

Vestry Meeting
Wednesday May 22, 2013, 3:45 pm
Rector's study

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson at 4:02 PM.

Members Present: The Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson, James Clunan, Donald Graves, Arthur Keller, Linda Lewis, Jackie Lowe, Maude March, and Nancy McCormick

Opening Prayer and Reflection Opened with lighting of the calendar, silence and 1 Peter 2 was read by Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson.

1 Peter 2:2-10:

2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,

*"Behold, I lay in Zion
A chief cornerstone, elect, precious,
And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."*

*7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient,
"The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone,"*

8 and

*"A stone of stumbling
And a rock of offense."
They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.*

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

. The following words or phrases stand out to Vestry members:

- The contrast between milk and stone, nourishment and foundation.
- Living stones – “even stones, as part of God’s creation, react to stimulus”
- Being built up – the passage suggests a unity together, that “we are not drops in an ocean but, rather, we are an ocean of drops.”
- We are being built: reminiscent of Sylvester and the Magic Pebble.

- Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson suggested that this passage was probably written to people about to be baptized.

What is the invitation in this passage?

The work of the vestry is a lot like allowing ourselves to be built into a living house. How have we been shaped or formed by being on the Vestry?

- Linda Lewis mentioned that being on Vestry reshaped her commitment to St. Mary/St. Jude's in significant ways.
- Arthur Keller mentioned that he has developed enduring relationships that never would have happened. He came in with an institutional perspective and has gained a missional perspective on this Vestry.
- Jackie Lowe, with a mixed religious upbringing, praised the learning experience she has gone through during her brief time on the Vestry.
- Maude March said that during her time on Vestry, she sees the church "becoming", or evolving in a huge way. We are bursting boundaries and redefining our church in the community and in our lives.
- Don Graves said that, while he has spent years in a very active, missional church in California, that his time on the Vestry and the guidance and missional perspective of Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson have been very enabling for him.
- Jim Clunan described running into Arthur Keller in San Francisco, and how his appreciation of that chance encounter and the use of gifts provided through Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson's leadership had enriched him. He further mentioned the outreach that we are now doing with the Stroud Fund resources, including the commitment to the Mt. Desert Elementary School horticultural project.
- Nancy McCormick described how much more interesting the church had become as it begins to grow again with younger families and active children while she has been on the Vestry. Nancy also mentioned how taking risk had been a topic at a recent graduation speech she watched.

Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson observed that clergy are trained to "maintain" the church...that mission came to her from the Vestry. As with the Holy Conversations for which we are equipping ourselves, we have to move the front lines of our faith or die. She noted that she has long been a risk-taker. She concluded the discussion with prayer.

Approval of the minutes of the April meeting

A motion to accept the April 25th Vestry minutes after the following corrections was made by Linda Lewis and seconded by Jackie Lowe. The motion passed unanimously.

- Change 1: Page 2, Paragraph 5: Change to read "*It was suggested* that vestry members will introduce two people that they met..."
- Change 2: Page 5, in **Ongoing Transition Efforts**, change conservation to *conversation*.

Business Agenda

TPIC Approval Vote for Caroline Hines

The *curriculum vitae* of Caroline Hines was discussed, with positive input from Jim Clunan, who indicated that Rev. Hines will be very comfortable with our parish. Nancy McCormick said the turn-out for Rev. Hines' visit was good, and observed that her background included social work for the Macon County School District in North Carolina. Maude March noted that her chosen ministry has become TPIC positions. Following discussion, **Maude March moved for approval, seconded by James Clunan. The motion passed unanimously.**

Caroline Hines Contract

The Letter of Agreement between the Wardens & Vestry of Saint Mary & Saint Jude was reviewed by the Vestry.

- Jim Clunan noted the omission of the word "Rectors" on the first page of the agreement.
- The clause requiring the Vestry to review the agreement with the TPIC every six months was discussed, along with several other clauses about which members of the Vestry requested clarification.
- The Compensation, Benefits and Expenses section was clarified for the Vestry. It was noted that the negotiation of the agreement is the provenance of the Wardens and Treasurer of the Parish, along with the Diocese. All financial calculations in this section are properly reconciled.

Discernment Committee Appointment

The proposed Discernment Committee was reviewed. The proposed members of the Discernment Committee are: Ephron Catlin, Jean Fernald, Donald Graves, Lesley Horvath, Arthur Keller, Steve Mahoney, Beth Renault and Kathryn Suminsby.

Axie Diana will be added to the committee as a "stand-by" or "in case of need" member. She will attend all meetings and serve as an alternate in case one of the above members is unable to complete their responsibility.

Maude March will write to the Discernment Committee on behalf of the Vestry and the Vestry and Discernment Committee will meet together in the near future.

The motion to approve the Discernment Committee, including the alternate, was made by Maude March and seconded by Nancy McCormick and passed unanimously.

Financial Report

No financial report was received prior to the meeting the report will be circulated when received.

Summer Arrangements

Rev. Carolyn Hines will begin on June 16th, with Alice Downs filling in during the first two weeks of June.

Other arrangements were noted in the April 25th minutes.

Annual Report Agenda

The Annual Meeting will be held in St. Mary's immediately after the May 26th service, which will be at 9:00AM. The new Vestry Candidates will be elected and a financial report will be given by Lauri Fernald.

Leave-Taking

Concluding the May 26th service, a leave-taking ceremony will be conducted for Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson. Maude March will take part in the ceremony, as will Vicki Wiederkehr from the Diocese.

Building and Grounds

St. Jude's Opening and Construction

Arthur Keller reported that the water has been turned on at St. Jude's. The parking lot work has been completed. The Town of Mt. Desert is working to complete the sidewalk in front of St. Jude's and this should be done before summer.

St. Mary's Hearing Loop

The Hearing Loop for St. Mary's has been ordered at the price of \$4,177 instead of last year's quote of \$3,875. Vestry requested that this be completed by mid-June. Linda Lewis will contact Isaac Giberson to confirm that he will assist in the installation of the wiring in the Sanctuary. It was moved that the Hearing Loop and labor costs will come out of the Memorial Fund. **Donald Graves moved for approval, seconded by Jackie Lowe. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ongoing Transition Efforts

Community Holy Conversation Effort

Don Graves reported on the meeting held with Donald Graves, Nancy Ho, Marsha Planting and Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson to discuss our thoughts on the Holy Conversation effort. Holy Conversations are the name of a process by which our Parish can move itself out into the community and the world.

- Some of the directions in which we can move include the Elementary School, the town of Mt. Desert and, possibly, affordable housing projects on the island.
- We should consider using the young families who live on Farnham's Way as consultants.
- The ULI Study raised the concept of an extended golf cart that can drive people from the marina up Sea Street. This could be supported by the Parish.
- Supporting the process of approval and purchase of seasonal food carts for local food providers to use in the marina/chamber of commerce area.

- Investigation of the possibility of opening a volunteer outlet for prescription and dry cleaning pick-up in the village of Northeast Harbor.

The Holy Conversations concept will continue to be discussed and ways that we can move the front lines explored.

Profile Committee

Linda Lewis reported that the Search Profile is posted on-line on our website in html format and in downloadable PDF format. Additionally, pictures of the members of the Profile Committee and the TPIC Committee have been posted. A link to the Parish Survey is included at the bottom of the Rector Search html page, with a 13 page summary of the survey available in PDF format. Vicki Wiederkehr is aware of the posting and should be making it available to a broader audience through the Diocese.

Vestry Retreat

The vestry retreat will be held on June 8 at the Sea Coast Mission in Bar Harbor. As the three newly elected vestry members are not able to be present, there may be a special Vestry meeting called at a time when all can be present. It is important that the Vestry continue to work as a team, especially during the time of transition.

Several of the incoming Vestry members cannot make it up for the retreat June 8th at Sea Coast Mission. Maude is continuing to keep in contact with them about attending. For the new members of Vestry who cannot attend, we will need to hold a special meeting and orientation.

St. Jude 30-Year Celebration

A 30 year celebration will be held on July 13th at the Seal Harbor Yacht Club recognizing the long service of Rev. Bill Hague during summers there. Anne Ogilby will chair the event.

Centennial Fund Budgeting

The Centennial Fund meets this summer and Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson reminded the Vestry that we need to give the committee a budget, as they requested last year. George Peckham, an original signer of the Fund document has indicated that initially the fund could be used to plug holes in the operating budget, something that has not been necessary in recent years.

Rector's Report

The Rev. William Rasche Memorial Fund at St. Bartholomew's in New York

Patricia has given the task of requesting cooperation in sorting out the Memorial Fund at St. Bartholomew's to Bill Hoar, who may have more leverage through his church in New York.

The Moving Van is Coming

Moving day is June 4th, an event that we note with both sadness and expectation. We live under God's Grace and He will bring us through this transition to new rewards and challenges in our ministry.

Closing Prayer and adjournment by Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson at 5:58 PM.

The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2013 at 3:45 PM in the Rector's Study.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Graves
Clerk