

ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
12663 Perkins Road
Baton Rouge, LA. 70810

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2024, | 6:30 PM

In attendance: Fr. Tommy Dillon, Jay Weber, Rick Lipscomb, Ronny Daley, Michele Fuselier, Jack Warner, Amy Warrington, Ross Young, Dayna Wheatley, Sujuan Boutte.

Opening Devotion – Fr. Tommy
Fr. Tommy called the Vestry meeting to Order.

Approval of May Vestry Minutes:

- Motion – Michele Fuselier, second – Rick Lipscomb

Sr. Warden Report: Rick Lipscomb

- This month I find myself thankful for two people that St. Margaret's has brought into my life: Sujuan's Mom, LeAnna, who passed away this week and Fr. Dan Hopkins, retired priest who is now a part of our St. Margaret's congregation.
- Harold and Sujaun brought LeAnna to mass every Sunday at 8 o'clock. It was a joy to meet her, have her as part of our service and learn more about their family at coffee after mass. St. Margaret's did a lot for LeAnna toward the end of her life and I think LeAnna did a lot for St. Margaret's.
- Fr. Dan Hopkins adds yet another retired priest to our St. Margaret's family. We are truly blessed to have three retired priest and two ex-nuns that contribute a wealth of wisdom to our adult education sessions or any discussion. His preaching at mass has been truly inspirational and enlightening.
- We are blessed to have five retired priests among our church family.

Jr. Warden Report: Ronny Daley

- Kid Cam is averaging 75 to 80 children between 9am and 3 pm with another for after care.
- I am waiting to hear back from another iron works company for the handrails. Hopefully by the end of July, two handrails will be installed on the sides of the altar.
- A bench has been delivered and placed by the kitchen window. This was sponsored by the Vestry. Hopefully, with more donations, another bench will be ordered.
- Future Projects
 - Many sheets of plywood will have to be replaced under the breezeway.
 - The Sanctuary wood doors will need maintenance this year. The Fall of 2020 was the last time this was done. Only varnish needs to be applied. This will prevent cracking and splitting of the wood.

Treasurer's Report: Jack Warner

- \$74,447.55, cash in bank.
- \$759,934.72 Total Fixed Assets
- Income is positive for June.

Rector's Report: Fr. Tommy Dillon

- **June 10:** Lester's ordination was amazing. I am so grateful for our community and diocese coming out to support the newest deacon in the diocese and our new deacon here at St. Margaret's.
- **June 13:** I preached at the Diocesan Pride Mass in New Orleans, where Bishop Shannon presided. It was a beautiful liturgy filled with people from New Orleans and across the diocese. We were featured in an article for the Episcopal News Service.
- **June 20-28:** I attended the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Louisville, KY, as a clergy deputy from our diocese. There was a group of eleven of us from the Diocese of Louisiana who were elected as our deputation (4 clergy, four lay, two alternates, one bishop). Parishioner Molly Phillips was there as well for a meeting of the Daughters of the King. Unfortunately, several of us came back to Louisiana with Covid-19, which affected over half of the deputations.
- **June 29:** Many members of our church joined others from our deanery to staff the Pride Booth at the River Center for BR Pride. Over 18,000 people attended, and many contacted those talking about the church at the Inclusive Louisiana Booth.

- **July 7:** I attended a La Mesa Summer party at the home of Danielle and Alejandro. La Mesa is going well this summer and will be ramping up for the Fall semester soon.
- **July 9:** I, along with Deacon Les and Ralph Howe, will be touring the EBR Parish Prison. As faith leaders, we have a crucial role in advocating for justice and compassion within our communities. Members of Together Baton Rouge have organized two Faith Leaders tours of the EBRP jail.
- **July 10:** The new Rector of St. Patrick's Zachary, the Rev. Audra Ryes, will be ordained priest at 6:30 PM at Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans.
- **July 11-14:** Parishioners Cheryl and Keith Duplechain, Paul Allman, Elizabeth Whitley, Dorothy LeBlanc, Dorothy Byrd, Jonas Griffin, and I will be attending the Wild Goose Festival in Union Grove, NC. I will be taking July 15-19 off afterward.
- **July 19:** Funeral for Jannette Bourg's sister
- **July 20:** LeAnna Williams' funeral will take place on Saturday at 10:30 AM.
- **July 21:** Legacy Sunday will take place. The Endowment Committee will make a presentation and provide materials about our Endowment and Legacy Society.
- **July 24:** I will be having a colonoscopy and will be out for the day recovering.
- **July 25:** Fr. Jerry Phillips, once part of St. Margaret's, will have a retirement mass at St. James Place at 10 AM. All are invited.
- **August 5:** We will have St. Margaret's night at Bistro Byronz and Pizza Byronz to raise funds for our music scholarships. Please invite family and friends between 5-8:30 PM to either restaurant, let them know they are with St. Margaret's. We will receive 20% of dine-in food expenses and 10% of takeout expenses. Some of our musicians and singers will be performing.
- **Pastoral Care:** The Pastoral Care team has been highly active, visiting many of our members in their homes, hospitals, and rehab centers. Molly Phillips has been added to this team.
- **New Furniture:** I have a new sofa in my office donated by my sister Kim. I am grateful that Sam Romero and Logan Kyzar moved the furniture as a gift to the church.
- **Closing Remarks:** The community support and involvement in various activities have been tremendous. Our Sunday attendance has not taken a slump this summer and energy is good.

Old Business

- Ratify Diocesan Assessment approval – Motion – Jay Weber, second – Ronny Daley.

New Business

- Presentation of Leadership Development Program for Church Leaders by Mac Fuselier via Zoom, Building Community and Harvesting Abundance. A discussion with Ministry Team Leaders was revisited where 5-7 manageable ministries were identified. A nine-to-ten-week Leadership Development Program is needed to create a structure to be accountable to Vestry and church family. Developing steering committees for ministries is necessary.

Dayna Wheatley facilitated a discussion on Chapter 3 of Canoeing the Mountains.

Closed with Prayer by Fr. Tommy.

Margaret's Episcopal Church is a joyful community, grounded in the love of Christ that welcomes and includes ALL with meaningful worship, service to the community, and commitment to growing as faithful Christians.