

Saint Andrew's Vestry Meeting Minutes

Meeting of April 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM

All vestry were present except for Lisa Bailey, who was ill. Fr. Jeff took minutes for the meeting.

1. Meeting began at 7:00 PM with devotional led by Davis. He shared some information on St. Augustine and concluded with two prayers which Augustine had written.
2. The minutes from March 8 were approved without changes.
3. The financials were briefly reviewed for March; income was only 75% of budget and monthly deficit was \$22, 546 (which was almost \$16,000 less than budgeted). Checking account balance is almost \$680,000. Joe inquired about finding some alternative, (safe) short-term investments that could produce significantly better return. Bill suggested T-bills. The rector said this was a Finance Committee question and will contact Treasurer to determine next step of action. Further discussions were tabled until June meeting when Financials are reviewed with Treasurer and Finance Administrator.
4. Vestry Goals
 - a. Erin continues to work on curriculum for Sunday School. She is gathering the needed resources. This is year two and the ultimate goal is to have a four-year cycle.
 - b. Steve and Bill reported 28 men attended the Men's Group. Five others indicated that they forgot. Thanks to Walker Taylor, who provided the meal at reduced cost (and donations from men covered the meal). Bill is working on communication with Fr. Christian so people will remember. Overall, Men's Group is viewed as a successful relaunch, with the goal of being together.
 - i. Bill continued with Safety Committee updates. Twenty-five (including seven vestry and some ushers) attended the CPR/Stop the Bleed Training. Thanks to Joe Lee and the firemen who came and provided an excellent session. Per Joe Lee's recommendation, six tactical first-aid kits and an additional six tourniquets were purchased (cost \$90 each). The defibrillator was determined to be in good shape.
 - ii. Bill's second item on Safety was a facility review by Chris Eden (Fr. Christian and others on committee joined the two-hour walk-through). Chris says many of his clients have accessed Federal Funding to address attacks at schools and houses of worship. He intends to provide a written report within two weeks with recommendations, which committee will then process and bring to vestry. Mr. Eden did not charge us for this. He had three recommendations. First, he is concerned that the 360 view of the entire facility is on the website. He says it allows perps to prepare and gives them too much knowledge of the building and should be taken down. Secondly, he suggests doors be locked during services and a process be set in place to govern ingress. Options include peep holes, cameras. The issue of keys came up, and rekeying building and a list of those who have keys. Much discussion around keeping facility open and inviting while also providing deterrence to anyone with ill intent. Bill said that other Episcopal churches in Memphis are already implementing these procedures. While the level of need at Saint Andrew's is not high, he said we want to be ahead of the curve. Recent stories of out-of-control criminal behavior is a concern. Lastly,

there was a suggestion to place two blue box surveillance on the poles across the street which would provide ample coverage. These have high deterrence value for criminal purposes. Discussion about society being overly surveilled and our control of recording, etc. took up some time. There are several steps to get this done with MLGW, city planners, police. Follow-ups will continue.

- c. Ken wants to do a canoe trip. Much discussion, much of it snake related, ensued. Consensus was that October would be most pleasant time to pursue and Ken should include Julie in discussions for Youth involvement.
 - d. Davis thinks they have solved the live streaming problems. He met twice with a consultant and endured many frustrating fails. Vimeo will now feed Facebook. We know that we are getting traffic and this is a valued option for some folks.
5. Chandelier donation. A family has offered a chandelier for the entry way to the parish hall. Sexton identified concerns with the height, maintenance, and cleaning. There was also much discussion about the goal/intent. Vestry determined that the desire was to illuminate the window so it can be seen from the street and that the best type of lighting should be evaluated. Safety concerns were raised as one vestryperson had lost a family friend who fell off a ladder changing lights at church. With deep appreciation for the offer, a motion to pursue more easily maintained lighting for the window was made and unanimously passed.
 6. Page Robbins: Vestry are invited to attend the June 10 Gala as representatives of the parish. A first-come, first-served offer will be made parish-wide for the remaining seats.
 7. Mother's Day: After discussion it was determined the breakfast is not necessary and currently no plans are in place. Long-term planning will address this in 2024.
 8. Fish Fry: Fr. Jeff said this cannot happen this Spring. The cost benefit of fundraisers was addressed, and the preference is a fish fry for parishioners as part of our monthly meals.
 9. Other Business
 - a. Vestry unanimously approved giving Family Violence Center space in front of the church to distribute materials to those attending the Fair on the Square. They had materials for a community event that was cancelled. We are supporters of their work.
 - b. Joe has made inquiries regarding a parish photo phone book. Portrait Café will do it at no cost and will set up appointments. They make money selling photos, and Joe told them "No Hard Sell." Others discussed concern about what is done with our information, ie, do not sell our list.
 - c. Joe discussed the issue of parishioners in need of transportation to doctor appointments. This is solely voluntary and the parish does not officially provide this service. There are legal restrictions and economic issues to consider. However, three people who had been resources are no longer able (illnesses and/or moving away). Joe sees a growing need and a smaller number of people available. Are people "on their own" or does a Christian community provide help? Difficult questions. Our parish is considerably older and smaller than fifteen years ago. We will continue to discuss and seek solution. We do not know how many people typically need transportation.
 - d. Fr. Jeff distributed the Easter Outreach numbers. After some discussion it was approved to send out \$75000 (from Lent/Easter collections \$15000 plus five months of budgeted outreach \$60000).

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.