

St. James Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting (Hybrid)
November 19, 2024

Present: Mother Pilar Padrón Parnell, Warden Bill Spalding, Warden Doug Smith, Marie Hughes, Beckie Hidy, Diane Steckel, John Devins, Margie Amberge, Tara Covert-Lanning and Carol Murphy.

Guest: John Buterbaugh

On ZOOM: Judy Holmes and Nicole Bova.

Absent: None

6:15 PM: The meeting opened with Mother Pilar leading the Vestry in prayer.

Devotional: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” Judy Holmes read from John Dear’s “Gospel of Peace”. John Dear defines peacemakers as non-violent “trouble makers for justice.

A pre-read report was sent out to the Vestry, prior to the meeting, with supporting documents.

Approval of Minutes:

1. October Vestry Minutes: The Vestry reviewed the minutes and found no errors. Marie Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Carol Murphy seconded; Vestry members approved.

Treasurer’s Report:

1. October Financials:

a. Nicole Bova presented the October financial reports. The Vestry reviewed 2 Year Balance, YTD Budget and Giving Report. Warden Bill Spalding made a motion to approve the reports; Beckie Hidy seconded; Vestry approved.

Senior Warden’s Report

1. Warden Bill Spalding urged Vestry Members to review and remember St. James’ core values and mission, as they go through the budgeting process.

Junior Warden’s Report:

1. **Tree Removal:** The tree on the east lot line has been determined to be unsafe and a permit to remove it is not required. Warden Doug Smith presented the most recent proposal to remove the tree. Marie Hughes motion to accept the proposal from One Stop Tree Service to remove the tree for \$9,500.00 and grind the stump for \$1000.00. If only the limb can be removed, then limb will be removed at a cost of \$3000.00; Beckie Hidy seconded; Vestry approved. Tree work is pending the approval of the neighbors and a written notarized confirmation of approval.
2. **Rectory Fencing:** Warden Doug Smith reports that the Village Historical Preservation Committee will only allow a metal fence to be installed in the Rectory backyard. After discussion, Warden Bill Spalding made a motion to approve the proposal from Gasparini Landscape to install the metal fence at a cost of \$15,000.00, with funds from the Hazel Smith sleeve of the Foundation; Margie Amberge seconded; Vestry approved.
3. **Rectory Siding:** Warden Doug Smith is working with MCE Construction to obtain the appropriate siding that the Village Historical Preservation Committee will approve.
4. **Rectory Dock:** A new free dock has been given to St. James.

Old Business: See Junior Warden’s Report

New Business:

1. **Budget Planning:** Nicole Bova presented the Draft 2025 Budget for Vestry to review and comment on.
2. **Nominating Committee:** 4 seats need to be replaced. At this time 1 member has agreed to serve if elected. The committee will continue the search.
3. **Books:** The Skaneateles Historic Society has offered to sell St. James two books about St. James’ history at reduced price of \$5.00 each. Vestry declined the offer.
4. **Interfaith Works Request:** Carol Murphey informed the Vestry that settlement agencies in Central New York have a goal of resettling 400 refugee families in the next 8 weeks. All the families have been vetted and

approved. Interfaith has requested household donations from local churches to aid in this goal. A mailing will be sent out to parishioners.

Rector's Report:

1. Advent:

- a. Kelly Ellerton will host Advent Coffee Hour between services. Advent wreath kits will be available, at the first Advent Coffee Hour, to create and bring home.
- b. Mother Pilar will lead an Advent Study on women in the bible and the role they play in salvation of the world.
- c. **The Celebration of New Ministry will be Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7PM.**

Executive Discussion: Warden Bill Spalding made a motion for the Vestry to enter into an Executive Discussion, requested by Mother Pilar; John Devins seconded; Vestry approved. The Vestry entered into an Executive Discussion with Mother Pilar to discuss personnel issues and the Give to Grow campaign.

Closing Prayer: Mother Pilar offered the closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 8:47 PM.

Next Meeting: 12/17/24 at 6PM

Reminder: Bethany Quattrociocchi, Clerk, will not be available for the January and February Vestry meetings and the Annual Congregation Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Bethany Quattrociocchi, Clerk