

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting- Wednesday, April 30, 2025

The Rev. Nick VanHorn called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. The Rev. Lucy Strandlund gave a devotion and those in attendance were Morris Friedman, Charlotte Broughton, John White, Lucy Paynter, Salem Parham, Jackie Piscatelli, Sheldon Moser, Ralph Womble, Kathryn Vernon, the Rev. Erika Takacs, Tom McDowell, Victoria Bass, Grady Phillips, and Betsy Reiners.

Nick called for approval of the meeting minutes from March 26, 2025, as presented, and Ralph made a motion to accept, and Kathryn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

In the financial report, Tom McDowell said pledges were over by \$12,000.00, total operating expenses were over by \$1000.00 and there was a surplus under budget by \$2000.00.

Victoria Bass offered some statistics from *The Cheerful Giving/What If?* campaign, and said there were 564 pledging units, the average gift was up 14%, and the average pledge amount was \$4000.00.

In clergy reports, the Rev. Lucy Strandlund said adult formation continues through May and a live Match Up podcast is planned for one of the classes. She is working on classes for fall 2025 and will have some special offerings for this summer.

The Rev. Erika Takacs said Holy Week and Easter were amazing and she feels grateful for all the volunteers and helpers who made everything go smoothly. Fourteen hundred people attended services on Easter Sunday. She mentioned a new piece of liturgical art that was installed in the Nave; a Paschal candle holder was made by a local artisan and was installed for Easter. Future services to look forward to are Graduate Sunday and Pentecost.

The Rev. Nick VanHorn has been working with the ECM to help plan the upcoming dinner with former Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry. He said the summer youth trip planning is on target and kids are raising money for the trip by working for parishioners.

In the Rector's report, the Rev. Dixon Kinser said Easter was amazing and member engagement is up at St. Paul's. In a Sesquicentennial update, Dixon described the plans for Homecoming Weekend and Sunday, May 17, 2026. Victoria Bass shared that A History of St. Paul's wall exhibit is planned for the hallway to the chapel. The Most Rev. Michael Curry will preach at Sunday services and at a ticketed lunch that afternoon. The lunch will be held at Benton Convention Center and can accommodate 1000 guests. A deposit is required to book the venue and Dixon asked for the vestry to approve that expense. Ralph made a motion for the Sesquicentennial Committee to use up to \$23,000.00 for the deposit and expenses incurred for this event. Charlotte seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dixon was excited to say we are sharing our nave with our sister church, Christ's Beloved Community on Saturday, May 17 for their confirmation service. They were expecting a bigger crowd than their church could accommodate so we invited their rector, the Rev. Javier Arias to have the service here. Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davis will be officiating, and Dixon and Erika will assist.

On Sunday, Dixon trained to participate in the St. Paul's Prison ministry.

Sr. Warden, Morris Freidman, had nothing to report.

The Jr. Warden Charlotte Broughton, opened a discussion about future plans for the T-Coil system and its instillation in the chapel and Colhoun room. Rick Duggins is getting bids for floor and carpet replacement as well as costs for replacing the name plaques for the scatter garden in Dalton Garden.

Dixon interjected that the campus signage project is moving forward and signs for the Station are being added. We are learning more about the sound system in the nave and we have a parishioner who is helping us use it more skillfully.

Kathryn Vernon reported on the ECW plans for a fall fundraiser called ARTREACH scheduled on Saturday, September 6. This will be an art show and sale.

Dixon adjourned the meeting at 7:50.