

St. James Vestry Meeting
Thursday, June 20, 2024
5:45 pm

Participants: Rector De Freeman, Parish Administrator Meghan Kasuba, Treasurer Bruce Stone, Jr. Warden Margaret Cadden, Dan Campbell, Tracy Corte, Ben Coddington, Jim Daniell, Bill Dowdle, Dee Gambill, Matt Myrick, and Clerk Mary Mullins Redditt
Absent: Peter Gaillard, Laura Jones, Jennifer Lambert, Misty Whitehead, Sr. Warden Jeanie Smith

A quorum was present.

Opening Prayer

De opened the meeting at 5:45 pm with a prayer.

Recitation of the Mission Statement—De Freeman

We are a community anchored in Christ, seeking God, sharing His love, and serving others.

The vestry then recited the mission statement together.

Meditation – Bill Dowdle

Bill shared a personal story about the power of God, as well as a fable with the moral that, often, you don't recognize that you already have what you need.

Financial Update – Bruce Stone

- Financials remain strong.
- We are over budget for income and under budget for expenses.
- School expenses are steady over the summer.
- Nothing is out of line or a concern.
- Last month, made a motion to transfer Walcott Fund from Outreach to the Endowment.
- Since we have made a decision to transfer this to the Capital Campaign, we need a motion for Jim Ketchum to prepare a resolution for the transfer.
- Jim Daniell made a motion, Dan seconded and all approved.
- Dee made a motion to accept the financial report, Margaret seconded, and all approved.

Capital Campaign Report – Dee Gambill

- \$4,250 K has been raised. This allows us to go request money from granting organizations.
- It will take months to get all these grant proposals finalized.

- The available grants represent a lot of money, so we expect a good impact. Seven-to-eight foundations targeted have all previously given to Episcopal and educational institutions. Could represent \$1 million or more.
- Dee says the Larkins Foundation may be contacted re grants to Music Room.
- A \$500 K grant from parishioners is developing and may be announced at the end of the campaign.
- There are parishioners who may be on the fence. We need to appeal to them that this is going well but let them know that we still need them.
- We have a lot of in-kind positive impacts (e.g., no taxes on supplies).
- School Fundraiser has been netting \$50 K each year, so we don't need to approach that.
- Could improve in-kind giving (e.g., computers, etc.). If we have parishioners in those organizations, we should be appealing to them about the in-kind contribution option.
- Campaign is going even better than we had hoped. We may be creating a new expectation among our members.
- Dee then reviewed the Capital Campaign Summary handout with those present.
- We started the year with \$418,500, had expenditures of \$87,840, had cash receipts and stock transfers coming to a grand total of \$897,287 at First Fruits Sunday.
- Have \$4,252,060 pledged to date.
- Lance Slater has agreed to head up the Development Committee. He is Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Mobile and has three children in the St. James School, though he is not yet a member of the parish.
- Lance has advised about an ADEM grant to reclaim derelict rubber tires that can be melted down into asphalt and the city where collected (Fairhope) can receive a grant that will pay for paving, striping, etc.
- An email blast will go out this week to parishioners letting them know the different ways they can contribute.
- The school is about to send out a letter to parents of schoolchildren, too.
- De congratulated the Capital Campaign Committee on their great work to date.

Building Committee

- De says we need to begin giving the Building Committee more direction.
- The Building Committee needs to meet with the architect and have a list of categories and what to prioritize. This list was prepared and given by the Capital Campaign Committee to the vestry this evening to prioritize them. That will allow the Building Committee to prioritize them further into phases, as need be, and give us a budget on what can be done first so we can go from there.
- New entrance road will cost about \$10 K a foot. 45 parking spaces will cost \$450 K.
- Margaret handed out a list of the 9 categories and asked each voting and non-voting member of the Vestry to rank order them for what they believe needs to be done first.
- They were ordered by the vestry in the following priority:

1. New entrance road off Section Street
 2. Music Room
 3. New Covered Entrance for Church
 4. Classroom addition on East end of Wilson Hall
 5. Main Street Corridor space for Green Hall
 6. Multi-purpose building and School admin. connector
 7. (tied) South Parking
 7. (tied) North Parking
 8. North Entrance to existing parking access road, connector road
- The vestry discussed the budget to give the architect for the design.
 - A motion was made by Dee to direct them to design for a \$7 million build and Jim Daniell seconded.
 - There was further discussion that in-kind contributions will be counted toward the \$7 million cost.
 - This will be the go-ahead for the architects to complete the design plans.
 - All approved the motion.

Jr. Warden Report

- Margaret reported that John Luce came and gave bids for lighting over altar.
- Pickle Painting is coming next week to provide estimate on side chapel door.
- Fresh Start cleaning will clean Green Hall and kitchen the last week in July.
- Bill Dowdle and his mens' group is working on a refresh of the Stations of the Cross.

School Board Report – Ben Coddling

Highlights are:

- Completed year #6.
- Had a successful end-of-year staff meeting. Beth Knight retired and was given a sendoff.
- Savannah Partain will be a new teacher for the 24-25 school year.
- Teachers are participating in virtual professional development this summer based on a grant received.
- Marketing is rolling out some parent testimonials on social media.
- The digital marketing campaign is producing good numbers.
- The School Board voted on a mascot at their last meeting. Will be the St. James Episcopal School Knights.

Request to attend Acolyte Festival – De Freeman

Washington, D.C., October 11-13, 2024

- Natalie Smith put together a nice presentation on this from last year.
- There is no youth budget for this activity this year, but a number of last year's students would like to go and are active acolytes.
- They are requesting \$10 K to go to the acolyte festival this fall.

- Believe this sum covers 10 acolytes to attend.
- They will be raising other funds to cover their total costs.
- Margaret made a motion to approve, Ben seconded and all approved

Other

- Forbes has asked for assistance with the July 28 Beckwith lunch picnic for St. James' Feast Day. Would like all to attend and also help with the grilling, etc.
- De will be away on vacation most of the month of July, departing on July 3.

May Vestry Minutes

Jim Daniell made a motion to accept the May Meeting Minutes, Margaret seconded and all approved.

Next Vestry Meeting

July 18, 5:45 pm (if needed)

Closing Prayer

Jim closed us in prayer at 7:27 pm

Submitted respectfully by Clerk of the Vestry Mary Mullins Redditt