

St. George's Church Vestry Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2023

Present: Sean Albert, Jon Ewbank, Carol Gaige, Meg Hughes, Sandee Hughes, David Kennison, Lynn Paska, Paul Smigelski, Rich Unger, Jeff Wengrovius

The meeting convened via Zoom at 6:43 p.m. with Senior Warden David Kennison offering a prayer.

Lynn Paska moved to accept the December minutes; Carol Gaige seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Senior Warden's Report

Rectory Cleaning and Repairs

Cleaning of the Rectory kitchen has been a major job and is just about done. Our cleaner, Fred Ledge, also repaired the kitchen faucet, saving the church about \$150.

The dining room floor will be sanded January 21-22. Sealing (three coats) will be done after David obtains polyurethane in Vermont at a much lower cost than it is available in New York. Total job cost = \$850 labor, \$160 materials.

Church Boiler

Seven-eighths of the new boiler has shipped. There were casting flaws in one section, which must be remade. The feedwater/condensate tank is shipping this week. All items are being held at a warehouse in Albany. Because the entire system needs to be shut down during installation (leaving the church and Cranmer unheated), it may be April before that is feasible. David checks the boilers daily and leaks continue.

Boiler Capital Campaign

Final total for this emergency appeal was \$41,229, reflecting a very generous response from everyone.

Miscellaneous

Our Parish Choice Election Form was submitted and accepted, representing our desire to direct 10% of our diocesan contribution to the Cathedral and 5% to youth ministry.

The *Daily Gazette* advertisement we placed at Christmastime appears to have produced results. We had 78 worshippers at Christmas Eve Mass (including visitors), a better turnout than in recent years. Another ad will be run for Easter.

Facilities Rental

We have no update on Bob McCloskey's suggestion to rent classrooms to Schenectady School District. Fred is renting the Great Hall on April 22 (the day before St George's Day) for a family event. The gathering is scheduled to end at 4 p.m., and we are assured that Fred will leave the Hall in good shape for the next day.

Activities Calendar

David hasn't been able to obtain speakers for a Lenten series of Sunday night potluck/presentation/ Stations of the Cross. He is now considering an Episcopal Church video series, "Life Transformed –The Way of Love in Lent."

Upcoming Services & Supply Clergy

- January 22—Fr. Marshall Vang
- January 29—Fr. Marshall Vang
- February 2 Candlemas Presentation of Our Lord
- February 5—Fr. Peter Schofield
- February 12, 10 a.m.—Fr. Marshall Vang
- February 12, 3 p.m. Evening Prayer and Choral Evensong
- February 19—?
- February 22 (Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m.)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- February 26—Fr. Marshall Vang
- March 5—?
- March 12—Fr. Marshall Vang
- March 19—Fr. Peter Schofield
- March 24 (Annunciation)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- March 26—Fr. Marshall Vang
- April 2 (Palm Sunday)—?
- April 6 (Maundy Thursday)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- April 7 (Good Friday)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- April 8 (Easter Vigil)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- April 9 (Easter)—Fr. Marshall Vang

- April 16—?
- April 23 (St. George's Day)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- April 30—?
- May 7—?
- May 14 (Mother's Day)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- May 18—Fr. Marshall Vang
- May 21—?
- May 28—Fr. Marshall Vang
- June 4—?
- June 11 (Corpus Christi)—Fr. Marshall Vang
- June 18 (Father's Day)—?
- June 25—Fr. Marshall Vang

Junior Warden's Report

The repaired Cranmer House boiler and the patched-up church boiler continue to limp along. On January 10, David noticed that there was no heat in Cranmer House, even though the thermostat indicated that the heat was on. Jack Guarneri diagnosed a bad relay in the boiler controls, replaced it, and the problem appears to have been resolved.

On January 12, the contract with Chris Peters for repairs and painting of the front entrance of the church and repairs to St. George's House was formally terminated. David met with Mr. Peters, presented the termination letter, explained the reasons for the action, and walked him through the worksite pointing out the many discrepancies on which the action was based. Mr. Peters was not in agreement with the discrepancies noted but accepted the termination.

Treasurer's Report

According to Treasurer Jeffrey Wengrovius, with only 5% of 2023 behind us, we have already taken in 15% of anticipated pledge income for the year. Spending is on target.

Endowment principal was down by 16% in 2022 but is recovering. We recently took \$20,000 cash from the general principal endowment, which was the first principal taken in recent years.

Jeff has written more than 30 thank you notes to the generous donors who supported the Boiler Fund.

The audit is complete and recommendations for improvement have been reviewed by the Finance Committee. The report is now in our hands, and we should be prepared to offer feedback at our February meeting regarding the process changes the report suggests.

About \$95,000 in pledge commitments have been received. This is up from 2022 and more are expected. All Vestry members are urged to pledge. Jeff will touch base with Meg Hughes regarding recent pledgers, so she can write thank you notes to anyone who hasn't already received one.

The transition of the TrustCo checking account to First National Bank of Scotia is underway.

Envelope boxes for 2023 are now available for all regular church attendees. Tax statements and 1099s will be issued shortly. Jeff and Bob McCloskey will also continue compiling building costs as requested by the Asset Management team.

Community Liaison Report

Rich Unger had no recent news, but has supplied a 2022 overview for a report that parishioners will receive at the Annual Meeting this coming Sunday.

Garden Ministry/Book Club

Meg Hughes confirmed that David had received an update on the Book Club from Pattie Wareh. At the next meeting on March 19, a series of mysteries by Anthony Horowitz will be up for discussion. Club members have been asked to select one or more titles from among *The Word is Murder*, *The Sentence is Death*, *A Line to Kill*, and *The Twist of a Knife*. Alice Polumbo suggested the series.

Hospitality Committee

Sandee Hughes and Barb Wengrovius will set up the Hall for our Annual Meeting luncheon. Sandee has conferred with Brian Taylor regarding the coffee supply. He will continue to obtain coffee using the church's credit card. In the past we have relied on Bob McCloskey to order supplies of individual creamers, but that product comes with

storage issues and unwarranted ecological impact, not to mention substandard palatability. Sandee and others support switching to actual half and half.

Communications

Lynn Paska advised that photos from Jeff's stewardship/antique coin presentation are now up on the website. She should soon have pictures from Christmas online, including the Salvation Army bell-ringing and the greening of the church. Her deadline for the spring *Georgian Report* is Friday, March 3.

Archives

Sean Albert did not have a report.

Outreach

Paul Smigelski had nothing new but referred us to the overview that Alice Polumbo has prepared for the Annual Meeting report.

Pastoral Care

Jim Wingate also had nothing to report but has submitted an annual overview.

New Business

Annual Meeting Planning

At our Annual Meeting January 22, parishioners will enjoy a light lunch and brief reports from our Senior Warden and Treasurer. We will elect three Vestry members from among five candidates: Sean Albert and Carol Gaike (incumbents); Gloria Kishton (nominated by Meg); Mtr. Lisa Schoonmaker (nominated by Sean); and Tarik Wareh (nominated by Paul). Votes will be cast on paper ballots and counted by Jonathan Pearson and Bob Paska. Meg has received a few emailed ballots from those unable to attend the meeting. She will print them and bring them to be included in the tally.

David is asking that Vestry members disperse themselves among the congregation, instead of sitting at a head table as we have done in the past. A more informal seating arrangement may encourage discussions and fielding of questions.

Search Committee

Vestry pondered the impact that a change in Vestry membership may have on our Search Committee (which consists of current Vestry members). Jon Ewbank made a motion that any Vestry member who is not reelected be allowed to continue as a voting member of the Search Committee. Jeff seconded the motion and it passed with nine “aye” votes and one abstention.

There followed a brief discussion regarding Search Committee eligibility for new Vestry who join at a time when we have already held five clergy interviews and are poised to narrow down the field to one or two candidates. We are in agreement that new Vestry members will be welcome to the Search Committee, although it would not be reasonable for them to register a vote on any candidates they haven’t encountered via the interview process, as we have. Once that step of the process is completed, new members will be treated as any other voting member of the committee.

Second-Floor Great Hall Door Installation

As discussed at our September 2022 meeting, a door between St. George’s House and the second floor of the Great Hall would ease our choirmaster’s access to the laundry facilities and handling of other routine tasks. We have a door that was briefly used on the west (front) entry of church while repairs were underway. David has solicited a quote of \$1,300 from a Stockade contractor recommended by Fred Ledge to do the installation. Jon, Jeff, and Paul noted this information and resolved to discuss it further before any contract is signed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Rector Search—Candidate interview, 7 p.m. Friday, January 20

Regular Vestry—6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 16

Respectfully,
Meg Hughes, Vestry Clerk