

Vestry Meeting Notes

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lampasas, TX

January 21, 2018

Members Present: Sue Faulkner, Susie Comer, Linda Joseph, Paul Wilborn, Mike Watson, Mary Black Davis, David Harshaw, Jan Sewall

Members Absent: Robert Oliver

Susie discussed with the Vestry before the formal meeting started that on January 25th at 6:30 PM church leaders are invited to the Lampasas Police Department's presentation on safety in churches and what to do if there is an active shooter. This is not meant to be for the general public but just church leaders.

The Formal Meeting started at 1127. Susie opened with a prayer for our Congress and Legislators.

Susie had everyone introduce themselves and what brought them to the Episcopal Church. Paul Wilborn has volunteered to be Senior Warden. Bill Adams has volunteered to be the Secretary. Susie is still canvassing the Vestry for a Junior Warden.

Paul Wilborn made a motion to accept the December minutes with the correction of Jan Sewall's name. Sue Faulkner seconded the motion.

Bunny Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report. The Vestry accepted the Treasurer's Report. Bunny asked the Vestry to consider a PayPal or some other account on the church website for those parishioners who no longer wish to use checks. Mike Watson made a motion to have the Treasurer research how to set up a PayPal account with our bank. Jan Sewall seconded the motion. Vestry approved the motion to set up a PayPal account and "button" on our website.

Old Business

Susie tabled this motion for funding the northeast corner of the sanctuary as the committee is no longer active. The Vestry accepted the motion.

Susie commented that the new fencing on the eastern side of the playground looked good. The Vestry concurred with the comment.

New Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Bill Adams discussed the proposed 2018 budget and recommendations. Paul Wilborn made a motion to accept the 2018 budget. It was seconded and approved. The Vestry then discussed what to do with the surplus from 2017. Mike made a motion to put the 2017 surplus in the operating fund. Vestry was seconded and approved the motion. The vestry also approved a motion for the Senior Warden to find and contract a Pest Control Agent. Some Vestry members discussed Circle S out of Burnet as possible agent.

The Vestry then discussed the options for bookkeeper. One option is to keep Bunny performing the duties and pay her for it. Another option was to appoint a treasurer and hire a bookkeeper. Another option is to add some treasurer responsibilities to the Senior Warden and work with the bookkeeper. We discussed empowering the Wardens to research the options and report back to the Vestry. The Vestry also discussed paying Bunny a stipend to continue her duties. The Vestry also discussed adding those duties to the office worker as a back-up to the Treasurer/ Bookkeeper. A Vestry member then asked Susie her vision of what duties the office worker and bookkeeper would perform. Susie would like to combine some responsibilities of the current volunteers in case the volunteers cannot donate their time. Susie further stated that 12 hours a week was sufficient for an office worker given the Parish has volunteers to do the rest of the work. She also stated it would be beneficial if the office worker were a member of the Church. Paul Wilborn finally stated that since the Vestry had approved the budget for the office worker and bookkeeper and the Vestry would not make the final determination at this meeting we should empower someone to research the options and brief the Vestry in the future. The Vestry voted to empower Susie, Paul Wilborn, and Mike Watson to research the options and contract an office worker and bookkeeper after Sue Faulkner has reviewed the contracts from a legal point of view. Mike Watson then discussed the rest of the recommendations of the Budget Committee. There was some discussion about how to inform Parishioners about the status of their pledges throughout the year. The Vestry decided to table the discussion on Parishioner Pledge Status.

Susie informed the Vestry that the Annual Meeting potluck would be a true potluck.

The Vestry then discussed the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 13. They agreed that 10 packages (2 ½ lbs.) of Wright thick cut bacon would be sufficient. Susie recommended that the Vestry serve dinner at 6 PM. Volunteer cooks should arrive no later than 5 PM.

Junior Warden's Report

Paul Wilborn reported the trees were trimmed and new fence installed.

Senior Warden's Report

Nothing significant to report.

Priest's Report

No one is in the hospital at this time although Bob Bratton is facing major back surgery soon. I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to all the folks who helped in preparations for Dewey Dobbs and Bobbie Behlau's funerals especially Judy Lansford and her helpers. Greening the sanctuary had to be accomplished shortly before Dewey's funeral, and I know it took hours of work to accomplish both.

Paula Blaha, the new organist, is off to a wonderful start. Please give her your support and consider singing twice a month in the Choir if you are so inclined.

We had 90 people at our two Christmas services and I want to thank Mimi Cole and Reverend Milly Williams for leading morning prayer on December 31st.

I was able to meet with the Lampasas ministerial association last Thursday since we shifted the schedule last week. It is good to know that on occasion they do take on a special case to help with the funds that they need. I know most of the ministers already.

The Vestry wanted to thank Lola for her work on the bulletin board and the personal letters of thanks she sends.

The Vestry also wanted to thank Mike Watson, Greg Westerfield, Bunny Johnson and Bill Adams for their work on the 2018 Budget.

This year I hope to get more committees started than just the budget committee. I would like to start stewardship and outreach committees. The stewardship committee should implement a plan that is right size for our Church; the outreach committee should ensure that charities get funds in timely manner and appropriate with the season. I would love to have a vestry member on each one to report to the Vestry what they recommend.

Diocesan Council is Feb. 15th -17th in Waco.

Susie closed the meeting with a prayer at 1331.