

## VESTRY MINUTES – 6:30 P.M. MAY 22, 2017

Present: Fr. Lonnie Lacy, Rev. Ellen Richardson, Syd Blackmarr, Mike Collier, Mike Curry, David Fant, Rich McDonald, Dan Milton, Bam Pirkle, Libby Robertson, Ann Seward, Troy Spicer, Janelle Taylor, Earl Denham (Treasurer), Clayton Riehle (Clerk).

Absent: Kim Moore

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1. OPENING PRAYER – Fr. Lonnie opened the meeting with prayer.
2. FORMATION – Fr. Lonnie led the Vestry in Formation focusing on the following information.
  - a. “Signs of the Times”  
*See page 3 of this document for materials.*
3. DISCUSSION – Fr. Lonnie led the Vestry in Discussion of the following items.
  - a. Campus Signage: Fr. Lonnie reported that he and Kim Moore met with FastSigns and heard their recommendations and received their estimate. Fr. Lonnie shared photographic facsimiles to the Vestry of what the new signs would look like. Kim took the estimate to the Finance committee for their approval.
  - b. Review: Vestry Person of the Day – Fr. Lonnie asked for feedback on how VPOD and VPOW had been working and the Vestry’s impressions. Discussion included working to keep the Announcements to thirty seconds, making sure to make use of the microphone, and the VPOD should volunteer to be the second counter after the second service.
  - c. Diocesan Revival: September 17 – Fr. Lonnie reminded the Vestry of the Diocesan plans for the Revival in September and encouraged the Vestry to begin planning how St. Anne’s will be involved. Discussion questions to be answered included, will we try to “move Sunday services to Honey Creek? How will we invite others that are not in a relationship with St. Anne’s? Will we charter a bus? Do we have only a 9 AM service? Janelle, Syd, Dan, and Ann offered to begin organizing this effort.
4. INFORMATION
  - a. Rector’s Report
    - i. Evangelism Conference: – Fr. Lonnie reported that the Diocesan Evangelism Conference, hosted by representatives of the Presiding Bishop’s office, will be at St. Anne’s on Sunday, June 25, 2017 from 1:00-4:00 PM. Fr. Lonnie encouraged the Vestry’s participation in this event. This event will be training for inviting people to the revival in September.
  - b. Assistant Rector’s Report – Rev. Ellen informed the Vestry that plans for the events below are on track.
    - i. Half-Day Retreat: June 3
    - ii. Labyrinth Dedication: June 4
  - c. Wardens’ Reports
    - i. Senior Warden (*M. Collier*) – Mike reports that there are good things happening in

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- the Finance Committee.
- ii. Junior Warden (*D. Fant*) – David reports that the new lights for the playground are coming. He also continues to work on plans for Little St. Anne’s ramp and railings. David was asked to look at some of the “step-offs” around the ministry center to see if they could be visibly marked.
- d. Liaison Reports – Fr. Lonnie encouraged the Vestry to continue to submit and especially encouraged the Vestry to read the Ministry Area Reports.
- i. Adult Formation (*S. Blackmarr*) – Syd had nothing to report.
  - ii. Mission (*T. Spicer*) – Troy had nothing to report.
  - iii. Newcomers (*J. Taylor*) – Janelle submitted a written report with information about developing Greeters.
  - iv. Outreach (*A. Seward*) – Ann had nothing to report.
  - v. Parish Life (*L. Robertson*) – Libby submitted a written report with information about Foyer Groups and the Kick Off.
  - vi. Pastoral Care (*B. Pirkle*) – Bam had nothing to report.
  - vii. Stewardship (*K. Moore*) – Kim had nothing to report.
  - viii. Youth & Children’s (*D. Milton*) – Dan reported that there will be a VBS meeting tomorrow night.
  - ix. Worship (*R. McDonald*) – Rich had nothing to report.

### 5. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. Finance Committee (*E. Denham & M. Curry*) – Mike submitted a written report.
- b. Treasurer’s Reports (*E. Denham*) – Earl submitted the St. Anne’s Budget Summary report dated April 30, 2017.

### 6. DECISION – The Finance Committee recommends accepting the estimate for the external signs and maps from FastSigns. Approved, no opposition noted.

### 7. MINUTES

- a. Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved as circulated.

### 8. CLOSING PRAYER – Mike Collier closed the meeting with prayer.

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### UPCOMING DATES

- May 25:** **FEAST OF THE ASCENSION** (Special service at 6:30 p.m.)  
**May 25-31:** Fr. Lonnie on family vacation
- June 3:** 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Groaning in the Tent (Half day retreat with Rev. Ellen)  
**June 4:** **FEAST OF PENTECOST**
- COMBINED 10 a.m. SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS
  - Dedication of the Labyrinth & Pergola
  - Holy Ghost Weenie Roast
  - Acolyte Recognition Sunday
- June 4-10:** Fr. Lonnie serving as spiritual director for counselor training week at Honey Creek
- June 12-16:** **6 - 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School**  
**June 25:** 1 - 4 p.m. Diocesan Evangelism Training
- July 9-14:** Fr. Lonnie on family vacation  
**July 23:** **FEAST OF ST. ANNE**  
**July 28-30:** Fr. Lonnie on family vacation
- August 6:** **RALLY SUNDAY**
- LAST SUNDAY FOR COMBINED 10 a.m. SUMMER WORSHIP

Remember that our **email newsletter** goes out **every Thursday**. If you have news to be included, please send it to [news@stannestifton.com](mailto:news@stannestifton.com). Submissions should be concise but fully formed articles; no more than 5 sentences.

## Signs of the Times

Have you noticed the signs around your church lately? Have you *really* looked at them? One objection to adequate signage around the church is that “it destroys the beauty of our grounds. Besides, *everyone* knows where we are.” Well, not everyone. Not the typical visitor to your church. At the heart of the matter regarding signs is the question, “Whom are we trying to reach?” If we are primarily concerned for those who are already a part of the church, then signs are unnecessary. If we are primarily concerned for the newcomer and to lessen the “unknowns” for the newcomer, then we will make sure that our signs are attractive, legible, and helpful.

My wife and I recently visited a church where we opened two doors before we found the door leading to the sanctuary. This church had parking for guests but no signs telling us where the sanctuary was. It was behind “Door Number Three.” As seasoned churchgoers, we were a little embarrassed when we walked in on the choir warming up for the service. Here are a few principles to consider:

### Outdoor Signs

1. **Can people find you?** Many of our churches are tucked away in neighborhoods. Do you have adequate “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You” signs at the major street corners near your church?
2. **Is your major church sign attractive and accurate?** Are the letters large enough to be seen by someone driving by at the posted speed limit? Church sign companies can provide you with specifications for how high the letters should be based upon the average driving speeds.
3. **Which direction does your major church sign face?** It should generally be perpendicular to the street (for drive-by traffic) rather than parallel (for walking traffic).
4. **Do you have parking reserved for Visitors (“Guests”) and are their signs clearly marked?** Visitors often arrive immediately prior to the Sunday service after all the “good parking spaces” are gone.
5. **Where is your entrance?** Is it obvious to the newcomer? Where is the church office?
6. **Is your facility large enough to warrant a map?** At shopping malls, Six Flags, and Disneyland, “You Are Here” signs are always helpful and appreciated.

### Indoor Signs

1. Where is the sanctuary? nursery? office? restroom? Sunday school?
2. Does your church have multiple entrances? Are they clearly marked?
3. Are Sunday school rooms clearly marked? You might consider posting the teacher’s name along with a photo.
4. What is the sequence to your room numbers? Is the progression obvious?

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While signs will not in and of themselves bring anyone into our churches, the lack of signs can create stumbling blocks that will unintentionally signal to people that they are not welcome.

Michell, Neal O. *Beyond Business as Usual: Vestry Leadership Development*. New York: Church Publishing, 2007.