

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on August 18, 2019
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lampasas TX

Members Present: Bill Fowler, Bill Adams, Paul Wilborn, David Harshaw, Mary Black Davis,
Mary Casbeer, Mary Raring-Hart, Betty Lindsey-Maxey and Mike Watson.
Members Absent: Bunny Johnson, Jan Sewall

Rev. Fowler opened the meeting at 11:10 with prayer.

Mary Raring-Hart moved approval of the May 19 meeting minutes, Paul Wilborn seconded and the vestry unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bunny created the May, June and July reports and the Finance Committee reviewed them. The Finance Committee has some questions about the reports and will present them to the vestry when resolved. Bill Adams commented that the parish has sufficient funds to meet our expenses.

Priest's Report

Rev. Bill agreed with Molly on more flexible work hours in the office and that she will do some work from home. We will discontinue regularly scheduled office hours as Rev. Bill is always available by phone, txt or email.

The summer cookout event was very well attended, and the cost was minimal. Rev. Bill recommends we consider a quarterly all-parish event like this. Bishop Rayford High and Canon Ann Normand were "wowed" by the welcome they received on July 21, and the reception following the Key funeral last week was very well done. Rev. Bill thanks all the parishioners who made these events such a success.

Church attendance has been very good through this summer – we have had two Sundays with 59 attendees.

In September, Rev. Bill will start a teaching event over breakfast each Sunday between services. He recommends we hire someone to prepare the parish hall, cook and clean up. His experience has been that such a weekly task quickly burns out volunteers. The vestry supports this activity and will search their networks for persons who could take this on, and refer them to Rev. Bill.

Rev. Bill will be away the two Sundays before Thanksgiving. The vestry asked him to secure a supply priest for one and to hold morning prayer at the other.

We will hold a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 6th at 1:00PM on the parish lawn. That is the first Sunday after St. Francis' Day October 4.

Rev. Bill holds weekday services in the sanctuary, and the room in the SE corner of Hirst House is not seeing much use. He suggests we put a table there and have two spaces available for meetings and events at the same time. Vestry members will consider how a table might be donated, and Rev. Bill will put a request in the weekly Messenger email.

In some years we have held a Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner for parishioners who do not have family with them during the holidays. Another suggestion is for parishioners to make a seat or two at their celebration. Bill Adams will put this on a future vestry agenda for further discussion.

Old Business

None to report.

New Business

Bill Adams asked that vestry members think about opportunities for outreach. One example would be preparing school backpacks, and in the past we have put together kits of toiletries for the Lampasas Mission. One suggestion is to participate in larger community fundraising events, e.g. a charity bowling competition or poker night.

A list of needs for Lampasas Mission is published in the weekly Messenger email. We agreed to make this an ongoing effort. Mary Black Davis will secure a basket to place in the narthex during services and the parish hall during the week, to collect donations for the Mission. We will present the basket with the Eucharist gifts during services.

Mary Raring-Hart will ask Cindy Harris if ECW would like to include the Taco Soup Lunch in the parish calendar. It was not held last year.

Junior Warden's Report

Paul Willborn reported that he discussed remaining work on repairs of the mortar on the lower sanctuary walls with Ron Ischy. Further work occurred last week. Paul will confirm with Mr. Ischy if the work is complete and request an invoice.

The sprinkler system has malfunctioned and is presently disabled. Paul has engaged Brainerd Irrigation to make repairs.

Senior Warden's Report

Vestry terms for David Harshaw, Mary Black Davis, and Paul Wilborn end in December. We agreed to hold elections at the Annual meeting, tentatively scheduled for January 19, 2020. The three outgoing members will form a nominating committee to present a slate of candidates at that meeting. We hope all candidates will be identified by October, and anyone interested can contact any vestry member or Rev. Bill. The nominating committee will meet with each candidate and review the role and responsibilities of vestry members, and announce the slate in December.

Next scheduled vestry meeting is September 15 at 11:00AM in Hirst House.

Betty Lindsey and Mike Watson will be away, and Mary Raring-Hart will minute. Any other members who cannot attend are asked to let Rev. Bill or Bill Adams know ASAP to assure we will have a quorum.

The Finance Committee will meet at 9AM on September 8 in Hirst House.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 with the Lord's Prayer said in unison.

The vestry approved these minutes at the September 15, 2019 meeting.
Respectfully submitted by Mike Watson, Clerk of the Vestry.