

St. Helena's Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

October 24, 2022

Vestry Present: Beth Adam, Sarah Davis, Adam Groenhuyzen, James Nitschke, Todd Calder, Anne Tarwater, Matt Boutte, Gary Frashier, Ted Geer

Vestry Absent: Kyle Fiedler, Cindy Glick, Jennifer Shelby

Clergy: The Rev. Dr. David Read, The Rev. Brian Fox

Staff/Treasurer: Ann Shorter, Bob Myer

Call to Order: 6:05 PM

Devotional: Anne presented the devotional for October 24 from "Jesus Calling", by Sarah Young. She highlighted rest and taking paths of peace, sharing Bible verses from Psalm 23, Genesis 2, and Luke 1.

Sub-Committee Meetings: Sub-committee meetings occurred, with report-outs to follow below.

Rector's Time:

- Fr. David provided the following staff updates: Stephanie Nitschke will become full-time as of 11/1; Fr. Brian's last day is 11/13, and Fr. David has been in contact with the Bishop to start the process of Fr. Brian's replacement, which may take up to 6-12 months; Fr. Brian shared his thoughts of his time with us, expressing his pleasure and all that he learned from being part of St. Helena's; the Sunday Sexton position will be posted; Fr. David shared that Ann Shorter will be retiring in early 2023, and that her position will be posted in November (the Vestry thanked Ann for all her hard work and devotion to St. Helena's); The Rev. Jamie George has been very busy meeting with many in our congregation, and was not present tonight as she is meeting with several women exploring possibilities for women ministries.
- Fr. David provided a Stewardship update: so far, 149 pledges have been received, totaling over \$800K; in November, the Vestry will follow up with those parishioners from whom we have not received a pledge.
- Fr. David shared the process of the nomination process for 4 new Vestry members, who would begin in 1/2023; Matt will lead this process.

Senior Warden's Time:

Matt shared the timeline for selecting the next Bishop, leading up to the election on 2/18/2023 at Council, held in Corpus Christi.

Church and School Security:

- Fr. David informed the Vestry that the Rector from St. Phillips in Uvalde, The Rev. Dr. Michael Marsh, presented information and updates of progress in that community at the recently held clergy retreat.
- Fr. David described a Security “app”, which will be used by the school and church staff.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Administration:

- The Administration sub-committee proposed a re-allocation of funds from the Wendler Facilities Fund to the Wendler Maintenance Fund, in the amount of \$75K. After questions and discussion, followed by a motion from Beth and a second by Todd, the Vestry approved this re-allocation.
- The Vestry reviewed the September financials; after some discussion and questions, followed by a motion from James and a second from Sarah, the Vestry approved the September financials.
- The minutes from the September Vestry meeting were reviewed, and then approved, after a motion from James and a second from Gary.
- Anne reviewed the Sub-Committee's goals, and informed the Vestry that for the time being, we will continue to use the current auditors for our future audits.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Todd and Beth updated the Vestry on the Parish Hall renovation plan and the bridge connector proposed plans. Proposed budgets and schematics were shared and discussed. The Vestry then toured the Church grounds, looking first hand at where the bridge connector construction would be. In principal, the Vestry supported moving forward; at the November Vestry meeting, these proposed plans, as well as discussion of the Master Plan's phases for our Church grounds, will be reviewed, with plans for presentation to the congregation at the Annual meeting in January.

Mission:

- Sarah updated the Vestry on “moms and prayer”, with the plan to continue to meet 2 Fridays each month.
- Ted provided an Outreach update: cans of pet food and bags of kibble were collected for the Blessings of the Animals, and they were donated to the Boerne Animal Shelter; and on 10/20, at the packing for Blessings in a Backpack, a record number of bags were packed: 576!
- Fr. Brian informed the Vestry that the Outreach Steering Committee, after Fr. Brian’s last day, will function autonomously.

St . Helena’s School:

- Fr. David informed the Vestry that the School received a \$12K grant from the Colorado River Water Authority.

Around the Table:

- Fr. David highlighted the following upcoming events: Fr. David, along with 15 parishioners, will be on the Israel pilgrimage from 10/25 through 11/7; Bishop Reed will be here on 11/9 at 6PM for confirmation and receiving; and 11/13 is Fr. Brian’s last Sunday and send-off!!
- Ann asked, and obtained, 3 volunteers from the Vestry to lock up on Wednesday nights for the next 3 weeks.

Adjourn: With no further discussion the Vestry adjourned at 8 PM.