is amazing to behold the planning, organization, cooperation, and prayer that goes into orchestrating all that happens during this most sacred week of our church calendar. We are grateful and blessed to have Fr. Caleb at the helm.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST MONTH

Bowling with the Rector: On Sunday March 19, over 50 people gathered at Cardinal Lanes for Bowling with the Rector. It was great fun and well attended by a good cross-section of parishioners. Thanks to Meaghan Thomas, our Children, Youth and Families Coordinator, for organizing this parish-wide event.

March Matchness Endowment Challenge: The Endowment Board set out to raise \$15,000 during the March Matchness Challenge and exceeded its goal by over 100%! Thanks to three anonymous matching-gift donors, The Source Gift Shop, and the support of our beloved church family, we added over \$31,000 to the Endowment Fund. We are profoundly grateful to everyone who gave generously.

Hospitality Ministry: It's been "all hands on deck" for our Sunday morning hospitality teams during the past couple of weeks. With the influx of people expected beginning with Palm Sunday and continuing through Easter, the Bishop's visit on April 23, and Mother's Day on May 14, a coordinated effort has been underway to make sure that receptions are well staffed and have an abundance of food.

A special thanks also to all of you who continue to reach out to visitors and treat them as if they are honored guests. Making a meaningful connection with people the first time brings them back a second time. It is also an important part of ***Building. The Way. Forward.*** As we continue to grow and additional demands are placed on our rector's time and attention, we need to step up where we can. Extending a warm welcome to a newcomer is a no-brainer.

Parish Life: The Parish Life team filled over 600 plastic eggs for yesterday's Easter Egg Hunt, which was moved inside due to inclement weather. Meaghan Thomas and her crew of Easter bunnies found plenty of great hiding places in the basement of the church. The children had a great time and came away with more than their fair share of Easter joy.

The parish picnic is Sunday, May 7 at 5:30 pm. We will gather at Long Leaf Park, picnic shelter #6. There will be lawn games, a plant swap, and Compline at evening's end. BBQ and drinks will be provided. Parishioners are asked to bring salads, sides, or desserts depending on their last name.

Communication initiatives: Ministry Spotlight is a new feature in the E-news and Bulletin. I am working with the stewardship team to highlight different ministries within the church. By describing the ministries and sharing stories, we are hoping to expand people's knowledge of the church's ministries and the good work that is done through the open hearts and open hands of our faithful. If you have an idea for the Ministry Spotlight, please let me know.

Treasurer's Report—Carol Field delivered report on behalf of Judy Wilson

Carol presented the "2023 Operating Fund Monthly Treasurer's Report for Vestry" through 3/31/23 and highlighted the following:

- * Row 3 showing the total of all income as 25.5% of budget
- * Row 4 showing the Total Expense as 24.2%
- * Row 5 showed a positive Net as \$9108.10
- * Endowment Fund totals \$944,922.49
- * Reserve Account reflects \$90,808.81
- * Pledges YTD have been adjusted to \$580,000

Stewardship Report—Denise Sheehan

The Operating Fund budget, as approved by the vestry on January 16, 2023, anticipated a pledge goal of \$580,000. As of March 31, 141 donors have pledged \$561,117. We have received \$165,417 in pledge payments, which is approximately 30% of the 2023 total pledge amount. To meet our approved pledge budget, we will need an estimated \$19,000 in new pledges in 2023.

The Stewardship Committee has reached out to recent new members, as appropriate, inviting them to pledge this year.

The Committee has begun discussions on ways to maximize the various church communication platforms to inform the congregation of the many ways St. Paul's benefits from their pledges, motivate and encourage members to pledge to the work and future of St. Paul's, and recognize those groups who have been faithful in financial commitment to St. Paul's.

Following Denise's report, a question was raised as to how we are doing on grants. As the People's Warden, Anne will attend the next meeting to gather information. Cecelia Peers has joined that group.

Membership/Human Resources—Lisa Sanders-Park

Transitioning from Meaghan Thomas who reports the following:

- *Great feedback from Dinner and Faith quarterly event. Next event will be scheduled for a date in late June shortly.
- *Monthly groups are underway under the leadership of Karen Day and Ruth Gates.
- *Newcomers' Event is May 4th

Facilities—David Tousignant

A contractor has been hired to evaluate the Nave and the Narthex. There is settlement under the Nave so there have been holes drilled in the floor to view the possible source but this is a challenge. We are looking at other alternatives to access the area. There are also 2 parallel cracks between pulpits and the 10th pews.

Ormond Center Feasibility Study—Steve Haughey

A copy of the report was presented to the Vestry. The committee started meeting in mid-January. Bill Smith, Karen Smith, Brian Buss, Steve Haughey and Caleb Lee are the members.

The Vestry was encouraged to read the report more than once as it detailed our review of the current state of conditions at the OC, and highlighted the scope of repairs needed if the move to the OC were to occur. The Vestry was not being asked at this time to vote on approving the budget outlined in the report. There is no timetable for when work will begin for the full move. The move will occur when the time is right and the budget allows.

It should be noted that although these repairs were recommended as part of the relocation of the administrative offices of the church, certain repairs are needed now, or very soon, in order to adequately maintain this building as an asset of the church.

New Business

A request has been made by the Vestry to the Endowment Board requesting \$12,000 from the Lehto Organ Maintenance Fund to help in paying for climate control necessary for the proper functioning of the organ. This amount would be payable on a quarterly basis. David Tousignant moved to approve the request, seconded by Ashley Eason and unanimously approved.

A motion was made to elect Bill Richards to the Endowment Board, replacing Dick Rowe. This motion was approved by Bill Anlyan, seconded by Denise Sheehan and unanimously approved.

Comment

Lisa Sanders-Park suggested impacting our behavior in an effort to welcome new people to St. Paul's and asked if we should communicate to our parishioners the vestry theme of Building. The Way. Forward. Lisa wondered if conversations the vestry is having regarding opportunities and challenges of a Transitional sized parish should be communicated by the Rector on various communication platforms.

A unanimous motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm.

Anne O'Dell offered a "Prayer After Easter" in closing.

Respectfully submitted,
Tori Cannon
Vestry Clerk