

St. Mary of the Hills

Vestry Minutes: January 19, 2020

Vestry Members Present: Chip Myers (Senior Warden), Tim Silver (Junior Warden), Jane Milner, Sterling Hutcheson, Jim West, Doug Galke, Crawford Cleveland, Lisa Kaufmann, and via video: Sharon Battaglia, Bill Furr and Roy McCraw

Vestry Members Absent: E. B. Springs

Others Present: Fr. Andrew Hege (Rector), Elizabeth Sudderth (Clerk of the Vestry)

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 2:07pm.

Fr. Andrew shared the agenda for the meeting.

Sterling Hutcheson made a motion to accept the agenda as presented.

Chip Myers seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

The minutes for the previous meeting were reviewed.

Chip Myers made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented.

Jim West seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

As an opening for the meeting, Fr. Andrew led the group in an Order for Service for Noonday.

Fr. Andrew led the Vestry in a community building discussion on how things are going in the parish and where we are going. He asked the Vestry to share what they are hearing from parish members.

Examples of areas shared with Vestry by the congregation are:

Great energy about our Rector; one way this has been reflected is in the successful Stewardship campaign (an increase of 11% over last year's campaign result)

A sense of expectation and excitement around offering Christian Formation for children, youth, and young parents.

Anticipation of members getting involved who have not been before; not always a reliance on staff to implement and execute programs.

Fr. Andrew's gratefulness at how those in our parish reach out to each other in times of grief or need.

Does the revamped bulletin make visitors and parish members alike feel welcome? Is it user friendly for non-Episcopalians?

A suggestion for an announcement in worship to ask for bulletins to be given to an usher for recycling if not planning to use during the coming week.

Fr. Andrew shared the monthly financial report in the absence of the treasurer, Amanda White.

Joe Raulerson, financial secretary, should be able to close out the books on 2019 this week.

Both the Flower Guild and Friends of Music received substantial donations during December.

The Finance Committee is planning to discuss plans for how best to use the Peggy Carlson fund.

Chip Myers made a motion to accept the financial report as presented.

Crawford Cleveland seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Chip shared a Stewardship Campaign update.

The final amount raised is \$475, 078.00. This is an 11.2% increase over last year. Much appreciation goes to the chairs, Peter and Valerie Purcell, and all the members of the committee.

A suggestion was made to update the congregation in worship of the final results and to encourage early pledging next year. Fr. Andrew and Peter are working on a letter to send to members to update them on the final numbers and to thank them for their generous pledges.

Plans on how best to use the funds pledged will be shared soon in an article in the newsletter. Fr. Andrew suggested highlighting community organizations which use our facility for meetings and gatherings. Currently 18 outside groups use our facility on a regular basis.

Fr. Andrew shared a corporate resolution with the Vestry which will be taken to the bank to document the names of persons authorized to sign checks on behalf of the church.

Tim Silver made a motion to accept the resolution.

Lisa Kaufmann seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry, signed the resolution and Fr. Andrew will keep a copy and make sure the bank receives an original.

Sterling Hutcheson requests the Vestry send a letter to Susan Schilson thanking her for her effort in setting up the new choir room area (the St. Mark's room). This task was completed at no cost to the parish and required much effort and time. It was also noted that Mary Galke spent a great deal of time and effort to move items to make the room available for the choir.

Sterling Hutcheson made a motion that letters expressing thanks for accomplishing this project be sent on behalf of the Vestry to both Mary and Susan from Fr. Andrew and Chip Myers.

Chip Myers seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew shared some calendar items.

It is St. Mary's turn to provide dinner for the Presbyterian Episcopal Campus ministry group on February 11. Dinner for 25-30 people with options for vegetarians is needed. Fr. Andrew asked the Vestry to head up the effort. Chip Myers offered to organize with Tim Silver's help. Members of the Vestry will be contacted to provide items.

Fr. Andrew asked for feedback for the most convenient month for the annual Vestry retreat. He is considering April, May, or June. June is the preferred month for most Vestry members present. Fr. Andrew will provide information on this in the coming weeks.

CPR training will be offered at no cost on Saturday, March 21 by Blowing Rock Fire Department. The option of paying \$3.00 for a card showing completion of the course will be offered. Staff, Vestry members, and ushers are encouraged to attend. Nursery attendants will do a more extensive, targeted training at a different time.

Tim Silver shared the Junior Warden's report.

He will check with Paul McGill on pending projects that Paul was overseeing such as the work to be done by Tarheel Basement, the underground piping project, and the replacement of the toilet in the bathroom off the kitchen. Tim shared his cell phone number as the best way to reach him with facility questions or problems. That number is (828) 773-9633.

Chip Myers shared the Senior Warden's report.

Chip shared an update on Dave Dutra. Dave made the beautiful crosses from our fallen tree. He and his wife are living in Phoenix for the winter and Dave was recently struck by a car while riding his bicycle. While recovering from his serious injuries, Dave suffered a couple of small strokes. Chip asks for prayers for Dave and his family. Chip will send Dave's contact information to the Vestry members so that we may reach out and share our concern and prayers with him.

Fr. Andrew shared the Rector's report.

Fr. Andrew shared his daily and weekly practices and schedule with the Vestry. He noted that reaching him by calling or texting is preferable if an immediate response is needed, as he usually checks his email only in the early morning and late afternoon. He shared his cell number. That number is (336) 848-4052.

Fr. Andrew will ask Greta Wilson, Parish Administrator, to provide contact information for all Vestry members to the group this week.

Andrew is working on performance evaluations for staff. He is using a 3 step process. This consists of a self-evaluation, Andrew's evaluation of their work, and a staff evaluation of Andrew's work. Andrew is also reviewing job descriptions as part of this process.

Fr. Andrew had his first retreat recently in the Wake Forest Clergy in Community program he is enrolled in. His next retreat is in early May in Winston-Salem.

Andrew shared that Rick and Beth Lawler are back at St. Mary's as of Christmas Eve. Fr. Rick has been retired from our parish for 2 years and Fr. Andrew has been here for 6 months. Those are the 2 benchmarks required by the Diocese prior to the Lawler's return.

Fr. Andrew celebrated his 5 year ordination anniversary this week.

There is a change to staff holidays this year. The staff will be off on President's Day in February rather than Veteran's Day in November. This is due only to the fact that there will be several other days off for staff in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Other items of discussion followed.

The Vestry expressed their thanks to Jim West for his work in organizing and distributing parish policies and procedures to incoming Vestry members and providing updates to current members.

Lisa Kaufmann suggested ways to help young families in our parish such as an occasional Parents night out and fellowship dinners, both with childcare provided.

Chip Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15pm.

Sterling Hutcheson seconded.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry