

Saint Mary's Anglican Church

December 9th, 2010

Vestry Members Present

Fr. Michael Scalfani, *Rector*
Peter Cabbiness, *Sr. Warden*
Dcn. Jane, guest

Kyle Campbell, *Clerk*
Judy Wilson, *Treasurer*

Tom Metry, *Member*
Virginia Engle, *Member*

Vestry Members Absent

Gerald Hatler, Jr. *Warden*

Brandy Swisher, *Member* Jack Van Patten, *Member*

I. Opening Prayer/Devotional

The Meeting opened in prayer and a devotional from Oswald Chambers. At 6:12pm

II. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

Father Michael verified that there was a quorum per Robert's Rules of Order, however, as the bylaws state a quorum can consist solely of the rector and a warden.

III. Minutes of November 11th, 2010 Vestry Meeting

- Previous months minutes were presented.
- Ginny mentioned that she was present, and that her name is misspelled.
- #5A, it stated that Jerry fixed the floor, and it should be specified that it is the ramp to the Bishop Rivera Education Center.
- Father Michael mentioned that much of the discussion under #6A2 needs to be altered as it was over detailed.
- Deacon Jane mentioned that #6A3, a spelling error needs to be corrected Money market vs Monetary market.
- A motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made by Judy and Seconded by Peter. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Email Discussion

- An email sent out to the Vestry by Brandy Swisher made many claims that were not factual, and Father Michael presented evidence to debunk accusations made toward Father Michael. It should also be noted that neither Father Michael nor Deacon Jane had been included as recipients of the email, however, a copy had been sent to the diocesan office.
- For the record, it is important to touch on a couple of facts. Information presented in the email was incorrect. Tom questioned the need to bring up the email, but Father Michael stated that it was important to set the record straight and document it within the minutes.
- Ginny mentioned that she is concerned because her priest had been slandered. Peter stated that the minutes needed to state that Brandy's comments were malicious, and slanderous, unchristian and destructive to the body of the church.
- Judy questioned the figures that Brandy submitted with her email as well. In her email, Brandy mentioned that there is one parishioner that gives \$24,000 a year, but in

fact, Maryann stated that only two people in the parish come close to half that amount. In addition, Father Michael addressed the fact that only Maryann knows the pledges and contributions of individual parishioners.

- Father Michael mentioned that Brandy presented it as that he was "hired" by the church, when in fact he was "called" to the church and Father Michael accepted that call. He also reiterated that he is not an employee of the church, there is no contract. There is a letter of agreement, but it is not the same process as a contract.
- Kyle mentioned that his initial impression of the email was that Brandy was either trying to get Father Michael to quit, or "fired". He stated that all it does is cause dissension in the church.
- One claim made by Brandy is that "Half of the congregation has left". Father Michael looked at where we are at this year for principal services. The average weekend attendance in 2008 when things were depicted as a perfect Utopia by Brandy, the average attendance was 73. In 2009, the average attendance is 75. Currently in 2010, the average Sunday attendance is 73. October and November there has been about 10 less in terms of average Sunday attendance. This has been in ongoing discussions within the Vestry.
- Father Michael had requested to Maryann and Judy to pull up records (budget/ attendance) for the time before he arrived. From 2006 to 2008, the church's budgeted expenditures exceeded its income. In 2008, there was not a full time rector for 2008, and the expenses were not there. Income in 2008 included rent drawn in from a Presbyterian church meeting on our property, and the decline of the economy wasn't until November 2009. The endowment fund had made almost 3000 in interest. There was \$25,000 more in 2008 than 2010 (excluding December), in reality there would be about \$15,000 difference. In 2007, the diocese had chose to leave the Episcopal church, the attendance at St. Mary's was anywhere between 80-100. This year's Easter attendance had been the highest in the past 5 years.
- The implication made in the email that when Father Michael arrived there was \$73,760 and that those amounts were exhausted in July of this year and \$20,000 was added from the bequest to cover expenses made in August. Brandy stated that at this rate, the bequest will be exhausted in 12 months and that St. Mary's will be completely broke. Fr. Michael showed that the operating account had been used as a pot for all monies, unless it was earmarked for a specific purpose. The money mentioned had lasted 18 months, rather than the 12 months planned for. An in-depth review was held mid-year to be fiscally responsible in which the Vestry was involved.
- Tom mentioned that he agrees with many of the things being said, but he feels that when people, like those that have left, feel like they cannot come to the Vestry and be heard properly, there is some miscommunication.
- Gossip has been happening in the church. An 8:00am parishioner came in to the church office this last week upset and wanted to find out if it was true that we were closing our doors. Brandy and Elaine have been talking to other parishioners which has been contributing to dissension within the congregation. When a member of the Vestry does such things, it reflects on the Vestry as a whole, as if that single person is acting on behalf of the Vestry.

- A motion was made by Ginny Engle that "We as a Vestry have reviewed her (Brandy Swisher) concerns and have found them inaccurate, malicious, slanderous, and they are rejected."
 - Tom mentioned that he did not read the email, and that if it was sent to each of us individually and had not been sent to the Vestry, it should be dealt with on an individual basis. It was mentioned that the letter had been addressed to members of the Vestry and the diocesan office. Peter stated that it is important to address that we heard the concerns, and that we reject it.
 - Peter seconded Ginny's motion. A vote was called, and the motion carried with one opposed, Tom Metry.
- Peter brought up a concern that he is the Senior Warden and he has not heard from any parishioners regarding concerns that they have.
 - Tom mentioned a need to encourage people to ask questions. It was reiterated by Judy that all information is available.
 - Peter mentioned taking advantage of the Annual meeting and utilizing it as a way to present all information in black and white, using as many resources as possible to our advantage to help the congregation. Father Michael asked Peter if he would be willing to present the budget. Peter agreed, and also stated that this is the most transparent Vestry that he has been a part of. In the past, budget and income were included in the bulletin, but some members complained and it stopped and Ginny stated that budget info does not belong in the worship booklet.

V. Treasurer's Financial Report(s)

- All expenses were within budget this month, so there were no explanation sheets.
- Judy did state that our income was lower this past month.
- Total contributions this past month was \$6,150.33.
- Expenses remains the same each month.
- PGE bill has been dropping about \$120 per month SEptember, October, and November; \$330.92 for each month. Water and Waste was \$195.80, which is half of what it is in the summer with watering issues.
- No expenses were made for the Youth Group this past month. A deposit of \$42 received from donations was added to their account following their Pumpkin Carving event.
- Maryann provided a month analysis.

VI. Property Report

A. Jr. Warden's Report

None made at this time

B. Basketball Court Lights

- Father Michael mentioned that Ron has completed the Basketball court lights project. A timer was installed on the circuit breaker box.
- Timer does not allow any power to the court after 10:00pm.
- In addition, a one hour timer was added to the court light itself. It will ensure that power is only utilized when the court is being used.

C. Other Property Related Reports or Issues

- Tom asked about the lights on the cross. It has not yet been done. The challenge of completing the project is that the ladder we have is not tall enough, and the way it is, an extended ladder would not be safe. Alternate plans need to be made to see that this project is done.
- There is a storage closet where our hospitality supplies are kept. In that closet, there are two rubbermaid containers that AA was utilizing. The containers did belong to St. Mary's. They used to meet four meetings a week to two. Father Michael had met with them. They no longer needed all the storage space they had been utilizing.
- The one cabinet that was not being utilized had been cleaned up and moved to the Bishop Rivera building.
- Ginny made a request that reflectors be placed on the drive to the church as it is very dark where the driveway is and easily missed.
- Father Michael also mentioned that the sign on the driveway is also very hard to see, and so it was discussed that the sign be completed similarly to the one on the front (Blue sign, white lettering), in addition to adding some reflectors. Judy mentioned that we budgeted for \$2500, and we have spent \$1700 so there would be some monies available to do such an activity.
- Kyle stated that he will be coming in on Monday to replace the two bass speakers. Father Michael had found a good deal on some, purchased them as a donation to the church, and Kyle will install them.

VII. Other Reports

A. STEWARDSHIP:

- Letter and pledge cards will be sent out at the end of the week.

B. YOUTH GROUP:

- No new business. Peter did inquire as to the prize gift cards from the pumpkin carving contest.

C. LAWSUIT UPDATE:

- After last meeting, we had received information regarding the decision the appeal. The Episcopal church made a motion stating that that they were corp sole because they said that Bishop Lamb was the Bishop, they stated we didn't need to go to trial. We appealed with contested facts. We stated that Bishop Scholfield was the bishop and that we legally withdrew our diocese from vote. The judges issued a decision, granting our appeal. They stated that they could not decide who the bishop is, as it would be a violation of the first amendment. It is up to the church to decide who the Bishop. Lamb is the bishop of his diocese, and Scholfield is the Bishop of the Anglican diocese. They said that they could rule on Corp Sole regarding properties. The lower court was directed to make a decision. Episcopal church will have to come in and prove to the court that they have some documents that the diocese did not have a lawful right to leave the Episcopal church with their property. The only thing the Episcopal church was the Dennis Canon which speaks only to individual churches not to diocese. The National Church was trying to re-approach it with the

Appellate Court, and have it reconsidered by the entire panel instead of just the three judges. They had 30 days to do so.

- The presiding bishop the EC has made it clear that any church that leaves the diocese cannot leave with their property, and the EC would sell that property, but not make that sale available to the church. The Episcopal Diocese has borrowed a lot of money from the National church and the National church is feeling the pressure.
- Kyle inquired as to whether the assets had been unfrozen, and it was confirmed by both Father Michael and Peter Cabiness that they were not.

D. LESSONS AND CAROLS:

- Went really well. Father Michael stated that he would have liked to see more from St. Mary's in attendance.
- Tom Metry had some questions going in regarding the music, but once he experienced it, it was wonderful.
- Father Michael said he only heard positive comments. He also said that next year, the participating churches will do more to promote it (i.e. "talk it up") rather than only including it in the bulletin.
- Tom also mentioned possibly inviting their choir members to participate with the choir as well.

E. ECUMENICAL RELATIONS & AREA CHURCH HAPPENINGS:

- Celebration church at Sunnyside campus closed down, as well as the Well.
- Celebration church is giving it another attempt at the Sunnyside campus since the Well left.
- The Butler Mennonite church is made up of three different congregations. One is a Hispanic congregation and another is a Asian congregation (both in native languages). There is a Baptist church that will joining them.
- Sunnyside Community church has an interim pastor.
- At the last deanery meeting, Church of the Good Shepherd anticipated having enough cash reserves to be able to keep the doors open for a year. A reassessment shows that they will be able to continue to about Easter.
- St. Mary's, St. James, Church of the Good Shepherd, Christ Church in Oakhurst, and St. James are all in the deanery.
- It was mentioned that the cathedral has enough reserve funds to last the remaining year. It is not just our diocese that this is occurring. Tom requested that we pray for our Deanery and other congregations in our area. Father Michael mentioned this in order for us to recognize that it is not just a challenge that we are facing, but it is affecting many others.

F. DEACON JANE'S REPORT:

- Jane mentioned she will begin the Share's program soon.
- The LEMS are also beginning their visitations to shut ins.
- She also had a second meeting for a follow up to discuss many different things such as how to handle the chalice, service alterations when bringing the sacrament to others.

G. OTHER REPORTS:

- AA: They meet twice a week, 8 or more times a month. When the profit and loss statement is looked at, they were supposed to be paying \$100 per

month. They give a percentage of what they contribute, which hasn't come near \$100/month, and has only been about \$409.72. The Vestry in the past had discussed upping their rent to \$1200 a year. Father Michael met with the leaders, and discussed a couple of things. They do a lot of outside meetings, and mud is tracked in through the back door, or the garbage wasn't taken out; housekeeping issues. The question came up regarding the giving, and Father Michael mentioned that it has come to the point that it costs the church money for them to be there, and we have to clean up after them. As a result, they hadn't realized they weren't paying what they should have been paying. They made a commitment to begin paying \$100/month regardless of what their collection is. There was never a discussion about them not being there.

VIII. Old Business

A. Proposed Budget:

- Father Michael met with Judy and Peter to go over budget. Beginning with the Expenses to make sure that "real" numbers were plugged in, and they looked at how those numbers could potentially be adjusted up or down.
- The overall budget is reduced by \$7860 without any staff cuts. Every category was reduced.
 - Office and Administration \$6725 was cut.
 - Facility Expenses \$635 cut, and that was including increasing both PGE and propane.
 - Property insurance came down and maintenance as well.
 - Payroll Taxes were not accurately estimated last year as the state increased the rate on how they were done, so these were increased by \$1500.
 - Staff expenses were reduced as workman's compensation costs were reduced.
 - Clergy expenses was reduced by \$2550.
 - Insurance had been \$3500 less.
 - Mileage was compensated to reflect what was actually utilized this year.
 - Under ministry programs, there is an increase in \$750. It is increasing funding for VBS as a third and fourth church may be interested to joining. Funding was also included for Youth Group.
 - Adult Education was bumped up to \$400. Father Michael mentioned that there is a great need for the Alpha Marriage Course to begin in our congregation.
 - Total expenses went from \$172,460 to \$164,600.
 - A question regarding Altar Guild was brought up, and it was mentioned that it should stay the same.
- When taking realistic numbers for expenses and income, there is a deficit of about \$40,000. The endowment fund should not be included as "income". There is also monies remaining from the \$20,000 that had been transferred in during 2010. A separate line item will be created for transfers from

savings account. It is also much more transparent, and the budget does not change due to the lack of a line item.

- Assessments were discussed. Average is \$13000. \$15000 was the average planned for. It won't be more.
- Peter motioned that the budget be adopted. Kyle seconded the motion. The Vestry adopts the budget, and it is presented to the congregation at the Annual meeting.
- Tom would like to meet again prior to the annual meeting.
- Motion to adopt the budget was approved with one objection.
- If numbers don't change and don't improve, we have about two years to catch back up. Peter stated that he believes that we should be able to turn it back around within two years.
- Tom inquired as to nominations for Vestry. Ginny was asked if she was running for reelection. Jerry is also finishing up a one year term. Father Michael is hoping that there would be a nomination from the 10:30am and 8:00 services to balance out representations from each body of congregations.
 - Nominations will not be taken from the floor due to the fact that it has to be validated that a nomination is eligible and the election needs to be prepared for.
 - Kyle inquired as to whether someone else from the same household could be eligible. It was confirmed that only one vestry member per household.
 - Father Michael stated that he was going to ask both Tim Leuth and Pastor Deo, as well as Don Grant. Tom also mentioned the Hunt family.

IX. New Business:

A. Acolyte and Crucifer trainings.

- The Wagner children began training and both will be serving on Christmas Eve.
- The Duffy's children will also begin training to serve as acolytes and crucifers.

B. Discipleship Training

- Pastor Deo and Father Michael have been working on a discipleship training class to share the gospel and take on other ministries. He may also conduct a block of instruction during the annual retreat. After the retreat, discipleship training will be opened up to the rest of the congregation.

C. Alpha Marriage Course

- Father Michael wants to begin the Alpha Marriage course in February. The Alpha Marriage course is for 3 or 4 couples at a time and reaches out and repairs marriages that are falling apart and helps to make strong marriages stronger. If one of those couples feel strongly about the program, they potentially could assist in leading the next.

X. Announcements and Reminders

- Christmas Eve Service.
- Annual Meeting January 16th. Combined service at 9, and we should be done by noon. A 6:30 service will be held on Thursday night on in celebration of Epiphany.

- The retreat will be held the 26th of January. A registration flyer is included in the bulletins, and additional registration forms are available at the back of the church. It will be organized by Maryann. 15 people have to attend to meet the minimum. The theme for the weekend will be "The Anglican Way".

XI. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned in prayer at 9:00pm.

The next vestry meeting will be held January 13, 2011.