

St. James Vestry Agenda
Thursday, March 20, 2025
5:45PM

Participants: Rev. De Freeman, Parish Administrator Meghan Kasuba, Senior Warden Margaret Cadden, Junior Warden Bruce Stone, Treasurer Amanda Montz, Dan Campbell, Tracy Corte, Jim Daniell, Bill Dowdle, Dee Gambill, Jennifer Lambert, Bettsie Norton, Cappi Sully, Ken Talbert, and Clerk Mary Mullins Redditt

Absent: Misty Whitehead

Opening Prayer -

De opened the meeting in prayer at 5:44 pm.

Recitation of the mission statement -

The vestry recited together the mission statement

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

Meditation – Jim Daniell

Jim Daniell gave a meditation on the transfiguration of Christ and the importance of its lessons in our Lenten journey.

Financial Update Discussion & Decisions– Amanda Montz

February financial report including Capital Campaign update

Income for February was over budget.

We received \$193 K and our budget was \$190 K.

Still maintain a strong cash balance sheet.

Jim made a motion to approve the financials, Bruce seconded and all approved.

Bruce said we have had a donation of a piece of property. The vestry needs to approve the administration of it and he asked that members sign paperwork and he and Margaret will get it taken care of.

Margaret said Jane Edge had reported all of the cookbooks have sold with a profit of \$18 K that has been contributed to the general budget.

De said each year we have to change the signatories on the bank accounts, and he asked for the vestry's approval. ***Bettsie made a motion to do so, Bill Dowdle seconded and all approved.***

Stewardship Update & Thank you Notes

All vestry members were asked to take lists and thank you notes and get out our thanks to those parishioners who have newly pledged in the stewardship campaign.

Vote to approve February Minutes

Bruce made a motion to approve the public February minutes, Ken seconded and all approved.

Dan made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes from February, Tracy seconded and all approved.

Mission & Vision Conversation

De said we have grown from 332 to 380 on average Sunday attendance. The vestry is a visionary board and this is a good time to take stock and look where we are going to be in the next five years. This is a good time to ask, "Where are we as a church?" The church ended 2024 with a deficit of about \$75 K that was filled by the school. This is commendable but we need to remember that the school was opened as a means of outreach to reach children who were not in a church and could not afford tuition, and not as a profit-making venture. We need to ensure that we are staffed up to accomplish our mission as a church first and foremost. Right now, there is a void there and we need to be looking at how we can fill it.

Construction Conversation

When we started the building expansion discussions, the priorities given to the Building Committee by the vestry were, in order:

1. New entrance off Section Street (gravel)
2. Music room
3. New covered church entrance
4. Classroom addition to Wilson Hall
5. Main Street/Green Hall expansion
6. Multipurpose building w/ Wilson Hall connector
7. South and north parking Lots
8. Connector road from north parking to main parking lot

De reviewed with the vestry four building options from the Building Committee (see attached). These options are based on the current pledges. We should expect to bring in more pledges over the next couple of years. The vestry had a long discussion about the options and our ability to pay for them, keeping in mind our mission as a church. ***Bruce made a motion to approve option #4, Margaret seconded and all approved.***

Other

Jim Daniell asked that we make a photographer available after and/or between Sunday services to try and get photos of the people and families who are not currently pictured in our church directory. This is also a good engagement tool with new parishioners.

Bruce and Paul Cadden are organizing a fish fry the Sunday after Easter. Will be asking for volunteers to help.

Reminders: April Meeting: **Tuesday, April 29**

Closing Prayer

De closed us in prayer at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Mullins Reddit, Clerk of the Vestry.