

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting, Wednesday, March 26, 2025

The vestry gathered for their meeting after joining church members at the Lenten program and dinner. The Rev. Dr. D. Dixon Kinser called the meeting to order at 7:05. In attendance were Morris Friedman, Keith Googe, Erin Adams, Salem Parham, Ralph Womble, Charlotte Broughton, Kathryn Vernon, Jackie Piscetelli, Lucy Paynter, Lucy Strandlund, Nick VanHorn, Erika Takacs, Tom McDowell, Victoria Bass, Laura Pallavicini, Grady Phillips, and Betsy Reiners.

Dixon asked for a motion to accept the February minutes as presented, Ralph Womble made a motion, Charlotte Broughton seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

St. Paul's parish administrator Tom McDowell gave an overview of the current financial picture, and said pledges are coming in. At the next meeting of the finance committee, it is planned to review the financial collars. Because these were established a number of years ago and the financial landscape has changed, it is thought to be a good time for another look at these thresholds.

Victoria Bass, St. Paul's stewardship director, shared the chairs for the 2025 stewardship campaign are Kate and Mark Reece. Also, the 1876 Society is creating a new booklet of information for St. Paul's members about this group and their mission.

In new business, St. Paul's outreach director, Laura Pallavicini presented an opportunity for St. Paul's to use its position to support the Freedom School at Ashley elementary. The Freedom school is a summer enrichment program and is offered at several schools in the WSFCS district. The intention is to apply for a grant from money being offered by the Diocese of North Carolina. Ralph Womble made a motion to approve the application being submitted to the diocese on Ashley elementary's behalf. Lucy Paynter seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Dixon asked for approval for an expense requested by the Ecclesiastical Arts committee. Three stoles are needed that match vestments we already have. Ralph Womble approved the expenditure, and the motion passed.

In the rector's report, Dixon announced that Louis Patrick Mua has been approved for holy orders. Dixon explained that the vestry needs to sign a document to show their approval for LP's ordination to the Diaconate. Not having the form present, it was decided vestry members would come by the office in the next week to sign the form.

Confirmation Sunday is April 6, and the service times are 8:00 am, 10:00 am, and 5:00 pm. Bishop Sam Rodman will preside, preach and celebrate at the 10am service and will join the vestry for lunch at 12:30 in Colhoun B and C.

In clergy reports, the Rev. Nick VanHorn talked about the excitement surrounding the Episcopal Church Men dinner on May 14 when Bishop Curry will be the speaker. Nick said he was planning the summer youth trip, and he welcomed one of his youth group members, Grady Phillips, to the vestry meeting.

The Rev. Erika Takacs announced we will be offering Holy Eucharist at the 12-noon service on Fridays during the season of lent and that the schedule for Holy week services will not change from last year. She said the clergy will be attending a diocesan sponsored Clergy Quiet Day on April 2 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, High Point.

The Rev. Lucy Strandlund said she is enjoying her new role coordinating Christian Formation for adults. She is exploring St. Paul's small groups ministry and planning offerings for the Lantern Initiative. Lucy also mentioned a mental health first aid training the St. Paul's staff will take to assist them in their work with the community.

St. Paul's Sr. Warden, Morris Friedman mentioned since the Rev. John Shields has retired there is a need for a new chaplain for the Prison ministry. John shepherded this ministry for years and St. Paul's members Amy and Temp Elliot been devoted to this ministry as well.

The St. Paul's Jr. Warden, Charlotte Broughton gave the floor to Tom McDowell who said there are plans for the installation of a new T-Coil system in the Chapel and Colhoun room. This system improves the sound quality for folks who use hearing aids. An additional building update came from Dixon about some repairs being done in the stairway and chapel because of water leaks.

In vestry liaison reports, Salem Parham gave an update on Children's Ministries. She said children's chapel numbers continue to grow and volunteers are needed for VBS the week of June 16-20.

Jackie Piscetelli will report on Love Literacy at a future meeting.

Erin Adams said more ushers are needed to help at services.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm followed by a Pastoral Session.

Submitted by Betsy Reiners, Vestry Secretary