

Vestry Meeting

06 August 2025 5:37 PM



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ATTENDEES

TaMara Oertel, Zan Millner, Bob Cuthbertson, Karen Schaefer, Jan Bugbee, Becky Bennett, Heather Gagnon, Fr. Tom Manney, Tim Grant, Rayna Hauter, Ed Arter

AGENDA

- **Reflection**
 - Began at 1737
 - Reflection on the first chapter of Bishops on the Border
 - The struggles reflect the separation of our walls and doors from other congregations in our own community.
 - How does God call us today to our contexts?
 - Abundances:
 - Pride was the best attended it's been since Fr. Tom joined
 - Jelesia's Service of Healing
 - Growing Sunday School
 - More people are volunteering and getting involved
- **Previous Meeting Minutes**
 - Bob moved to approve the minutes, TaMara seconded.
 - No dissent
- **Finance Update**
 - Pledges are trending below budget.
 - It's summer, so people are busy and forget.
 - Barth Trust was increased from \$7,000 a month to \$9,400 a month.
 - Due to annual reconciliation by Bank of America
 - Early projections that there is possibly a recession looming.
 - Still projected that we will roughly have an additional \$15,000 in the Barth Missionary Funds and a similar amount in excess to move into the reserves at year end.
 - Financial Review
 - Becky asked about the use of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan name, Jan and Tom explained that it is still acceptable at this moment given the ongoing merger of processes.
 - Jan moved to approve and accept the Financial Review, Bob seconded.
 - No dissent.
- **Unfinished Business**
 - Trust Fund litigation
 - Potential hearing dates in August
 - Becky mentioned that Bank of America continues to make money from the trust as this drags out.
 - College Ministry
 - Rayna asked vestry what their expectations of Campus Ministry looked like.

- TaMara mentioned a timeline of implementation
 - Bob mentioned the sharing of expertise between students and the parish.
 - Capital Campaign
 - This occurred after the conversation regarding the Bell under the “Rector’s Report”
 - Pledge forms were given to members of the vestry to fill out
 - Desire for 100% of Vestry commitment
 - Reminder that commitments are over three years, rather than immediate.
 - Parking lot signs
 - Phase 2 of signage project has been completed.
 - Phase 3 would potentially consist of:
 - Signage along the back fence facing the YMCA
 - Signage indicating how to contact to lease parking
 - Meet Up and Eat Up
 - Family Promise has provided 258 meals for kids from June through this week
 - Programming ends August 8, 2025
 - Bob suggested we host a luncheon for kids without two parents in the house.
 - Not associated with Meet Up and Eat Up, but came from discussion.
- **Rector’s Report**
 - The Bell Situation
 - This conversation occurred prior to the Capital Campaign discussion under “Unfinished Business”
 - Ed left after this conversation concluded.
 - Ed Arter attended to discuss the current bell situation with vestry
 - Ed, Fr. Tom, and a representative from Verdin looked at the bells
 - Framing for Christ Church bells need painting and wirebrushing
 - Cradle for St. Paul’s Bell
 - Peg constructed cradle
 - Ed and rep both agree could last another 100 years
 - Company advises building a new one
 - Cost would be \$37-38,000 including rental of a lift
 - Controller for bells died and needs replacing
 - Replace strikers as well
 - Cost for all would be \$7,490
 - Rajaad and Robert Cuthbertson-Twine would like to donate the required cost as a wedding present to the church.
 - Karen moves to approve the expenditure as listed to replace the controller and add a striker for the bells. Jan seconds
 - No dissent.
 - TaMara moves to graciously accept the gift of \$7,490 from Rajaad and Robert Cuthbertson-Twine to be used to cover the associated costs of the controller and striker. Heather seconded.
 - Bob abstains. No dissent.

- Fr. Tom will be absent October 12
 - Tom Shriver will lead Morning Prayer, Becky Bennett will preach
- Rayna stepped out of the room during discussion.
- Building naming opportunities
 - Discussion of opportunities for large donors to have parts of the church building named after themselves
 - Parlor, Cloister, Kitchens, Vestry Room, Statue above the parlor entrance door
 - Discussion centered around the idea of what that would imply and or look like, practically and spiritually.
 - Discussion was tabled until Linda Moxam could come and speak more broadly to the vestry about the idea in order to facilitate understanding
- Carpet
 - The carpet in the parlor is buckling and cannot be stretched
 - Becky and Fr. Tom lifted a corner of the carper and potentially found a layer of tile underneath
 - Becky is meeting Skaft tomorrow (8/7/25) to receive an estimate and discuss next steps
 - Will also talk to Flint Carpet Company as well
- Preaching candidates
 - Tom Shriver, Rayna Hauter, Robert Cuthbertson-Twine
 - Cost is \$1,200 per person to attend
 - Becky moves to have the church pay for candidates upon successful completion of class. Heather seconded.
 - Bob abstains. No dissent.
- **Senior Warden's Report**
 - Card was passed around from Mary Mitchell-Beren thanking the Vestry for the courtesy resolution.
 - Discussion around two issues regarding the congregation that were asked to not be entered into minutes due to sensitivity of the matters.
- **Junior Warden's Report**
 - Meet up and Eat Up
 - Feels that it has been a wonderful experience helping and volunteering.
- **Ministry Highlights**
 - Becoming beloved Community Grant
 - Rayna presented a grant opportunity from the national church regarding "Racial Reconciliation, Healing, and Justice"
 - \$7,500 for a series of workshops centering African Diaspora, Immigrant Communities, and Indigenous Nations.
 - Grant has been approved by the Standing Committee
 - Karen moves to have the vestry support the grant as outlined. Bob seconded.
 - No dissent.
- **New Business**
 - Joel sent an email requesting a letter of support for Communities First, Inc and their usage of the easement behind the Masonic Temple along Brush Alley
 - Zan moves to support Joel's request for a Letter of Support. TaMara seconded.
 - No dissent.
 - Bob requested that committee and ministry minutes be sent to the vestry.

- Rayna says that she will ensure this happens.

- **Courtesy Resolutions**

- Whereas Nick Wharry has repaired the leaks of several of the upstairs bathrooms of St. Paul's and, whereas he has done so on his own time and at his own expense, then, be it resolved that the vestry of St. Paul expresses sincere gratitude to Nick Wharry for his generosity and skill in the repairing of the plumbing at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Flint Michigan.

- Becky moves to approve the resolution as written. Zan seconded.

- No dissent.

- **Next Meeting:** September 03, 2025 at 1730

- Discussion regarding not skipping a month in the future as to avoid longer meeting times.

- **Adjournment 8:25PM**

- Bob moved, Zan seconded