

Monthly Vestry Meeting Minutes
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
4:30p.m., Tuesday, August 5, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

- Fr Edwin called the meeting to order with a prayer at 4:30pm
- Present: Fr. Edwin, Dave Cannon, Korto Scott, Laurel Questel, Kate Arso, James Barrios, Paul Severino, Helen DiMartino, Linda Howe, Jasper Weirshousky (youth rep.)
- Zoom- Lynda Moran, Tim Gilbert

INFORMATION

- Welcome to Tim for joining the Vestry
- Paul moved to accept June minutes. Lynda seconded. No discussion. Unanimous acceptance
- No correspondence
- No healing service on 8/21
- Craft Fair- 9/6
- Backpack blessing 9/7
- Grant money available- Episcopal Ministries of Long Island- quarterly deadline 9/15
- New phone system and internet installation going well
- Graphic artist working on new logo

MINISTRY REPORTS (original e-mailed reports)

Treasurer (Paul S.)

- Our endowment balance is back over \$2M as of June 30th. I expect the balance to be right around the same as of the end of July.
- It was a very good month for the thrift shop.....\$25K vs. an \$18K budget for the month. We're now within \$5K of the YTD budget for the first half of the year so have almost fully caught up after the slow start.
- Pledge income is still \$3,800-ish over budget through June 30th.
- We received the \$30,000 Pritchard grant check a few weeks back as promised, so the general account balance is at a healthy \$70K-ish as I write this.
- We'll also still have money left over in the building fund after all payments are made for both the rectory kitchen and phone/internet upgrade projects. I'm not exactly sure how much is left to pay on these (if anything), but I believe we'll have at least \$20K-is remaining.

Acolyte Ministry (David Cannon)

- Nothing New to Report.

Buildings and Grounds (David Cannon)

- I am awaiting the Insurance Certificate and working the Contractor to schedule who will be performing repairs to the fascia above the doors leading from Fenton Hall to the Cloister Walk.
- I am contacting the Diocesan Real Estate Department's Construction Manager to get a list of recommended Masonry Contractors to look at areas that need to be addressed at Roe Court.

- I meet with the landscaper and discussed their performance and did a walkthrough of the Campus and Roe Court.
- Bushes and trees were trimmed on the campus on June 28
- Awaiting quotes for additional work requested including grubbing and clearing, planting and mulch for various campus areas and Roe Court.

The Vestry approved a total of \$50,000 for the Renovation of the Rectory Kitchen. The amount includes the base proposal (\$42,500) and contingency (\$7,500) to cover any extras required once deconstruction and construction begins.

- o As of July 23 rd , the proposed amount of \$42,500 has been invoiced and paid out.
 - o An additional \$4,554 has been invoiced and paid for additional work required to complete or enhance the Work.
 - Additional Electrical work (additional high hats and ceiling lighting, and electrical runs.
 - Additional back splash material
 - Additional pull out cabinets
 - Painting of other areas in the pantry.
 - o Total invoiced and paid amount is \$47,054 (\$42,500 plus \$4,554) and the work is substantially completed.
- An additional Automated External Defibrillator (“AED”) for Fenton Hall has been purchased and delivered. This AED will be stationed in a cabinet (to be installed) in the upstairs kitchen (the existing one is located on the wall in the Office/Education Wing).
 - Two Lifevacs (a device used to assist choking victims) were purchased. One has been placed in the downstairs kitchen of Fenton Hall and the other one will be placed in the same AED cabinet in the upstairs Kitchen of Fenton Hall.
 - Upcoming “on my radar” Projects include deconstruction of walls to further investigation of a potential blockage causing an order in Fenton Hall; Masonry work at Roe Court and; investigation of a leak and replacement of wood by the back porch of the Rectory.

Lector Ministry (David C)

- Nothing New to Report.

ECW report as per Robyn(Laurel Q)

- The ECW is gearing up for the upcoming Craft Fair/Yard Sale on Sept. 6th.
- We are NOW collecting scratch offs to put on our plant raffle. Please try and donate one or two.
- We have collected school supplies to help outreach, over \$256.00 worth
- We collected over 700 pieces of non perishable protein (food) for God's Provision this past month.

Girl Scouts (Laurel Q)

- Nothing to report this month since the girls scouts are on summer break.

Men's AA/Women's AA (Laurel Q)

- Nothing to report but meetings continue at Fenton Hall.

Outreach (Kate A)

Christian Formation (Helen D)

Father Edwin, Korto, and I met with Chelsy DeHart, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the diocese on Zoom last week. We discussed ideas to engage our young people and considered alternate curriculums for Sunday School.

Green Team (Helen D)

The Green Team has found 2 companies to rent a water cooler system to replace plastic bottles in the choir room and thrift shop. Barbara would like our vestry to make a decision about this matter as soon as possible.

Invite/Welcome/Connect (Linda Howe)

Altar Guild per Barbara Weir (Linda Howe)

- The Altar Guild is just plugging alson here. Nothing has changed but the frontals.
- We set up and breakdown for the healing services and dust and clean the church and set up for the Sunday Service. Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals continue to happen. That's all for now.

Brotherhood Report (Paul S)

- The Fishing trip went well. Ticket sales had been slow compared to last year, but we were able to fill up to capacity at the last minute.
- Next up is cooking burgers and dogs for the Craft Fair on September 6th and then the Brotherhood BBQ on September 12th.

Eucharistic Visitors (James B)

Cub Scouts (James B)

Music Ministry (Korto Scott)

Rector's Report (Fr. Edwin)

- Funerals: Carl Lomanno + two non-parishioners at funeral home + one simple memorial in our chapel
- Two weddings in June, incld. James & Maritza! One wedding Aug. 3
- Finished *Paul's Journeys & Epistles* class
- One Eagle Scout Honor Court
- Final comms & prep for Greece/Turkey pilgrimage
- Parish outing to LI Ducks game!
- Brotherhood of St. Andrew fishing trip - but no fish!
- Zoom with Bishop Provenzano re: curate
- Christian formation brainstorm ZOOM w/ Korto, Helen & Chelsy DeHart from bishop's staff
- Met twice with Mike LaPaz & staff from *People's Arc of Suffolk Co.* (human services non-profit)
- Additional consulting with Korto Scott & Fr. Craig Townsend on *Uncovering Parish Histories* research
- A few days of stay-cation w/ family in town
- *Ongoing*: Monthly *Thriving In Ministry* cohort mtgs.; Seminary of the Southwest Alumni Steering Committee mtgs.; TEC-IEAB Bi-Lateral Committee (American & Brazilian Episcopal Churches) business
- The new network for our buildings, to provide phone service, Internet, and general networking (that you approved spending on), is now just over a week into installation work. Best news: as I write this,

Verizon has just departed, saying that our new fiber optic Internet connection is up and running. More remains to be done by TeamLogic IT (our contractor) to complete our campus network, but in a day or two we'll have our phones and computers - including wi-fi, internal and guest - all using the new Internet connection!

- The Search Comm. for the 9th Bishop of Long Island ran a ZOOM Listening Session last night for clergy, in which I participated. Our parishioner, Laura Beckham, was one of two facilitators. Laura & co. will lead an in-person session, for lay and clergy, this Sunday Aug. 3, 3:00p in the chapel. You are *urged to lend your voice to this conversation, as a leader in the Church*, by attending one of these offerings!
- Nominations for the next Vestry class: we must start the nominations process early this year, given the many shoes needing to be filled!
 - First, thanks again to Tim Gilbert for accepting our appointment to fill Carl Lomanno's remaining term (through 2025).
 - Due to an earlier oversight, we were already needing to elect in Jan. 2026 not the normal three, but FOUR people, to replace outgoing members Helen D., Carl L., Laurel Q., and Paul S. (we trust and pray Paul will remain Treasurer!)
 - We also need to backfill the seat vacated by David C. when he was appointed warden earlier this year. That seat runs through 2026.
 - So, that's FIVE new vestry nominees we - with the Spirit's help - need to recruit. Basic qualifications: a baptized member of the parish, min. 18 yrs old, regular in attendance and financial support of the parish for a min. of 12 months prior to election. Be thinking, and bring ideas to the meeting...we'll list them up and also identify a nominations committee!
 - We'll go over the status of our wardens at the meeting, as well.

DISCUSSIONS:

- Outside collection bins need better signage. Need keys shared outside office?
- Should we send welcome note to neighbors?
- Survey to families: How can St Mark's best help you?
- Invite/Welcome/Connect assessment tool: how are we doing re newcomers?
- Will eliminate Outreach (for now, b/c only 1-2 ppl) from Sat. Thrift Shop coverage assignment
- Green Team should meet to make recommendations on how to manage water cooler
- Next Vestry class
- Utilization of church basement/undercroft
- Saturday worship service
- Invite/Welcome/Connect assessment: how are we doing re newcomers?

WARDENS

- Address Thrift Shop donation

RECTOR

- Children's formation class - changes?
- Adult classes coming in the Fall
- Bishop search and listening sessions
- Met with Bishop on Zoom re curate
- Discussion and tour of St. Marks with Peoples ARC of Suffolk County

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:15pm