

St. Mary of the Hills
Vestry Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2024

Vestry Members Present: (In person) Marshall Culp (Junior Warden), Leslie Billingsley, Buddy Fore, Joe Dowell
(Via Zoom) Mike Austell (Senior Warden), Jim Snow, Lynn Searfoss

Vestry Members Absent: Jill Storelli, Sue Sweeting, Burt Mulford, Michelle Curry

Others Present: (In person) Fr. Andrew Hege (Rector), Elizabeth Sudderth (Clerk), Amanda White (Treasurer)
(Via Zoom) Fr. Sam Tallman (Priest Associate)

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 5:51pm.

Fr. Andrew requested acceptance of the meeting agenda.
Joe Doswell made a motion with a second from Leslie Billingsley to accept the agenda.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew requested approval of the April meeting minutes.
Joe Doswell made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes as presented.
Buddy Fore seconded the motion.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew led a devotion for early evening.

Amanda White shared the Treasurer's report.
Amanda was pleased to report that we have a full financial report to review at this meeting.
She noted that the checking account balance is lower than normal temporarily due to payments recently for the work on the Bell Tower and the painting of the church exterior. Amanda proposed the Vestry approve moving funds in the amount of \$50,000 from the Capital Fund to the Capital Improvements Holding Account (restricted acct 7129-00) due to these expenses.
Pledge payments are ahead of schedule YTD.
Joe Doswell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report.
Leslie Billingsley seconded the motion.
The Vestry approved the motion.
Leslie Billingsley made a motion with a second from Joe Doswell to move \$50,000 from the Capital Fund to the Capital Improvements Holding Account (restricted account 7129-00).
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew shared the Rector's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review. Topics addressed were administration updates, leadership development, Christian Formation, important upcoming dates in our parish life, and data on attendance and worship services. Average Sunday attendance YTD is 136. Additional updates shared by Fr. Andrew in his report:

Bob Finney had a medical procedure on his back today which so far has provided a big amount of pain relief.

Ten people will be confirmed by Bishop Jose at his visitation with us on June 9.

Mike Austell shared the Senior Warden's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review. He also expressed his deep appreciation and thanks to Amanda White and Michael Marshall for their hard work in bringing our financial reporting up to date.

Marshall Culp shared the Junior Warden's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review. Topics covered were outdoor church lighting, Sacristy updates, HVAC unit parts issue, walkway in front of main door facing Main Street, Grounds committee priority list, reserve study, and committees/groups relating to building and grounds. He stressed that Bob Finney left us in great shape!

Marshall shared at the meeting that the Spring work day scheduled for June 1 has been cancelled. It is not needed at this time.

Buddy Fore shared an update on the Tour of Homes.

Suzanne and Billie continue, along with their planning team, to have preparations moving ahead really well for the Tour. Four houses are set to be on the Tour, along with a special showcase of the church.

The Patron Party will be held on July 16 from 5 to 8pm at Westglow. Guests will have access to the grounds as well as the indoor areas. A tent will be set up on the grounds. Tickets are \$175 each. Invitations are going out in the next week with a letter to the parish. The theme of the party is Roaring '20s.

Drivers and loaders are still needed per Marshall Culp.

Fr. Andrew asked for an updated list of the leadership team to be shared with the Vestry next month.

Fr. Andrew shared an update on the outdoor Stations of the Cross project.

The team working on the project met again recently. The current proposal is for the stations on our grounds to be divided as such: 5 stations in the Close and 1 station on each of the lychgates leading from each side of the Main Street sidewalk into the front yard. There is a possibility of a local sculptor creating a housing for each station with a pitched roof design using Alex Hallmark's sculpture "The Annunciation" as a model. This sculptor was gifted Alex's equipment by Alex's wife, Joann.

Rumple Memorial hopes to have a similar if not same design for the stations on their grounds, to have all of them be uniform if possible. The hope from the planning team is that the stations will be installed as a year-round exhibition.

Fr. Andrew shared his proposal to expand Bill Devereux's role with the parish to the full-time position of Facilities Manager and Hospitality Coordinator. (Informal title- "Director of First Impressions)! Bill has also taken on an integral role in expanding the utilization of Realm. Keeping in mind that last year no raises were given to current staff, and in comparison with other area churches, Andrew requests that Bill's salary for this new position be raised to \$22,200 per year (\$22.00 per hour). This would be a raise of \$6,000 per year.

Joe Doswell made a motion to approve changing Bill Devereux's position to full-time as outlined.

Marshall Culp seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Mike Austell shared the allocations endorsed by the Outreach committee this month:

F.A.R.M. Café in Boone	\$1,000	contribution to annual fundraiser
F.A.R.M. Café in Boone	\$ 700	to support our Volunteer Day in June
Blowing Rock School	\$1,000	help pay shortfall in school lunch debt

Total \$2,700

Since this endorsement comes from a standing committee of the parish, Vestry motion is not needed per Fr. Andrew

Wrap Up Time:

What did we accomplish?

Approved expansion of Bill Devereux's role and raise

Staying on task with written reports being submitted to Fr. Andrew on time

How can we improve?

Addition to the agenda-how much time planned to allot for new business topics

Leslie Billingsley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56pm.

Joe Doswell seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry