

**Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 20, 2019**  
**4:40 EST**

Present at the meeting: Tanny Clark, Mimi Houghton, Stefan Cushman, Leanna Greene, Sheila Smallidge, Janet Stratton, Marsha Planting, Axie Diana

**Opening Prayers**

**Approval of December Minutes, January Minutes**

- Janet Stratton makes a motion to approve the December Minutes as presented that were already approved via email vote. Sheila Smallidge seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor, motion passes.
- Mimi Houghton makes a motion to approve the January Minutes as presented. Marsha Planting seconds the motion. No further discussion. All in favor, motion passes.

**Reports**

Finance:

\*Lauri Fernald submitted the financial report via email as she was unable to attend the meeting. There were no questions or concerns about Lauri's report.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Janet Stratton reported that Stu Siddons, our sexton, has scheduled the repair and addition of snow guards and gutters at SMBTS and has scheduled this according to worship services, causing the least amount of disruption. If the process causes an issue with summer worship, this project will be put off until the fall. The tentative start date is June. Stu has been in touch with the arborists doing the tree work at both St. Jude's and SMBTS so those projects are completed in a timely manner. Aruthur Keller and Stu have been in contact about meeting to discuss the structural repairs at St. Jude's. Janet and Stu met with the project manager for the parish hall renovation on February 14 to do the end of year walk around. They discussed ideas on how to address water run off issues at St. Mary's chapel. There was also a discussion about the functionality of the stove hood in the new kitchen. The project manager is checking in to this issue and will report back to Stu. A Knox box for the elevator key has been installed in the basement and a notification will be placed on the outside of the building for emergency personnel who may need to assist if someone were to get stuck in the elevator. The heating and humidity issues at SMBTS are being followed up on. Janet has given the engineers report to Bob Young of NE Harbor Plumbing and Heating. Once he has reviewed the report, he and Janet will meet at SMBTS to discuss how best to move forward. The Emera claim has been settled. There is less than a \$400 difference between the assessed loss and the amount of Emera's agreed upon payment. Tanny Clark has spoken with Ed Gormley about the replacement of the organ. We will need to put 50% down in order to move forward. We will do that as soon as we receive our check from Emera's insurance company. It will take 4-6 weeks after that time to get the organ.

### Worship Committee:

\*Maude March will be fulfilling our Birch Bay Commitments in March and May. She had to move the March 6<sup>th</sup> date due to a conflict but will reschedule. Liz McMullan has arranged for Bill Hague to be our supply priest for May, June and September through December. Any weeks he isn't available will be filled by supply priests. We are still looking for supply priests for July and August. We are currently looking at a couple of possibilities and Bill Hague has given us two other suggestions. One of the possibilities is Regina Christianson, who will be filling in at St. Mary's on February 24 and another is Reverend Ken Fields, who will be flying up from Katy, Texas to serve as supply priest on March 24<sup>th</sup>. All of the people we are considering at this time will require housing so we are looking at renting furnishings for the rectory during this time period. If anyone has any other suggestions for possible clergy during the summer months please let Liz know. We are open to suggestions. Liz has currently been acting as our worship committee. Axie has agreed to join the worship committee to help with the music. Janet discussed the 3 Church Island wide group that has been meeting monthly. Lauri Fernald and Janet Stratton have been attending those meetings. Since St. Mary's is at a cross roads and isn't sure what the future will bring, Lauri and Janet have been attending these meetings to get an idea how St. Mary's may fit into this new program, should we find it is a direction in which the parish might want to head. At this time, the group is meeting to explore ideas of how they might share leadership, administration, sextons, housing and finances. Nothing has been decided. It is all very much in the idea phase.

### **Action Items:**

\*Approval of Parochial Report- Janet Stratton and Lauri Fernald looked over the Parochial report and suggested an amendment to the last page. Reverend Jane Cornman had checked "no" to each box as it pertained to the outreach of St. Mary's and St. Jude. Janet created an amendment that addressed areas numbered 1, 13, & 15 where it was believed that St. Mary's and St. Jude's efforts were not adequately reflected. This amendment was voted on by the vestry and will be attached to the parochial report. A motion was made by Axie Diana to accept the parochial report with the amendment pertaining to outreach. Marsha Planting seconds the motion. All in favor. No discussion. Motion passes.

\*Approval of Stroud fund monies given to Kids Korner- These monies had to be reapproved due to a change in the scope of the project. Janet Stratton made a motion to approve the Stroud committee's reallocation of funds to Kid's Korner. Axie Diana seconds the motion. All in favor. No discussion. Motion passes.

\*Approval of minutes from parish wide meeting with Canon Michael Ambler- Marsha Planting makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Stefan Cushman Seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes. No discussion.

\*Amendment to Vestry By-Laws- Janet Stratton brought forth a suggested amendment to the vestry by-laws. It currently states that to be eligible to serve as Warden, at least one of the Wardens must be a permanent resident of Mt. Desert Island, and to be elected Warden, you must have previous experience on the vestry. The amendment

would change the By-Law to say that a Warden must have previous experience on “an Episcopal vestry”, as opposed the “the vestry”.

This would allow a Warden who is not a permanent resident of Mt. Desert Island to gain their vestry experience from an Episcopal church where that person permanently resides. Tanny recognized that we can vote to approve the amendment as a vestry but that it would need final approval at the second half of the Annual Meeting. A motion was made by Janet Stratton to approve the amendment of the By-Laws. Sheila Smallidge seconds the motion. No discussion. None opposed. Motion passes.

\*Vote to approve Tanny signing Allen Organ Purchase agreement\_ A motion was made by Sheila Smallidge to approve Tanny Clark signing a purchase agreement with Allen Organ Company. Leanna Greene seconds the motion. All in favor. No discussion. Motion passes.

\*Approval of addition of Constance “Tanny” Clark to the St. Mary & St. Jude financial accounts\_ A motion was made by Axie Diana to add Constance “Tanny” Clarke to the financial accounts of St. Mary & St. Jude. Marsha Planting seconds the motion. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Add: Constance Clark, Lauri Fernald and Janet Stratton remain on the account

\*Approval of the email vote to remove the Reverend Jane Cornman and Beth Renault from the financial accounts of St. Mary & St. Jude with the addition of Janet Stratton and Lauri Fernald. Janet Stratton makes a motion to approve the email vote. Leanna Greene seconds the motion. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passes.

#### **Discernment Items:**

\*It was brought to the vestry’s attention by Janet Stratton that Angela Young cleans in the middle of the night on Friday night. This was a concern due to liability and accountability. Angela and Janet spoke and for personal reasons, Angela needs to keep her schedule as it is now. Angela stated that Jane hired her knowing this scheduling issue and Jane had agreed to it. As a compromise, Angela has agreed to text Janet mid-way through her shift to show that she is safe. It was agreed that the vestry would try this for a period of time to see if it was a viable solution.

\*Lenten Suppers- it was agreed that we would try and do one Lenten supper this year as opposed to two, as St. Mary’s is short on the man power to fulfill these commitments.

\*Safe Church Training- Tanny discussed the diocese wish that vestry members complete an online course for Safe Church training. Some members have already completed the training. This is suggested for vestry members but not a must. However, if you do Chalice or work with children in any way, it is a requirement.

\*Change of vestry meeting times- due to scheduling conflicts the May vestry meeting will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 and the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at 5:00.

\*Additional Parish wide meeting- The suggestion by Michael Ambler to have additional parish wide meetings to discuss Jane’s departure and the future of St. Mary’s was discussed. Axie felt that meetings to discuss the future of St. Mary’s was important but did not feel it necessary to get into past events. Sheila felt that it was important to discuss some of the past issues. Sheila felt since it was Michael Amblers suggestions, we should do as he suggested. Axie felt we should be prepared before the meeting with

discussion topics so that we aren't going over things that we have no control over. It was discussed that we would have a mediator who we would speak with ahead of time about items we would like to address. If it seemed like the conversation was becoming less than productive, the mediator could bring the discussion back into focus. Janet asked that anyone who has suggested talking points for the meeting, reach out and make their thoughts known. A date was not set for the meeting. Janet and Tanny will discuss a date to hold the meeting.

\*Worship Committee was already covered earlier in the meeting so Tanny skipped over it at this juncture so as not to be repetitive.

\*Annual Meeting Part II will be held at St. Mary's By the Sea on June 23<sup>rd</sup> because the last Sunday in June is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday and worship will be a shared worship at St. Saviors.

### **Closing Prayer**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:47**