

St. James Anglican Church

Vestry Workshop Minutes

January 7, 2021

Vestry Members Present via Zoom: Rev. Brian Schulz, Rector, David Chapman, Senior Warden, Bob Kirkland, Jr. Warden, Margie Armstrong, Clerk, Terri Boykin, Cheri Dale, Don Flick, Beverly Lucas, and Marta McLaughlin.

Vestry Members Absent: None
Others present: Jeremy Davis

I. Opening Prayer and Devotion (Ephesians 3:1-12) - Pastor Brian

- A. Yesterday, Jan. 6, was Epiphany, a major feast day in the church. Epiphany is when we remember Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles. Up until this time, Gentiles did not have a relationship with Christ. Jesus used Paul as a conduit to introduce Jesus to the Gentiles. God has gone to great lengths so that we would be saved and we would know God's love for us.

B. Open Sharing Time – Vestry members' personal priorities/challenges for 2021

The Vestry members shared their personal challenges for the new year.

Care for relatives who are ill.

Concerns for children because the schools are closed due to Covid,

Important year for St. James to gain some momentum,

Concerns about the election.

Our God is a god of miracles.

Read morning prayer from the Book of Common Prayer daily.

Challenges of parents and their children, loving them,

Wanting to start a small group in the neighborhood.

God's in control.

More time to rest, and visit with friends.

Less busy-ness, trying to do less,

Lack of freedom of movement.

How can we invite more people to church?

How can this be a big year for the church?

God is working in our lives.

Thank you Lord that you have included us into the family of God. Thank you for our unique gifts, even though some of us are suffering. We know that you are in control and you are faithful to us.

A prayer for Vestry from the Book of Common Prayer was read.

Prayers for the Vestry: God would use the Vestry to draw others to you. We would be a listening body that would take time to listen to you and you

would show us where to go. We would be obedient to your word. Thank you for the new St. James that you are building in our midst. Prayers that you would be a light in our neighborhoods. Fill us with wisdom.

C. Approval of Vestry Minutes 12/17/20

1. Motion to approve the December 17, 2020 Vestry minutes was made by Marta McLaughlin and seconded by Terri Boykin. Motion passed.

D. Small Group/Discipleship Discussion - Part 2

1. A disciple is one who abides in Jesus and having a mind through which Christ thinks.
2. Adopting the Narratives of Jesus is what we will be looking at tonight.
 - a. Changing the way, we think – Mind
 - i. Different Kinds of Narratives
 1. Family Narratives
 2. Cultural Narratives
 3. Religious Narratives
 4. Jesus Narratives - ways of the kingdomWe need to change these narratives. Bible study introduces us to ways of relating to Jesus.
 - ii. In order to change, our minds must change.
 1. Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand. Matt4:7
 2. Repent means to change one's mind. Jesus understood that transformation begins with the mind.
 3. Our family, cultural, and even religious narratives need to change.
 4. Need to have time to reflect and ask ourselves what in my life needs to change.
 - b. Changing our actions – Body
 - c. Changing our social environment – Social Context
3. As a small group leader, what narratives are you living under? How can we help others see the narrative?
 - a. Changing our actions – Body
 - b. Changing our social environment – Social Context

E. REALM Tour – Don Flick gave us a virtual tour of REALM, our new accounting program.

1. Log in on Realm in the next few days.
2. Go to your profile and look around.

F. Website Tour – Pastor Brian showed us the new website.

1. To be launched soon. Website is: **Stjchurch.life**

G. Music Ministry Brief

1. Music budget is \$60,000 per year.
2. We spend more on music than most churches in the diocese.
3. We want to optimize the music program.

4. We will be setting up a committee of vestry and non-vestry, Anglicans and not Anglicans, spiritually aware, and not.
5. We will be looking at the music to see how it connects with others.
6. Anglican hymnody, music selection, history of music at St. James.
7. Cheri Dale would like to a part of the committee.
8. What does it mean to lead people into the presence of the Lord?

H. Anglicans for Life Virtual Summit 2021

1. Pastor Brian will be preaching on the sanctity of life.
2. How to get more people to sign up?
3. Letter to go out to congregation, in bulletin
4. Announcements during the service, personal message from Brian,
5. Email to parishioners with just the virtual summit link to sign up.

I. Updates

1. COVID Trends – 17% positive rate, 2000 deaths in Orange County, hospitals are filled to capacity with ICUs and emergency rooms,
2. Hospital employees are being over worked.
3. Spikes in mental health needs in the community due to isolation and strain of caring for others.

J. Service Schedule/January –

1. 10 am live stream and noon outdoor services on Sunday.

K. Pastoral Clergy Staff Position –

1. Pastor Brian has spoken to Pastor Joyce Brooks. She is praying about it.

L. Closing Prayer was given by Terri Boykin.

M. Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Armstrong, Clerk of the St. James Vestry

Upcoming Events

Vestry meetings: first and third Thursdays at 7:00 PM each month

Finance Committee meetings: third Wednesday at 7:00 PM each month

Anglicans for Life Virtual Summit 2021

- a. **Keynote Presentations & Discussion Sessions: Saturday January 16th, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**
- b. **Workshops & Conversations: Saturday, January 23rd, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Next Vestry meeting: January 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Next Finance Committee meeting: January 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM