

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Wilmington, NC
Vestry Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2024**

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

Absent: Ashley Eason

Fr. Lee called the meeting to order at 5:58pm and opened the meeting with a Collect remembering Martin Luther King on this holiday.

Approval of the December Meeting Minutes

After a typing error was corrected, Bill Anlyan made a motion to accept the December 11th minutes, seconded by David Tousignant and were subsequently approved unanimously.

Rector's Report

2024 is going to be a big year.

Feasibility Study

The Leadership team has been working very hard with our Capital Campaign Consultant, Jeff Hensley, of Generis in gathering information for our feasibility study. Jeff will be here this week doing some interviews with a variety of parishioners. This work is "under the radar." Much preparation has gone into all of this.

Worship was fantastic in December. I had a "moment" coming down the aisle to 'O come all ye faithful' at the 8:30 service that I will remember forever. It was true worship.

Highlights of the season included:

Advent Lessons and Carols

Bishop Parsley's Visit

Blue Christmas

Children's Prelude at 5:30

Our new Nativity set which was adorned in local vegetation and greenery

The only thing that I found to be lacking this year was The Messiah. We were down in attendance with Messiah this year for several reasons, but many of the folks who attended said it was the best performance of it they have heard. Brendan and I have spoken and we have concluded that we will continue to do it but alter it a bit to reduce the amount of money it costs to attend and to put it on. Brendan is considering putting together a Messiah Committee to work together to plan everything from advertising to event implementation.

We were able to secure 4 candidates for Vestry. I hope you agree that these are quality candidates that represent our parish well. Each of the nominees will bring strength to the Vestry in their own unique way.

Thank you for preparing your annual reports. There is still time to get those in.

Most of my January so far is divided up into:

Working with the Leadership Roundtable on prepping for the Feasibility Study

Preparing for the Annual Meeting

Preparing for Lent

Finalizing my course work for Yale

Thinking strategically about the future shape of the staff at SPEC

And performing my regular priestly duties

I wanted to let you know that Judy Wilson has indicated to me and the Wardens that she is ready to retire. She would like to hand over treasurer duties in April/May of this year. I want to express my deep gratitude for her faithfulness and stellar work over the many years that she has served this church. The remainder of her time with us will be to continue in her duties as treasurer but also to ensure that we are in good shape and well equipped to move forward with a new treasurer.

I will be away on the Second Sunday in Lent. Allen and I will be taking our children to NYC for the first time.

I wanted to let you know if you have not already heard that our Presiding Bishop is healing and recovering from a second visit to the hospital in response to a complication with a second incident of subdural hematoma. At the same time, the news came out late last week that he is being investigated under Title IV which is the disciplinary canon of the church. Not only is he being investigated but so is +Todd Ousley the Bishop for Pastoral Development. They are being accused of sweeping the alleged abuse of a bishop's spouse and children under the rug. And there are all kinds of things we do not know about it, but you can read about it on ENS or Living Church. There are a variety of things that go into a pastoral judgment call, but ignoring abuse or alleged abuse is not one of them.

I wanted you to be aware of a problem I am hearing about at St. Paul's and I want your eyes and ears attentive to it. There are a few people at St. Paul's who are borderline inappropriate with their gestures and actions towards females and children. I suppose they are doing it subconsciously and I am giving them the benefit of the doubt there, but there WILL be conversations happening with these folks. I want this in the minutes. Regardless of whether this is intentional or unintentional, this behavior is not acceptable.

Which reminds me that if you have not taken the Safeguarding Modules we will be reaching out to you to complete those. All it takes is letting one thing slide to create a culture where this is somehow

acceptable behavior; and destroy everything that is good and holy at St. Paul's. But more importantly, it does harm to people's God given dignity. If you see something, you have a responsibility as members of the vestry to say something to a mandated reporter; which is me.

People's Warden Report—Anne O'Dell

While it seems like a long time ago, I wanted to begin with a special thanks to Bill and Elaine Anlyan for hosting the Vestry and Staff Christmas Party at their home on December 18. It was a wonderful evening and a welcome opportunity to share some Christmas Cheer with colleagues and their spouses, partners, or significant others.

Grant Team

No updates to report.

Buildings and Grounds

Given the busy Advent & Christmas schedule, there were no major Buildings & Grounds projects undertaken during the past month. The GNP spent the majority of its time in Holiday Support Mode, helping with set-up and take-down for several holiday concerts, assisting with the greening and decorating of the church, and spearheading the post-Christmas cleanup. As always, we are grateful for their assistance.

As reported last month, efforts are underway to update and refine the planning and budgeting process for Building & Grounds. Bob Belaustegui, David Tousignant and Anne O'Dell met last week with Fr. Caleb. Another meeting is planned for two weeks.

An update on our cleaning service: while we continue to engage Sykes Cleaning, we have a new cleaning person named Kimmy. Weezy resigned at the start of the year for personal reasons.

Treasurer's Report—Judy Wilson

As of 1/15/2024:

Total income is \$761,873.35 which is 100.3% of the approved 9/11/23 budget.

Total expenses are \$761,873.35 which is 100.3% of the approved 9/11/23 budget.

This leaves a net income of \$0.00.

The Endowment Fund Total reflects \$948,149.93 and the balance of the Reserve Savings Account is \$679,568.62.

Bill Anlyan made a motion to accept the 1/15/24 Operating Fund Treasurer's Report, seconded by Steve Haughey.

Stewardship Report—Denise Sheehan

As of this date, 131 households had pledged \$570,542. At this point last year, we had 145 pledges totaling \$560,593. So the dollars are up, but participation is down.

Karen Day has received a list of households that pledged last year, but so far have not pledged. She will be following up with these people, as well as those who have transferred into St. Paul's.

The vestry continues to send out thank you notes to those who pledged. The deadline is January 15. But as more pledges come in, I may be contacting you to send out some more.

Thanks to all of you for writing and mailing these notes. They are an important part of stewardship = recognize the commitment and sacrifice of those who give.

Membership/Human Resources—Lisa Sanders-Park

No further updates at this time.

Building & Grounds—David Tousignant

This committee is on a “weather hold” in regards to some projects. David also reports that they are moving to a system of program budgeting for future projects and are working with the wardens to implement.

Additional updates were included in the People’s Warden report.

Ormond Center—Steve Haughey

- Received quote from SALT ROCK BUILDERS for interior renovations to the OC. Copy has been provided to People’s Warden. Estimate is \$12,200.00, however some of this cost is for painting that was already covered in the budget.
- Rear stair rail was sanded and painted by AURORA on Monday December 4.
- A meeting is planned for January 18 with SALT ROCK and Bob Crafts to ensure the work schedules/plans are in sync.
- With the “need to address’ items at the OC completed, the revised budget for the remaining renovations will be prepared for Vestry presentation and approval in early 2024.
- The 12-Step Group has asked for an additional meeting time at the OC. They will meet for two hours on the first Sunday of the month between 2-6 PM starting in February. The session leader will use the security code assigned to the 12-Step Group and is already familiar with the opening and closing procedures. Their regular meeting time and this new session time will be added to the church calendar when confirmed.

New Business

- The Executive Committee proposed setting up the St. Paul's Capital Campaign and Construction account at Wells Fargo. The motion made by Denise Sheehan and seconded by Lisa Sanders-Park was unanimously approved.
- A motion made by Lisa Sanders-Park and seconded by David Tousignant to approve the 2024 Operating Fund Budget was unanimously approved.

Old Business

If consensus cannot be found on a date for the annual remote retreat, Fr. Lee proposed extending an upcoming regular Vestry meeting to welcome the new Vestry members.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:10 pm.

In closing, Layne Dupree read a poem entitled “Maybe I, Maybe You”. The Vestry also bid farewell to Layne Dupree and Tom Sramek, as their terms are expiring.

Respectfully submitted,
Tori Cannon
Vestry Clerk