

**St. David's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting – April 25, 2017**

**Attendees:** Vestry–Colleen Bast, Orlon Daniels, Hal Williams, Jennifer Rust, Patty Conard, Julio Alvarez, Lia Bertelson, Lee Hunter, Ama Couch, Robert Ward, Fred Speyrer, Michael Sutton

Non-Vestry –the Rev'd Ken Swanson, Rev'd Michelle Ortiz, Karen Wright, Rachel Berhannan, Gary Dunsmore

Not Present, Non-Vestry the Rev'd Anne Elizabeth Swiedler

**Check Ins:** Vestry members briefly shared, salient life events.

**Opening Prayer:** Rev'd Ken Swanson

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes from the February 28, 2017 Vestry meeting, was made by Patty Conard, seconded by Robert Ward. Motion passed unanimously.

**Spiritual Meditation:** Fred Speyrer

**Rector Update:**

“What if” . Communication Audit

- Aware of the current communication strengths at St. David's the commission chose to explore options available to worshiping communities and how those options were being used within worshiping communities. It was noted that worshiping communities with strong communications, have a team on staff to support the communications. Those communities that have a staff of one individual supporting all communication typically are using legacy systems.
- The current trend integrating congregations and communications finds a database management system as the main focus. This allows communication platforms to access a single source for populating different forms of information. Using the database management model will also allow for internal, external class offerings and other events to have common registration.
- Updated communication platforms will provide a vehicle to offer the Newsletter on line in a PDF format, only printing for those without personal computer access.

- There would also be mobile apps for sermon podcasts
- Communities using updated software systems are using 'MailChimp' as their email server.
- As St. David's moves forward in the analysis and evaluation of what products may serve our community, we have been asked by St. Philip's and St Luke's to keep them informed. Those worshipping communities are also realizing they need to refresh their electronic communications.
- Rachael Berhannan reminded the Communication Commission to be aware of fees that would be charged by any new software commitment.
- Worshipping community's spoke of increased engagement when asked how this enhanced communication software may have affected their church
- Must have items for any communication improvement.
  - Text
  - Email
  - Calling features
  - Calendar
  - Share pictures of events via upload
  - Social media apps
  - Quality Control
  - Registration for events
  - Push notifications
  - Classes and Sermons – audio/video – live stream
  - Directory

Reflections on Holy Week - A spectacular week of sincere and meaningful worship. Which included hosting all clergy from the Atlanta Diocese for the annual reaffirmation of ordination vows. The Bishop invited a well-known Muslim woman to preach at the service and then invited her to the altar during the consecration of the Eucharist.

Bishop Wright did this to emphasize to the clergy their call to be outward and inclusive in their ministry. Several St. David's parishioners were upset by this event. Ken met with them and explained that we were simply hosts of this event and not part of the planning.

Calling Ministry - Louise Bardon will chair this ministry. The ministry will begin with 100 marginalized parishioners, launching as a pilot program this summer. Ken asked that Robert Ward and Colleen Bast help to move the group forward.

Deacon Involvement – Tom Adar, has spent many years as a hospital chaplain and has been attending St. David's for a short time. Using his skill as a hospital chaplain he will be able to assist with the Parish Nurse Program. Currently Katie Sailors, RN, has been trained as a Parish Nurse, by her employer, Emory Hospital. Catherine Howell has also expressed an interest in attending a Parish Nurse Education program. Tom will be introduced to the parish in Mid August and will preach at the same time.

TACC - The three counselors that serve St. David's have been very helpful to the clergy. We have found there is a need in the community to have a Professional Counselor trained to address sexual addiction issues. Because of this void St. David's will underwrite the expense of sending Matt Wagner, one of the three counselors to Philadelphia to be certified as a sexual addiction counselor.

Easter - Attendance continues to grow each year.

Confirmation - There were several significant teens who shared with Ken a very mature faith base, particularly for their age.

Sabbatical – Ken will begin his sabbatical on Monday, May 1, 2017. He will return in August. We currently have parishioners whose health is precarious. To maintain appropriate boundaries Ken will not be able to participate in any funerals during his sabbatical. He will reach out to the family.

**Sr Warden:**

- On occasion St. David's receives a significant donation for various needs that occur at our church. In the recent past, the increase of the music budget was underwritten by money that was donated and designated for music. It is very important that all those who donate to St. David's know that funds may be specifically designated however will need the approval of the Vestry and the Rector. Staff members may not decide how donated funds will be spent.
- Ministry Liaison committee will be following up on how often various ministry reports need to be submitted. Cathy Cheatwood has asked for a report of when each ministry report is due to allow her to provide the chair with a current financial statement.

- Welcome box – the lock on the Welcome Box has been repaired. When you serve as the Vestry Person of the Day, please be sure the welcome box is checked for visitor cards.
- We will return to the Stewardship, 'What if' at the May meeting. Please come prepared to discuss the Year Round Stewardship Program
- Sabbatical means, Rest with a Purpose. Ken is charged with a purposeful rest over the next three months.

**Jr Warden:**

- Front area will be renovated beginning on May 20.
- A stone path walkway into the Memorial Prayer Garden from the steps at Jeffords Hall will be completed on May 14.
- Fire Alarm has been repaired.
- New estimate done for the Pre School doors by Tim Bardon. The initial estimate is \$13,000. For two doors.
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**Treasurers Report:** Presented by Rachel Berhannan.

**Financial information:** Gary Dunsmore reported that the church is on budget at this time.

**Ministry Reports:**

- The Ministry reports continue to dribble in.

**Old Business:**

- Family camp registration should be available online this week.

**New Business:**

- Mens Club supply issue has been resolved.
- Solar Panel presentation in not ready. They are considering a presentation in August at this time

Fred Speyrer moved to adjourn the meeting. Colleen Bast seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**Closing prayer:** Reverend Michelle Ortiz

**May Vestry Meeting:  
Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:30 PM**