

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Wilmington, NC
Vestry Meeting Minutes
May 8, 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, Judy Wilson (Treasurer)

Absent: All Vestry members were present.

Fr. Lee called the meeting to order at 5:57pm and offered an opening prayer.

Approval of the April Meeting Minutes

Bill Anlyan made a motion to accept the April minutes and seconded by Denise Sheehan. There was a request made to revise the March minutes in order to provide clarification on the Memorial Plaque in the Bellamy Memorial Garden. A motion was made by David Tousignant to approve the revisions and seconded by Ashley Eason.

Rector's Report

Things are going well in worship. I am happy to report that we will have 4 baptisms on Pentecost. The Bishop's visit went remarkably well. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make that a great day. I report that the choir's scheduled trip to Grace Church Cathedral in July is a great boost to the choir and a pretty good consolation prize for the canceled trip to England. It has left us with a hole to fill here that day. Dorothy Papadakos will be our guest organist and we are working on a quartet from UNCW.

We have begun advertising for Weddings at St. Paul's. Thanks to Layne Dupree, St. Paul's Wedding Coordinator, and Anne O'Dell. The Communications team is setting up a place on our website to showcase Weddings. We hope this will be a good source of additional revenue for the church.

The Rector then spoke about Church Staff.

The Music search is progressing. We are Zoom interviewing 5 out of the 9 candidates that applied for the position. The committee assisting me with discerning the next Director of Music consists of the Wardens, David Tousignant, Lisa Sanders-Park, Renee Patrick, Phillip Weiss, and Lisa Hill. We plan for 2-3 in-person visits during the month of June.

Membership leadership is in transition. Lisa Sanders-Park and I are currently discerning who might be called to chair or co-chair that role.

The committee formerly known as the Facilities Committee is now called the Long-Range Plan Committee. We recognize that things have evolved and to avoid any confusion, we are naming that Committee what it actually is. It is a committee that is dealing with everything that is going on with the Long-Range Plan. We are currently in the active phase of receiving schematics for phase 1 and 2 from Gray Hudson with another meeting lined up in a couple weeks. Once the Long-Range Committee feels we are at a place that we can present to the vestry, we will. After that meeting, in whatever discernment

or decision needs to be made, the committee will gain new members that represent a larger constituency of the parish.

I have been thinking alot about what Lisa said last month about communicating where we are as a parish in terms of size and those opportunities and challenges and Building. The Way. Forward. I will do that on Ascension Sunday. It is a good time to express theologically about the disciples thinking they are in this alone now that Jesus has ascended to the Father, but in fact, sends the Holy Spirit to comfort us and sustain us.

People's Warden Report—Anne O'Dell

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST MONTH

Bishop's Visit: As noted in the Rector's Report, Bishop Skirving made his annual visit to St. Paul's on Sunday morning, April 23. There was a flurry of activity in preparation for his arrival. The St. Fiacre Garden Guild and the GNP hosted two workdays and along with a handful of volunteers cleaned and refreshed the exterior grounds. Efforts to spruce up the interior space also occurred. The Flower and Altar Guilds joined forces to present our sanctuary in its best light, and the hospitality teams made sure that the reception was well staffed and had an abundance of food.

Art Sale: On Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29, St. Paul's hosted its 5th Annual Art Show & Sale. Rhonda Stroud organized the event, with help from Lynn Graham, Elaine Anlyan, and Margaret Haughey. Six artists presented their work, and over the two days, this effort raised approximately \$1800 for St. Paul's music programs. Works by Lynn Graham and Elaine Anlyan were the biggest sellers, and special thanks to these two talented women who donated 100% of their proceeds to St. Paul's. The stunning painting of St. Paul's sanctuary, which was created specifically for this show by Wilmington native, Todd Carignan, was raffled and the winning ticket was held by parishioner Jeff Jones.

Parish Picnic: Thanks to our Parish Life team for organizing last evening's Parish Picnic. The weather was glorious, the food was terrific and, of course, the fellowship made the evening a success. Thanks also to Meghan Thomas and the youth in our parish for organizing and leading Compline.

Buildings & Grounds: In mid-April, thanks to David Tousignant's work, we received five different proposals from Francisco Castillo of CGC Historic Restoration for capital improvement projects around our campus. The leadership team reviewed and discussed the bids. The decision was made to move forward with the three considered to be the most critical priorities for our facility:

Roof Repair	\$	8,000	Replace all missing and/or broken slates; reattach roof cap in areas where damaged by wind
Round Stained Glass Window Repair	\$	700	Window repair facing 16th St: reattach and repair the round stained glass window

First Level Roof Repair	\$ 7,800	Repair water damage; reattach roof flashing to the wall to make it waterproof and paint the wall on the parking lot side of bldg
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The leadership team also reviewed and discussed the list of repairs cited in the Ormond Center Feasibility Study as those deemed necessary to adequately maintain the asset value of this property. We made the decision to move forward with the following:

Remove and replace existing decking on front porch, steps and decking with TREK or similar	\$ 5,500
Replace front porch light and dusk-to-dawn floods on SE, SW corners of bldg	\$ 400
Power wash bldg, front walk, back porch	\$ 650
Clean debris from crawl space	\$ 300
Termite treatment and bond	\$ 1,140

The total amount of money needed for the 3 largest projects (Roof Repair=\$8000, First Level Roof Repair=\$7800, and OC Decking=\$5500) is \$21,300. The plan is to use funds from the David Heath Bequest. The intention is to replenish the monies through a building project fundraising initiative which is still in the planning stages. The other projects will be funded from the operating fund.

The grant team also recently met, and Julie Martin has begun working on the Lehto Foundation grant which we anticipate will be @\$25K. Depending on the findings and the cost of the sanctuary floor repair project, we may be able to wrap some portion of these projects into the Lehto grant application.

One additional heads-up, the carpet in the north and south stairwells as well as the offices in the choir area will be cleaned this Friday, May 12. The GNP will be moving furniture on Thursday and replacing it on Saturday. Thanks to Steve Haughey for making all the arrangements.

Treasurer's Report—Judy Wilson

Judy reported that next month's report will include figures through May 31st and the 2023 revised Operating Fund budget will be provided for the Vestry to approve. To date, 39% of pledge payments have been received.

Stewardship Report—Denise Sheehan

The April meeting of the Stewardship Committee was canceled, and our next meeting will be in 2 weeks. At that meeting we will discuss the stewardship theme for the Fall 2023 appeal. Under consideration will be the official TENS theme – Rooted in Abundance.

We are still at 143 pledges (out of 230 households) and the total is at \$556,257. However, our shortfall is now \$23,743 because of the loss of pledges from parishioners who have moved or died. Karen Day plans one more E-News appeal for pledges.

You may have noticed the inclusion of ministry spotlights in E-News – highlighting the many ways St. Paul's serves, not only its members, but the community at large.

Membership/Human Resources—Lisa Sanders-Park

The May 4, 2023 Newcomer's Social was a success. We invited more than 57 people and had over 30 participate; more than half were newcomers (mostly transfers). We had a great showing from the clergy and vestry. The weather cooperated and the garden was a beautiful setting. We served finger foods and beverages, used name tags (with flower stickers to indicate newcomers) to promote connection. We spent less than \$250 of the \$500 budget. Father Lee addressed the group and fun was had by all. Special thanks to David Tousignant and the GNP for setting up the tables and chairs (even though they did it the hard way!), to Karen Day for her excellent work keeping newcomer details in order so clergy and vestry can make all feel welcome, and everyone who helped set-up and clean-up, and all the vestry members who came out to welcome our newcomers.

Lessons/Reflections

- The beer was unnecessary.
- 4 bottles of wine was more than enough for 30-ish people.
- Per diocesan guidelines we must always provide equally attractive non-alcohol options (Thank you, Catherine Powell for the gentle reminder in the email stream as we planned).
- Fewer chairs than people allows those who want/need to sit to do so, and promotes more mixing.
- It was very helpful to have so many clergy/vestry members there and committed to actively welcome and connect with the newcomers.
- Late afternoon in early May in the garden works, even if the trees have been recently trimmed and provide no shade.
- The easiest way to get tables and chairs to/from the garden is through the back door in the Sexton's room.
- Names tags are vital, and a quick visual re: who is a newcomer is very helpful (we used little flower stickers on the names tags).
- People love Costco macarons and the afternoon sunshine in May makes them the perfect, melt-in-your-mouth temperature!
- We attracted almost exclusively transfers (many of whom are already fairly engaged in the SPEC congregation via service, choir, etc.) and few not those new to the Episcopal church. Before the next social, we should brainstorm how to address that. At the very least, those who did not participate (no RSVP, or sent regrets due to travel/other) should be invited to the next newcomers social. Also, we lack email addresses for some who were sent postcards (Thanks, Karen Day!); let's get email addresses for them if we can.
- The key to a successful newcomer's social is more about the interactions than the set-up -- name tags, newcomer stickers, clergy/vestry there to engage, space that promotes mingling rather than sitting with the same group the whole time, Father Lee addressing the group. etc.

It was decided that doing these gatherings 2-3 a year based on the flow of newcomers should work and that doing them more frequently may reduce participation and effect.

Thank you for letting me be of service and give our dear Meaghan a much-needed break.

Building & Grounds—David Tousignant

A couple of projects were highlighted: the Market Street door and the 16th Street Chapel's frame needs to be repaired. Dan Reed, who previously worked on these repairs, is unable to help at this time due to his busy schedule.

Steve Haughey

There are cracks in the nave running north & south as well as those running east & west in the 3rd and 4th pews, not in the 10th as previously stated. Holes were drilled under the first pew and soil samples were obtained.

New Business

Fr. Lee requested that an addendum be added to the personnel policy; Bill Anlyan made a motion to add this addendum and Layne Dupree seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business

None at present

A motion was made by David Tousignant to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Denise Sheehan at 6:50pm.

David Tousignant offered a poem entitled "High Flight" in closing.

Respectfully submitted,
Tori Cannon
Vestry Clerk