

**St. Anne's Parish
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

Clergy and Vestry Members Present

Rev. Dr. Manoj Zacharia
Jason Houser
Tom May
Glenn Mortoro
Katie Burke
Lauren Dana-Evans
David Huggins
Bill Silva
Phyllis Everette
Kev Hays

Vestry Members Absent

Susan Thaxton
Al Collins
Emily Langston
Katie Creely
Howard Buskirk
Townsend McNitt

Non-Vestry Members Present

None

1. Opening prayer @ 7:02 by Fr. Manoj
2. Rector's opening remarks – The Rev. Dr. Manoj M. Zacharia

Listen to what our Lord himself says: "*If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.*" There is another passage of Scripture which reads: "He who fears God will do good," but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God's word. Where is God's word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: "I have hidden your words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you."

Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength.

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, around 1153, offered these words to describe the three comings of the Lord. The first coming is the incarnation, the second coming is Christ's return, and the third coming is Christ's coming within the depths of our hearts in our lives. Yes, I know the

chronological order is skewed. However, let's look at the depth of meaning that Bernard offers as words for us.

Bernard inspires me to reflect on how I live in the world. How I live in the world should be by what dwells in my heart. Hence, St. Bernard's admonition, "feed on goodness and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread – or the bread of life – the sacrament of Jesus. By filling our soul and heart with the sacrament of God's word and Body, we are called to be the arms and feet of Jesus in this world.

Capital One© has a tag line in its commercials – "what's in your wallet?" For the Christian, perhaps the question should be "What's in your heart? Who is in your heart."

The words of Pat Spencer in our Advent Booklet has caused me to reflect deeply.

In offering her commentary on the story of the widow at the temple who gives all that she has (2 coins) to God, Pat writes:

"The New Testament's model for generosity isn't a wealthy benefactor, but a poor widow who gave out of her poverty. She donated two small copper coins equivalent to a penny. The widow's giving is truly an example of humble devotion to God; she gives all she has to provide for herself, trusting that He will take care of her. She demonstrates the true nature of giving. On the other hand, the rich, at the same time, contemplate how much they can give without being inconvenienced. Our challenge is giving not only what we have in abundance, but giving what we have out of faith.

The story of this woman foreshadows Jesus' own selfless gift to humanity on the cross. He suffered so that we might live with Him in the kingdom of God. Notably, Jesus, too, gave all that he had. He devoted his life, his time, and his energy to serving the people of Galilee and Judea. He poured out his blood and breath by dying on the cross. The Son of God died instead of us—his miraculous gift to humanity."

For the vestry, as we engage in our discussion this evening, perhaps we need to pause and reflect. What is in our heart? What is it that God is inviting us to do in the "third coming."

It's not what is in your wallet that matters. Rather, it is what is in your heart.

3. Rector's Report

- a. Tom asked for Manoj to report back on the conference that he attended
 - i. Notable: the instability of churches and synagogues (generational, funding, etc.)
 - ii. Increasing secularization is a major issue
 - iii. Religious diversity in the US is an opportunity
 - iv. We need to find the fire in the belly and take advantage of it
- b. Movement: Dedicate \$2500 from Christmas offering, plus matching funds from Good Samaritan, to Stanton Center and Guatemala
 - i. Vestry to promote
 - ii. Moved: Glenn, Second: Phyllis, unanimous approval

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Deficit \$140K
- b. Will show the deficit at the end of the year
- c. Cemetery is doing well and will likely have a surplus
- d. PASA is doing well
- e. Investments are up, bringing annual to a likely positive outlook
- f. Budgets:
 - i. 2024 Church Budget Notes
 1. Used pledge value of \$850K approximately 95% of the goal
 2. Investment income is a push to balance the budget.
 3. Endowment distribution is 4.5% of an assumed year end balance of \$5M.
 4. Compensation reflects 3% COLA, Meredith redeployment and small contingency.
 5. Approval of budget is also approval of the clergy housing allocation.
 6. Honored budget requests.
 7. Removed the budget for Outreach which was used as a wedge for the following year. The required funding will come from the Capital Account.
 - ii. Grants/Outreach - \$45,000
 1. Virginia Meredith - Amount needed to bring the trust distribution to \$37,300 consistent with 2022 and 2023 amounts
 - iii. 2024 Cemetery Budget Notes
 1. Endowment distribution is 4.5% of an assumed year end balance of \$5M.
 2. Increased miscellaneous expense for a plot survey and map development
 - iv. PASA is a mid-year budget and will not be voted on until then
 1. Tuition info is available and they request Vestry approval of their tuition increases
- g. Budget movements:
 - i. Move to approve the 2024 Parish budget dated December 6, 2023 as presented.
 - ii. Move to approve the 2024 Cemetery budget dated December 6, 2023 as presented.
 - iii. Move to reallocate \$45,000 from the Capital Account to the Grants Account.
 - iv. Move to allocate sufficient funds from the Capital Account to the Virginia Meredith Account to bring the available balance to \$37,300 for distribution in 2024 (approximately \$7,611).
 - v. Move to approve a 3% COLA increase for the PASA staff in the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year budget.

- vi. Move to approve the PASA tuition increases for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year (as shown in the table presented below).
 - vii. Move to allocate any 2023 Cemetery budget surplus to the Cemetery Restricted account.
 - viii. All Moved: Glenn, All Seconded: Dave; unanimous approved
- 5. Stewardship
 - a. Great knee in the curve, ramping up in giving
 - b. Jason has asked Kirsten to create three phone lists:
 - i. Those who have pledged
 - ii. Those who pledged in 2023 but have not in 2024
 - iii. Those who have not pledged at all
- 6. Secretary's Report
 - a. Read the Vestry Liaison Report posted on SharePoint
- 7. Nomination Process
 - a. Template presented (and posted on the SharePoint)
 - b. The template is a result of discussion held during the Vestry Retreat in 2023
 - c. The Rector's purview to appoint the Sr. Warden
 - d. The Vestry's purview to appoint the Jr. Warden and other officers
 - e. The Registrar and Treasurer are not required to be members of the Vestry, per our bylaws
- 8. Future meetings
 - a. Bishop Carrie will be at St. Martins-in-the-Field on Tuesday Jan 9
 - i. Propose that Vestry meet during the listening session (5-7 PM); Vestry will reassemble in an upstairs conference room after Bishop Carrie's discussion
 - b. Annual meeting on Feb 4th, vote for new EC after the meeting
 - i. Attendance report by Dave Huggins
 - ii. Sr. Warden address
 - iii. Rector's address
 - iv. Treasurer's report (includes Stewardship)
 - v. Tempest will gather youth to assist with voting
 - vi. Claire will create and distribute annual report, Vestry bios, photograph members who need their photos in the directory, other communications
 - vii. Holly Bent will present on Realm
- 9. Nov minutes: Move: Lauren, second: Tom, unanimous approval
- 10. Closing prayer at 8:25 by Jason Houser
- 11. Meeting adjourned at 8:30