

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on February 17, 2019
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lampasas TX

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

Members Absent: Jan Sewall, Mary Raring-Hart

Rev. Fowler opened the meeting at 11:15 with prayer.

The vestry unanimously approved the minutes of the Jan 20, 2019 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The monthly financial summary for January is included in our member notebooks.

Bunny commented that the Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF) bank account is closed according to Rev. Fowler's wishes and the Memorial Account is closed to align with Operating Policy. Designated gifts from the old Memorial Account are carried forward in the Designated Fund. Undesignated gifts are included in the Operating Fund and add to the Operating Reserve.

We changed our CD from 6month renewing to 20month renewing to get higher interest of 2.6%.

The Finance Committee met last Sunday and is working to update the monthly report and hopes it can be output automatically from QuickBooks accounting software without further editing.

Priest's Report

Rev. Bill is working to elevate the music content of our worship services over time. Vestry members voiced their support.

Rev. Bill is exploring a Strategic Mission Grant from the diocese. These grants are evaluated on their impact to the parish and community, and Rev. Bill thinks we can make a strong proposal.

Several vestry members reported disappointment from parish members about not doing the parish survey discussed last fall in the context of a search for a full time rector. Rev. Bill asked that vestry members encourage parishioners to speak with him about their expectations for a survey and he will summarize for the vestry.

Old Business

Mike Watson moved and Paul Wilborn seconded that we approve the recommended changes to the Operating Policies regarding the Columbarium. Printed copies are in vestry member notebooks for the January meeting and were sent to all members prior to that meeting. There was no discussion and the vestry unanimously approved.

New Business

Bill Adams presented William Schaefer's request to use a picture of the interior of St. Mary's sanctuary in a book "Historic Churches in Texas, Through the Lens Series - Volume II" he plans to publish this year. Mr. Schaefer that took the picture with permission in 2012. Mike Watson moved and Dr. Harshaw seconded that we grant permission and request unrestricted nonexclusive rights for St. Mary's to use the photograph as well.

Junior Warden's Report

Paul Wilborn reported that initial clearing for the sanctuary NE corner foundation repair has begun. Hayward-Baker, the Dallas engineering firm, plans to begin work in the coming week under the supervision of our contractor Hail Construction. Paul will be on site frequently to check progress and Gregg Westerfield will back Paul up as needed. The foundation work could possibly be completed in two weeks.

Accessing the foundation requires demolishing the concrete steps to the rear door of the sanctuary and that door will be blocked off until the stairs are rebuilt. Rev. Bill will consider moving services into the Parish Hall until the sanctuary again has two functioning exits.

Since we allowed AA to use the parish hall on Friday evenings, our janitor has voluntarily shifted cleanup time to Saturday morning to be sure everything is in order for our use Sunday. However this has become difficult for the janitor to schedule.

Sometimes the room, kitchen and trash are not restored after the Friday meeting. A condition of anyone's use of our facilities is that they leave them in at least as good condition as they find them. Paul will ask the janitor to return to Friday cleaning before the AA meeting, and will work with AA to avoid any future need to clean and restore the room after their meeting.

Paul Wilborn handed to Rev. Bill a letter from Bishop Doyle requesting St. Mary's financial support for the Seminary of the South in Austin.

We have not spent the budgeted Outreach amount for 2018, and the Rector's Discretionary Fund balance is also available. Bunny will summarize unspent outreach and RDF funds and 2019 outreach budget at our March meeting.

The community might be better served if our outreach spending went through the year rather than just at the end. Mike Watson expects that the Finance Committee will support this – it's no different than budgeting and managing our other expenses that occur through the year.

Rev. Bill suggested the vestry form an Outreach Committee including other parishioners to establish an ongoing intentional plan for our outreach efforts and spending. Mary Black Davis agreed to chair this committee, which will consider the Bishop's request and needs in our local community.

Senior Warden's Report

Bill Adams noted that Shrove Tuesday is Feb 5 this year. The vestry usually hosts a pancake supper with support from the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). Vestry members contributed cash for the cost of food, which Bunny collected and will use to reimburse receipted expenses. Bill Adams and Mary Casbeer will coordinate with ECW and purchase food and materials. Mary will bring a propane cooker to set up outside the parish hall. Vestry members are asked to arrive at 4PM to help set up and to stay after the event to restore the parish hall.

Bunny asked about a request from a Lampasas Schools teacher that parish members identify needs for service that her students could meet. Betty Lindsey-Maxey moved and Mary Casbeer seconded that we forward the teacher's request to the parish by email. The vestry approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 with the Lord's prayer said in unison. Next scheduled vestry meeting is March 17th at 11:30 in Hirst House.

The vestry approved these minutes at the March 17, 2019 meeting.
Respectfully submitted by Mike Watson, Clerk of the Vestry