

St. James Vestry Agenda
Thursday, March 21, 2024
5:45 pm

Participating: Rev. De Freeman, Rev. Amanda Doshier, Parish Administrator Meghan Kasuba, Senior Warden Jeanie Smith, Junior Warden Margaret Cadden, Treasurer Bruce Stone, Dan Campbell, Ben Coddling, Tracy Corte, Jim Daniell, Peter Gailliard, Dee Gambill, Laura Jones, Jennifer Lambert, Matt Myrick, and Clerk of the Vestry Mary Mullins Redditt
Absent: Bill Dowdle and Misty Whitehead

Opening Prayer & Recitation of the Mission Statement

Senior Warden Jeanie Smith invited all gathered to recite the mission statement:
We are a community anchored in Christ, seeking God, sharing His love, and serving others.

Rev. De Freeman opened the meeting and welcomed the meditation by Dee Gambill.

Meditation—Dee Gambill

Dee Gambill shared a personal story about her family's grateful history with St. James in relation to the last Capital Campaign and the one on which we are now embarked.

Discussion Items

Capital Campaign—Dee Gambill & De Freeman

Dee asked for feedback from the vestry members about the Capital Campaign at its outset. We are in a "quiet phase" now, but it has been kicked off. Yesterday was spent with the Capital Campaign Team and our consultant. Dee said she believes the campaign is in good shape. Will set out on major gifts after Easter. The Campaign is highly organized like the *Pathways to Generosity* was. Parishioners will start getting information in the mail soon. A question was raised whether the expansion of Green Hall is enough? The plan is to have the multipurpose facility if we have a group larger than 240. The goal is to raise enough funding so we can start constructing all the facilities in our plan at one time because this is the most economical way to construct them. Are planning for the Campaign to end by the close of May. The first date of pledging is June 9th. The plan now just addresses needs for growth and not for maintenance. If we have a healthy Capital Campaign, then Walcott Adams would be directed to draw permitted plans for construction. Could take around a year to get approval from the City to begin construction.

School Board Report & Bylaws Committee—Ben Coddling

Current enrollment is at 88 students. Seventy-seven students are enrolled for the next school year. There is a strong 1st grade class of 8 students for next year. Summer camp enrollment started a few weeks ago and we already have 99 children enrolled. This will go for 6 weeks. A 1st grade teacher position has been interviewed. Have bought ads in local magazines and have a digital marketing campaign, website and a direct mailer that will be distributed to 5,000 people. The Board has been impressed with the marketing team.

There is a pre-K 3 program at 9 am on Wednesday, 3/27. Annual artwalk is on April 19th from 5:30-7 pm. The children display their artwork, there is usually food and music, and people can buy artwork. Have started a Development Subcommittee that works on nurturing the relationship between the school and the church. Jim and Shelly are starting to think about how we share resources between the church and school, such as the administration, the sexton, etc. The bylaws are being worked on and the committee is making sure they reflect the authority of the vestry. Language about buildings and grounds is being cleaned up. Will have the next meeting in a couple of weeks. Hope to have a draft for the vestry in the May-June timeframe.

Jr. Warden Report—Margaret Cadden

Pickle Painting has given us a maintenance agreement on the doors to be varnished twice a year. Fish Window Washing has been to wash windows. Bruce has had the rose garden furniture re-stained. Bill Dowdle has a group of men that will help with small maintenance around the church. Ed Shell has also been helping do small tasks. It is great to have parishioners helping out and they should be thanked by us all. Mary Katherine wants additional lighting in the choir loft and there are lights around the altar that are out and need replacing. This will take a vendor that has scaffolding to accomplish the job. Expect to know more in a couple of weeks.

Property Update—Bruce Stone

The last residential lot on Hwy 104 adjacent to our property has a chain link fence over our property line. In addition, their grinder pump and a metal building are also over our property line. The fence has never been permitted and there were two stop-work orders on it previously. Had contacted property owner Brian Lee and he had not returned his call since last October. Via contact from a mutual friend, Bruce asked if the property owner could move his fence. Eventually, he will have to relocate everything, but the fence is what is most problematic right now. The property owner finally called Bruce back and was diplomatically asked to move his fence and a trampoline as a good-faith start. We are now in a wait-and-see mode to determine if he will act. Bruce has let him know we wish to be a good neighbor and don't want to have to take legal action. This initially started last summer when the property owner cut down trees on our property.

Lenten Dinner, Staffing & Holy Week Update—De Freeman

There was great turnout and enthusiasm with the Lenten Programs, where experts came in to talk about other religions. The average attendance at the meetings was between 160-170 people and many people from outside our church and from other faith traditions attended.

New Organist

New organist Joe Setzer starts the third Sunday after Easter, April 19. Will ask him to come to the first Vestry meeting after he begins. He will begin the children's choir again and wants to work with the youth choir. He will be working with the school, as well.

Holy Week

As you all know, it is a busy week next week with many services. Just reminding all that the office will be closed the week after Easter.

Decision Items

Lent Wedding Decision—De Freeman

There is a request that has been made from the daughter of an active parishioner to have her wedding at St. James during Lent in 2025. A letter from the bride was shared, explaining why she was limited in the potential dates to marry. Though there is a tradition of not having weddings during Lent, there is nothing canonical about that tradition. The Bishop has already signed off on it. If approved, cross veils can be replaced and flowers can be removed. Peter Gailliard made a motion to approve the request, Ben Coddington seconded, and all approved. The date for the wedding is March 22, 2025. De reiterated this doesn't set a precedent for allowing Lenten weddings.

Memorial Request—De Freeman

Beverly Schaffer would like to make needlepoint "reserved" signs for our pews to replace what we are currently using. She provided a detailed analysis with hand-painted canvas and silk covering, weights, etc. She estimated the price for each would be \$500-\$600. She has \$2,000 in funding and has asked for \$4,000 from the Memorial Funds to make 10. Dan Campbell made a motion to approve, Jennifer Lambert seconded and all approved.

Financial Update—Bruce Stone

February was a very good month and March is expected to be, as well, with two more Sundays this month. Easter Sunday is also usually very cash heavy. Church income is \$20 K over budget. School income is right on budget. Church expenses are \$12 K under budget and school expenses are \$10 K under budget. Nothing new to report on pledges. Contributions is under budget slightly by \$265, likely because these are so big in January and usually smooth out as the year progresses. Jim Daniell made a motion to approve the financials, Margaret Cadden seconded and all approved.

Approval of February Vestry Minutes

There were no corrections to last month's meeting minutes. Tracy Corte made a motion to approve the minutes, Peter Gailliard, seconded and all approved.

Next Vestry Meeting—Thursday, April 18

Ben Coddington will offer the meditation.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Amanda Doshier offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk of the Vestry Mary Mullins Redditt.