

St. Mary of the Hills

Vestry Minutes: February 16, 2020

Vestry Members Present: Chip Myers (Senior Warden), Tim Silver (Junior Warden), Jim West, Doug Galke, Lisa Kaufmann, and via video: Bill Furr and Roy McCraw

Vestry Members Absent: E. B. Springs, Jane Milner, Sharon Battaglia, Sterling Hutcheson, Crawford Cleveland

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

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 2:10pm.

Fr. Andrew shared the agenda for the meeting.

Andrew noted that he will also be sharing the yearly Parochial Report prepared for the Diocese.

Chip Myers made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of the Parochial Report.

Doug Galke seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed.

Chip Myers requested the minutes be revised to document the efforts of Mary Galke in preparing the two choir rooms upstairs. The Clerk will revise the minutes as requested.

Jim West made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted revision.

Doug Galke seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew led the group in an Order of Service for Noonday from the Book of Common Prayer.

Fr. Andrew led a community building exercise on Lent.

Andrew asked the Vestry members to share examples of their Lenten practices. Some examples shared were walking the Stations of the Cross, a past practice of having a Lenten prayer partnership of 2 to 6 people, setting aside a particular quiet time for reflection, and giving up social media. Fr. Andrew noted that Stations of the Cross will be led by him each Friday during Lent and that he will make copies available at all times for anyone who would like to participate on their own. Andrew noted it can be very powerful to add a spiritual discipline or practice during Lent rather than the traditional practice of giving up something.

Amanda White shared the monthly Financial Report.

Copies of the financial report were distributed and reviewed.

Amanda explained that \$6100.00 from restricted account line item 7120-12 (Family and Millennial Ministries) is being moved to restricted account line item 7255-01 (Adult Christian Formation).

A Vestry member asked if it is possible to add the detailed amounts from the prior year for comparison and Amanda stated yes, she hopes to begin that next month.

Amanda reported that the Finance committee is working on a policy document.

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

Jim West seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew shared the yearly parochial report prepared for the Diocese and the national church. The report documents in detail attendance, membership figures, service records, stewardship and financial information, outreach ministries, and volunteer activities of the parish. The 2019 report shows an average Sunday attendance of 149 persons and 291 active baptized members.

Vestry members asked Fr. Andrew about the process used to determine who is considered an active member. Andrew reported that over the next couple of years the membership list will be reviewed carefully to make it as accurate as possible. The question was also asked regarding whether seasonal parishioners are included in the active member number. Andrew clarified that the parish where a person's membership letter of record is on file is where their membership is counted.

Tim Silver made a motion to approve the parochial report as presented.

Jim West seconded the motion.

Elizabeth Sudderth and Amanda White signed the document and Andrew will forward to the Diocese.

Tim Silver shared the Junior Warden's report.

The dinner for the Presbyterian Episcopal campus ministry at ASU went well. Tim expressed his appreciation for those on the Vestry and others in the parish who provided the food.

The contract with B&R Service was renewed for a cost of \$1175.00 yearly.

This includes 2 complete services per year on the HVAC system including the heat pumps, the air conditioning units and the gas furnaces.

The handicapped ramp is being repaired. There is a small divot in the ramp.

The ongoing issue of water in the basement is being addressed. An estimate is being prepared by Tarheel Basement, both for a short term fix and a longer term repair plan.

Lisa Kaufmann notified Tim of a mildew smell in the nursery. It has improved recently but is still noticeable.

Doug Galke asked Tim about the status of a project to repair or replace some wood in the Bell Tower. Tim will ask Paul McGill about this.

Chip Myers shared the Senior Warden's report.

Chip has asked Joann Hallmark, Larry and Faith Jones, Garland Myers, and Loy McGill to each be responsible for a quarterly commitment to organize parish members to head up Coffee Minute after the 10:10 services.

Chip reported the letters were sent to Susan Schilson and Mary Galke thanking them for their work on the upstairs rooms.

Chip shared that Dave Dutra continues to have health challenges and is in need of our prayers.

Fr. Andrew shared the Rector's report.

Andrew expressed his appreciation to those who helped with the Presbyterian Episcopal Campus ministry group dinner.

Andrew reported Godly Play for our children will start on March 1.

The Lenten season newsletter is being finalized and will go out soon.

Andrew will be leading a Lenten study on Wednesday evenings. The study will be on the book "Being Disciples" by Rowan Williams and will consist of evening prayer at 5:00, a simple supper at 5:30, and the study time at 6:00. Parishioners are welcome to participate as they are able.

Fr. Andrew will be leading Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at noon. There will be copies of the Stations in the church for anyone to use at other times.

Fr. Andrew will be offering Reconciliation/Confession on Fridays as well. This rite is offered at any time privately by making an appointment with Fr. Andrew.

Andrew reports he has 1 more staff evaluation to complete.

Andrew shared that he has been reflecting on several recent deaths in our parish family and community. He also shared the recent outbreaks of flu and coronavirus have led him to some suggestions for good practices to help prevent the spread of illness in our common life and worship. These include using hand sanitizer which will be widely available in all areas of the building and encouraging hand washing. Andrew may make an announcement in worship addressing the issue and these suggestions.

Fr. Andrew reminded the Vestry that partaking in bread only during the Eucharist is entirely appropriate and he will inform the congregation of this.

Andrew noted that the church building is being thoroughly cleaned and he noted that all toys in the nursery were cleaned this week.

Andrew reminded Vestry members who have not completed the “safeguarding” training for working with children and youth that they need to do so. He will forward the online link to Vestry members. There will be a CPR class offered at the church on March 21 for all who are interested. This will be led by the Blowing Rock Fire Department and Vestry members, ushers, and staff are encouraged to attend.

Chip Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:14pm.

Lisa Kaufmann seconded.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry