

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Wilmington, NC
Vestry Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2024**

Present: The Rev. Caleb Lee (Rector), Barbara Ellington Banks, Steve Bucci, Tori Cannon (Clerk), Ashley Eason, Carol Field, Steve Haughey (People's Warden), Anne O'Dell (Rector's Warden), Lisa Sanders-Park, Scott Sheble (Treasurer), Denise Sheehan, David Tousignant, Phillip Weiss

Absent: All members present. This evening's meeting was held via a Zoom call.

Fr. Lee called the meeting to order at 6:03pm and opened the meeting with a selection from the book, Circle of Hope.

Approval of the September Meeting Minutes

Anne O'Dell made a motion to accept the September minutes, seconded by Carol Field and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Rector's Report

I made an error in my own calendar and I am clearly not at Trinity Center right now. Unfortunately for the Vestry, the Commission on Ministry overnight does fall during next month's scheduled Vestry meeting so next month's meeting will also be via Zoom.

Busy time of year. We are right in the thick of it. I call your attention to the weekend of November 1-3. That is a big weekend for St. Paul's. Friday November 1 we will be having a Faure Requiem Mass, with soloists and guest organist, as well as a guest preacher, Geoffrey Hoare, a clergy colleague and mentor of mine who lives in town. Geoffrey is the former rector of St. Alban's in Washington DC as well the former rector of All Saints, Atlanta. Rise Against Hunger packing event is Nov 2 along with the Presiding Bishop-elect's investiture online at 11am. All Saints Sunday will be a grand celebration with two baptisms and a reading of the departed from St. Paul's in 2024 at the Eucharist. The Parish Picnic is planned for Nov 3 after the 10:30am service. - *The date for the Parish Picnic was changed to Nov 17 the following day.*

Thanks for Brendan and Kira's party contributions. It was a delightful evening. We were able to give them a check for \$2000.

Stewardship season is among us and with that season comes a bit of stress for people in Finance, but it is also a season of great hope! My hope is that the vestry can go ahead and turn in their pledges in the first two weeks of the campaign to set an example for everyone else. So kindly put those pledges in the mail.

The Rector's Calendar

Time around the diocese

Clergy Conference, next week

Commission on Ministry, my mistake in scheduling, it is actually next month and scheduled during the night of our Vestry meeting

This weekend I will be presiding at a wedding at St. Paul's in Beaufort but back on Saturday evening.

We have 4 youths going to Happening this weekend. That is just one benefit of having a youth minister. Isaac is doing a great job.

Diocesan Convention in November on Zoom to approve the 2025 Diocesan Budget and change the normal rhythm of conventions from February to November.

HR Committee has done a first draft of edits and updates to the HR policy. When it is ready for vestry approval it will be submitted.

The Rector spoke about staffing for the future.

Vestry and Staff Christmas Party is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 16 at 5:30 pm. Location is almost set, but still TBD.

The Rector then called upon Ashley Eason to inform the Vestry about her upcoming medical procedures.

People's Warden Report—Steve Haughey

- Iron Railing refurbishing was completed the week of September 16-20.
- The Parish Hall roof continues to leak following our "Unnamed Tropical Storm" and a second quick storm on Tuesday September 24. CGC Restorations was on site shortly after the 'UTS' to inspect for a possible source. Flores & Foley is now scheduled to inspect the roof on Thursday October 10.
- A Structural Engineer visited on Wednesday September 25 and he is expected to file his report to WKWW by Friday September 27. A healthy conversation was held in regards to the Structural Engineer's visit. Gray Hudson will contact us when he needs our deliverables from this report.
- The Durable Restoration Company was in town the week of September 23-27 but a meeting was not possible due to schedule constraints. Will schedule a first visit when they return to Wilmington later this year. This company comes highly recommended by the Burgwin Wright House Executive Director.
- Tree trimming of the large OC trees and trees around the Parish Hall parking lot and North Garden is scheduled for Tuesday October 8. Parking in the lot will be restricted that morning until mid-afternoon.
- The SENTINEL Keypad at the kitchen door has been malfunctioning at times, especially during rain events. SENTINEL was in on Monday September 30 to investigate and found a faulty unit. Replacement cost will be about \$500.
- The microphone at the double doors has not been working properly for the last month or so. SENTINEL has quoted us \$500 to replace it.
- The metal staircase at the kitchen door is showing fatigue at the underside weld points. Constructive Building Solutions has been contacted to inspect and make recommendations.

Ormond Center

- Asbestos abatement and mold cleaning in the attic completed on Friday September 6.
- Salt Rock Builders started the 'put back' process. Some outlets were repositioned and slowed things down by a week. Building permit was finally issued Monday September 30. Electrical "rough-in" inspection passed on Wednesday October 2. Insulation inspection is tentatively scheduled for Friday October 4. Sheetrock installation is scheduled for the week of October 7.
- Renewal by Andersen made final measurements of the large window at the OC. Installation is tentatively scheduled for October 10.
- The 12 Step Group that has been meeting at the OC has merged with another group, and will no longer need our space on Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons.

Activities

- St. Paul's Crafters met on Saturday September 21. This is a monthly event.
- "Music for a Sacred Space" performed at St. Paul's on Sunday September 22.
- EYC Lazer Tag and Putt-Putt at Jungle Rapids on Sunday 22 was well attended.

Grant Update

- LEHTO Grant for reimbursement of the cost of iron fence repairs was submitted on September 9.
- Cape Fear Garden Club announced that St. Paul's is the recipient of a grant of \$2,302.78. Presentation will be made on Wednesday October 23 at the Cape Fear Country Club.
- WRAL-TV Azalea Celebration has awarded SPEC 50 Azalea plants. Pick up day is Saturday October 5 at 11 :15 AM.

Looking Ahead

- "Saint Paws Blessing of the Animals" is scheduled for October 6. New posters advertising and promoting the event have been created and distributed in Wilmington/New Hanover County and in Brunswick County.
- We will be packing food and backpacks for NOURISHNC on Tuesday October 8
- "Nosferatu" Halloween silent movie accompanied by Dorothy Papadacos on the SPEC organ is scheduled for Friday October 11.

Treasurer's Report—Scott Sheble

As of 9/30/2024:

Total income is \$617,262.42 which is 69.8% of the approved 6/10/24 budget.

Total expenses are \$613,849.24 which is 69.4% of the approved 6/10/24 budget.

This leaves a net income of \$3413.18.

The Endowment Fund total reflects \$1,018,426.22 and the balance of the Reserve Savings Account is \$187,433.37.

Steve Haughey made a motion to accept the 10/14/24 Operating Fund Monthly Treasurer's Report including the Revised Budget, seconded by Lisa Sanders-Park and unanimously approved.

Membership/Human Resources—Lisa Sanders-Park

- New leadership team: Lisa & Karen have begun working together and including people who have worked with the committee in the past.
- Monthly Dinner Groups (April 2024 - March 2025) continue through March of 2025.

- Quarterly Fellowship Dinners 2024 -- July 28 + October 27: The next event is scheduled for October 27. Karen and Ruth Gates have worked to find 6 hosts and are now getting RSVPs for participants.
- Weekly work: Continuing thanks to Karen Day, Don Bobo, and others for maintaining the important, weekly work of welcoming newcomers to St. Paul's.
- Ministry Fair: In February 2025. Details to come.
- Newcomers Social: *UPDATED 10/14* - The social schedule for Thursday, October 17 has been postponed because so few newcomers were available. We will reschedule it when appropriate but likely not until after the holidays due to the busyness of the season. Lisa, Karen, and the membership committee will consider ways to make newcomers feel welcome and connected to the congregation in the meantime.

Capital Campaign—Fr. Lee/ Scott Sheble

Pledges for years 2024-2027 total \$1,472,272.90.

As of 9/30/24, \$453,178.00 of the 2024 pledges have been received, leaving \$233,242.57 still to be collected.

Total income (gifts, pledges) total \$2,028,353.50 which is 81% of the 2.5M and 58% of the 3.5M goals.

Total expenses (Generis contract, Ormond renovations, Architect fees) total \$86,137.36.

As of 9/30/24, the Capital Campaign cash balance is \$944,038.74.

The Capital Campaign Pledge Summary/Income & Expense report was unanimously accepted.

Stewardship—Denise Sheehan

By this time, the stewardship letter from the Rector, as well as the follow-up letter, pledge cards and return envelopes from the stewardship committee have been mailed.

Stewardship Sunday was October 13.

The Stewardship Moments speakers will be:

October 20 Brian Jones

October 27 Judy Breny

November 3 Lisa Nichol

November 10 Isaac McDowell

In-Gathering Sunday is November 17

New Business

Isaac McDowell, Youth Director, has suggested a Valentine's Day dinner as a means to raise funds for Glory Ridge. David Tousignant moved to accept, Phillip Weiss seconded and the idea was unanimously approved.

Old Business

A motion was made by Denise Sheehan to approve Tori Cannon to fill the vacancy on the Vestry created by the departure of Bill Anlyan. Steve Haughey seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Anne O'Dell moved to adjourn the meeting, Lisa Sanders-Park seconded and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:13pm.

Two upcoming dates were noted:

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 26, 2025.

The Vestry Retreat will be held on February 8, 2025 in lieu of the monthly meeting.

To close the meeting, Carol Field offered two Collects that serve as reminders to pray in thanksgiving in addition to praying for needs: Collect for the Renewal of Life and a Collect for Thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Tori Cannon

Vestry Clerk