

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
September 15, 2024, 12:30PM
Church Pavilion

Present: Rector's Warden: Patrick Reilly, Vestry Warden: Barbara Koenig, Vestry Members: Michele McKenzie, Bruce Roach, Sherry Kircher, Bill Robinson, Jennifer Hanson, Michiel Bourdrez, Jack Knight, Chris Alvarez, Diane McKay, Clergy: Mike Angell, Officers: Evelyn Hanneman, Judy Fifield
Absent: Gary Jacobson, Riley Huston

The Vestry gathered for lunch and fellowship at 12:30PM.

Opening Prayer & Reflection

During this season of Pentecost, Patrick shared a poem from the book Guerrillas of Grace by Ted Loder titled *Touch Me With Truth That Burns Like Fire*. We were asked to identify words which resonate telling us that God's spirit of wisdom is amongst us. Responses were shared.

Mike asked Vestry members to volunteer to say the opening prayer and reflection at upcoming Vestry meetings.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:55 PM.

Items for Vestry Approval and Discussion

August Minutes

The August minutes of the Vestry meeting were sent out with the read-ahead materials. Michelle made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Barbara seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote with one abstention by Michiel who was not at the August meeting.

Reports and Topics

Finances

Evelyn reported that because today's meeting occurred on the earliest possible day of the month, there was not sufficient time to produce the August financial report for review by the Finance Committee. The report will be provided to the Finance Committee next week when they convene for their scheduled meeting.

Evelyn has been regularly checking the bank account at New Mexico Bank and Trust. She reported we currently have a deficit budget and provided information on several expected expenditures and deposits to the account.

The school is in a deficit until money is received from the state for the early PreK and PreK grants and tuition assistance.

Regarding the Schwab account, the new resolution form has been completed and sent to JP who then sent it to Schwab. Evelyn will check with JP to ensure Schwab received it and accepted it. Related to Schwab, Evelyn reported exploring how we can get a higher interest rate on the money market and investment accounts.

Thank you to Cheri for the work she has done to prepare the information and charts that accompanied the stewardship letter and pledge card for the 2025 campaign.

Mike asked the Vestry to please attend the congregation finance meeting scheduled for next Sunday where there will be open conversation regarding the budget, the stewardship campaign, etc.

Rector's Report

Mike provided his written report to the Vestry in the read ahead materials.

Personnel - Mike will be meeting with Raphael Okafor who has verbally accepted the interim formation position. His first task will be to plan the Convocation for the Day School which will take place on September 25th. Mike and Raphael will be talking to the Bishop about how to announce Raphael's arrival to the congregation in a safe and sensitive way

Today is the deadline for the advertisement for the open Assistant/Associate positions. Mike has received one application for the Associate Rector position. He will convene an interview committee. The invitation will be for an in person visit. The candidate is from out of state so there will be related expenses.

There are three possible candidates for the Sexton position. The Property Committee will conduct interviews next week and make a recommendation to Mike. Mike is hopeful that one of the candidates will be a good fit for the job.

The church has a new pest control service who is doing an excellent job, especially with paying more attention to the chronic rodent problem at the school. The property committee selected Bertram Pest Management after reviewing competitive bids.

Mike and Bruce provided an update on a recent Dignity Not Detention event. A coalition of advocacy organizations will be engaging in writing letters to several state Senators regarding the importance of calling attention to the conditions in the federal detention facilities. The letters will be sent to six Democratic Senators who voted against the Senate Bill 145 Dignity Not Detention Act in last year's legislative session resulting in the bill not passing on a 18 – 21 vote. Mike will be participating in the letter writing campaign.

Death of Student Enrolled at the Day School Note: The following section of Mike's Report is a change in the order of the agenda and occurred at the end of the meeting.

Other Business

Continuation of Work on Our Values At the Vestry Retreat held on March 17, 2024, a decision was made to pause the Vestry Liaison role while work is completed to clarify the expectations of that role. With the work that has recently taken place to discuss and identify our three values, there is a need to reconnect with Ministry leaders.

Vestry members divided into teams focusing on one of the three values. The expectation is for the team to meet with ministry leaders to ask the following three questions:

- How has your ministry lived into the values: Welcome, Action, Spiritual Grounding?

- What are your hopes for St. Michael's? How is your ministry growing and changing? How can we further live into these values?
- Are there any practical updates you would like the vestry to have about your ministry? Are there anything you would like our help communicating to the clergy or the wider community?

During the remaining months of the year, each team will report back to the Vestry at one of the next three business meetings. The information gathered from the various ministries will assist in identifying measurable goals we need to focus on and with implementing a strategic plan to meet those goals. This process will also be helpful to identify gaps (i.e. the need for a special events coordinator).

Spiritual Grounding Team: Chris (Coordinator), Michiel, and Patrick.

Will report back to the Vestry in October after meeting with the following ministry leaders: Eucharistic Visitors, Education for Ministry, Servants of Worship, Altar Guild, Caring for Caregivers, Contemplative Prayer, Intercessory Prayer Group

Welcome Team: Jennifer (Coordinator), Sherry, Michele, Bill, and Jack.

Will report back to the Vestry in November after meeting with the following ministry leaders: Sunday Hospitality, Newcomers Ministry, Concerts/Music, Classics, Gallery St. Michaels, Technology Ministry, Special Events, Communications.

Action Team: Bruce (Coordinator), Barbara, Diane, Evelyn, and Judy.

Will report back to the Vestry in December after meeting with the following ministry leaders: Casa San Miguel Food Pantry, Las Familias Solidarity, The Landing, Great Courses, Navajoland Partnership, the Day School, Property Committee, Vestry/Finances/Stewardship

Next week Mike will send out a list of ministry leader's names and contact information.

Upcoming Dates

Stewardship Fall Pledge Campaign – September 15 – November 3, 2024

Celebration of Michaelmas and Ministry Fair – September 29, 2024

Feast of St. Francis and blessing of pets – October 6, 2024

Stewardship Event with Miguel Escobar – October 19 (potluck at 5:30PM) and October 20 (preaching)

Next Vestry Meeting – October 20, 2024

Ingathering Sunday and All Saints Sunday – November 3, 2024

Death of Student Enrolled at the Day School Mike informed the Vestry of the sudden death of a student named Noah who recently enrolled in the Explore classroom. Noah had a severe asthma attack at home a week ago Saturday. He was deprived of oxygen. Noah was hospitalized for several days. It was determined that Noah would not survive and was removed from life support. Mike, Monica, Christina Duran (the Lead Teacher for the Explore classroom) and two other teachers went to the hospital to be with the family. Mike anointed Noah and prayers were said. A picture of Noah and flowers were given to his parents.

Families from his classroom were notified and offered resources for them to talk to their children about the death of a classmate. This past Friday, Mike spent time in Noah's classroom to read a picture book to the children and to just be on hand.

There has been regular contact with the family. The church has set up an emergency fund to collect money for the family. The parish has offered counseling services as well.

Mike spoke about how tough the week has been at the school. He also spoke about how the school community came together. Monica, Liz (our new Assistance Director), and the teachers all exhibited strong leadership and care. Mike then read the picture book he read to the children titled Rabbityness by Jo Empson. Mike asked the Vestry to keep Noah's family in prayer.

Adjourn and Closing Prayer

Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jack seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50PM with Mike saying the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Judy Fifield, Clerk