

Technology Ministry (report 2-22-23)

submitted by Fr. Geek (a.k.a. Don Davidson)

*To maintain, update and consider the technology needs of St. Paul's Episcopal Church; to operate our live-streaming and evaluate current devices and technological operations.*

The new phone system was installed and is working without any issues. The system has a number of abilities that we have yet to need or use (like forwarding to a cell phone). The system main control is located in the Admin Office. Only the AA phone is programmed to change anything system wide (like the auto attendant answer).

The new Sonitrol system will be installed on March 29. This system will be an extensive change for everyone. A few folks will be given cards and a code which will arm/disarm the security (alarm) system. Other folks will be given cards that will allow them to enter the church when the airlock doors are locked. Those cards will eventually be available to anyone who needs one at 5.00 (card) or 10.00 (fob) deposit. The arm/disarm cards will work to unlock the airlock doors.

Those who will have the arm/disarm cards will be:

Rector

Admin Assistant

Director of Finance

Director of Music

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

All members of the Vestry will have regular cards. Anyone who loses a card will either lose or pay the feed.

The system will automatically arm itself at 11:00 P.M. and disarm itself at 5:00 in the morning. The airlock outside doors will be locked during the armed time. When the outside airlock doors are locked, only those with a key may enter the church through the Sexton door and then they will need to use their card to disarm the system. (Sexton, Rector, SW, JW) The alarm will go off after 1 minute of entering the door unless the system is disarmed.

There will be three surveillance cameras located in the airlock, outside the airlock in the parking lot, and outside the back main door in the ally. Those with the URL will be able to check those cameras and speak to anyone in the airlock through an app on their phone. The recording from these cameras will be available for 30 days.

George, the JW and the AA will be given training on the system to program cards/fobs. George/AA will be able to issue cards with the approval of the Rector.

A new laptop was given as a gift by Barbara Mannor. It will be very handy in providing assistance for presentations, Zoom meetings and such.

A new ethernet wire will be run between the organist office and the gospel choir office.

A new wifi AP (Access Point) will be installed upstairs in the organist office.

A new switch will be installed in the gospel choir office.

---need---

*We need to route an ethernet wire to the conference room (Children's Chapel).*

*We need to route an ethernet wire to the library, although that would be more difficult.*

*If the church ever relocates the freezer and refrigerator from the Canterbury room to Barth Hall so that the Canterbury room could be used for its original purpose, a new ethernet wire will need routed there too.*

A few of the old computers have gone away (sadly, garbage). New computers are running well in the Rector's Office, George, AA, and Holly's office.

A persistent 60hz hum was discovered on the output of the sound mixer leading to the hum being noticeable in the audio output on the live streaming. A new filter was installed and various other ideas were undertaken. This issue all has to do with inadequate grounding being available to the control area for live streaming. Although great strides have been taken, the hum is still faintly present. The only real way to alleviate it is to put in a grounding rod about 8 feet into the earth and braided copper wire to a grounding strip near the floor under the live-streaming area. Frankly, that would be nearly impossible to accomplish.

The building of a secure cabinet for the live streaming has been a major issue as it seems there is simply no one willing to construct it, and no one sells such a thing. The monitors we bought are 27" and they are too big to be closed up in typical cabinets, and ones that would fit are way too small for aging eyes. We will keep looking.

A major commendation to Walt for his work in making sure we have live-streaming every Sunday. I do encourage Walt to write-down the full process of getting us "on-air" every Sunday. The thousands of dollars of equipment in which we have invested is nearly worthless without the ability to operate the equipment. Sad.

The small camcorder that was purchased a few years ago is able to be connected to the live-streaming as a fourth camera if there is a need. It might be nice to have a camera in case of a long procession.

The middle office has been converted into an IT office. This room is a place where computers can be repaired, updates completed, and is the home for the major switch for Internet, and our Linux server "Paul."

When the phone system was installed, the parish had to purchase a static IP address. We also changed the sync (DNS) so that our new IP is connected to paul.stpaulsflint.org and owncloud.stpaulsflint.org. There are a total of 5 static Ips in the package, so if a group wanted their own IP and their own server and wifi, they could do that with one of our static IP.

I am writing a book of sorts about all the electronic stuff in the building. It will include the login and password information of many things we use. It will be up to the leadership to change all the passwords once I leave so that I cannot get in to anything. I wouldn't, but it is the correct thing to do.

I should have two Linux desktop computers and one desktop and one laptop windows computers that could be used if needed. They will be placed in the IT room along with enough keyboards and mice. The Linux machines run great. The windows machines will run slowly.

I will try to update this report in March.

Fr.Geek