

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

## MAY 16, 2024

The May Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Fr. Josh Stephens. Those attending included: Senior Warden, Jerry Holt, Junior Warden, Will Rodriguez, Patrice German, Jim Gibbs, E.R. Haire, Jill Owen, Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders, Sandy Skelton, and Laura Teel. Those absent were Clint Adams and Jon Fitzpatrick.

After the general welcome and Vestry member check-in, Jerry led the opening devotion by reading an excerpt from the Daily Bread devotional regarding good deeds.

**Acceptance of Consent Agenda for May:** Will made a motion to accept all committee reports as well as the minutes of the April Vestry meeting; Sandy seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

**Rector's Report:** Fr. Josh discussed updates from the Vestry Liaison notes. Communication between Liaisons and the Appointments Committee will continue.

Fr. Josh also mentioned the following updates:

- Our summer Outreach Intern, Laura Shelton, will begin on May 19.
- Our summer scholar, Dr. Phil Kenneson will be teaching and presenting beginning May 26 and continuing through June 23. He will be exploring practices of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- The new sound system is currently being installed in the Wilderness Room.

**Senior Warden Report:** Jerry reported that he had attended the following meetings:

- Committee meeting.
- Executive Committee meeting.
- Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee meeting and conferred with John Barker as head of that committee.
- Met with Debbie Staton head of the Backpack Ministry to discuss setting up a meeting with the Executive Committee regarding the large balance in the ministry's account.

**Junior Warden Report:** Will began his report by discussing the recurring maintenance around the buildings & grounds, along with a few minor repairs including replacing the pathway lighting around the church and the annual power wash of the outside of the church itself. He stated that he had met with the Buildings and Grounds (B&G) Committee Chair, and the Treasurer to refine and prioritize the long-range B&G Budget. Will also reported that the Education Building Project will be completed in time for the breakfast in June.

Continuing, Will discussed several issues related to repairs needed on the Parsonage. They include repairing or replacing downspouts and gutters, roof replacement, cleaning and outside painting, upgrading bathrooms, and regrading the gravel driveway.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom reported that with more than one-third of the year having passed, the overall budget numbers are consistent with the projections. Although some expenses including unexpected repairs have been higher than budgeted, income is also higher than forecasted due to additional pledges since the Stewardship Campaign has been closed.

Tom also reported that members from Corliss & Soloman PLLC have met with the church's audit team including the Finance Committee and Ned Curtis. In preparation for the meeting, multiple financial and informational documents were provided to the auditors.

Continuing, Tom stated that the Trustees and the Historic Churchyard Trustees met in April to review the first quarter performance of the Endowment, Trust B (Vestry Special Project Fund), and the Historic Churchyard portfolios. The Trustees are considering several projects to enhance the visibility of the Endowment including coordination with the Baring Society Reception, sponsorships, and life-planning seminars. David Christenbury will be coordinating the Baring Society Reception.

E. R. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded by Will and passed by the Vestry.

At 6:25, a motion was made to enter an Executive Session; Patrice seconded the motion.

Following a closing prayer led by Fr. Josh, the May Vestry meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker

Clerk of the Vestry