

St Mary's Episcopal Church
Lampasas, TX

November 10, 2019 Vestry Meeting

Attending: Bill Adams, David Harshaw, Betty Lindsey-Maxey, Mary Black-Davis, Mary Raring-Hart, Mike Watson, Paul Wilborn, Rev. Bill Fowler

Absent: Mary Casbeer, Jan Sewall

Open with Prayer: 11:16am

Approval of Minutes from October meeting: Paul Wilborn moved and Mary Black-Davis seconded the motion to accept minutes as written from the October, 2019 Vestry meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously. They will be publicized on the church website, www.ourstmarys.org

Treasurer's Report (*Mike Watson*)

1. Status of Funds: St. Mary's balance sheet is accurate and shows the church is financially sound and that pledges are on track. Betty Lindsey-Maxey made motion and Mary Raring-Hart seconded the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The report was unanimously approved and will be filed for audit.
2. Status on Transition to External Bookkeeper: As of November 1, 2019 Lori Graham CPA has assumed bookkeeping responsibilities with no problems.
3. Charitable Giving: The Vestry agreed to donate \$1,000 to the Lampasas Mission. Rev. Bill asked if the 1% contribution (\$1,400) that Vestry approved in Spring 2019 for seminary students had been sent. When Mike Watson stated that it had not, Rev. Bill asked that this pledge be honored immediately. Mike Watson also shared that following these disbursements, \$1,600 was still available to donate to a charity or cause of the Vestry's choosing. Mike Watson asked that Vestry members forward suggestions to him.
4. Preliminary Budget: Mike Watson plans on providing Vestry with a preliminary 2020 budget at the December 15, 2019 meeting. Rev. Bill agreed to write letter to parish suggesting a pledge increase and providing 5% and 10% examples as guidelines. This additional money will be used to improve St. Mary's worship service in several ways.

Priest's Report (Rev. Bill Fowler)

1. Clergy Housing: Rev. Bill stated that his housing allowance for 2020 will remain the same as it has been for 2019. At the time of his signing with St Mary's, he set his housing allowance for 2019 at \$50,000, and it has been accounted for as such this year in the budget. The treasurer will continue to account for the housing allowance the same for 2020.
2. Teaching Breakfast Update: General feedback has been very positive and this program will continue.
3. Supply Priests for November 17, 24: Rev. Robert Chambers from Austin, TX is scheduled to handle November 17 responsibilities while Rev. Keith Pozzuto from Waco, TX will attend on November 24. VPOD Mike Watson will ensure priests are welcomed and attended on these Sundays. Molly Johnson will send a bulletin to both priests in advance of their arrival. Each priest will receive \$200 and mileage reimbursement for their services.
4. Vestry Campaign 2020: Rev. Bill requested outgoing Vestry members (Mary Black-Davis, Paul Wilborn, and David Harshaw) meet with him after November 26, 2019 to discuss potential vestry candidates. Bill Adams will email vestry responsibilities documentation to Rev. Bill. Rev. Bill agreed to publicize Vestry responsibilities and obligations in the weekly Messenger that the church sends out.

5. Christmas Service: After reviewing attendance figures from 2018, Rev. Bill suggested having one family-friendly service on December 24, 2019 at a time to be determined after he returns on November 26.
6. Planned Giving Endowment Campaign: St. Mary's benefits from both a beautiful historic church and lack of capital debt; this unusual situation reflects good stewardship. Rev. Bill acknowledged both but said planning will ensure this situation continues into the future. Rev. Bill discussed preliminary plans to create a St Mary's Endowment in 2020. This proposal would require Vestry participation, some initial visits with parishioners, and presentation on Planned Giving by experts from our Diocese. He hopes to arrange such a presentation this spring during Lent in a parish-wide event where opportunities for participation in an endowment would be outlined.

Old Business (Mary Raring-Hart)

1. Care of Thanksgiving Folks: Lampasas churches have chosen not to repeat the 2018 interdenominational program that provided Thanksgiving dinners to local shut-ins. Accordingly, the Vestry agreed to continue supporting the Lampasas Mission with food donations. Mary Black-Davis agreed to contact Deacon Millie Williams to discover the best way to support this cause. She will report her findings to Betty Lindsey-Maxey and Mary Raring-Hart both of whom will then ensure this information is included in the bulletin, announced at services, and shared with Rev. Bill.

New Business:

1. Update of Usher Duties: Mike Watson volunteered to update the usher responsibilities description. Some items he wants to clarify include ensuring that two signatures are included on the collection plate; Mike informed Vestry that "best practices" demand that if only one usher is present that the VPOD agree to sign and secure the contribution.
2. Update of VPOD Duties: Bill Adams agreed to update VPOD duty sheet to include signing collection plate documentation if necessary, and to remove mention of donut pick-up. These updates will be completed and a current responsibility sheet will be provided to Rev. Bill prior to his Vestry Campaign 2020 meeting.
3. Thank you to Rev. Bill: Mary Black-Davis insisted that the minutes document "great thanks to God and to Rev. Bill Fowler for the service he has provided in 2019." Mary added, "It's been an exciting, wonderful year and we look forward to many more months and years ahead." Rev. Bill thanked Mary for her kind words and noted that the feeling was mutual.

Junior Warden Report (Paul Wilborn): none

Senior Warden Report (Bill Adams)

1. Vestry Candidates: Bill Adams requested that all potential Vestry candidate names be forwarded to Fr Bill.

Next Meeting: December 15, 2019 @ 11am. Bill Adams will not attend

Closed with Prayer: 12:49pm