

Minutes of Feb. 13, 2020, St. Stephen's Vestry Meeting
Thursday, 4:30 p.m., Sears Room
Pittsfield, MA

Present: The Rt. Rev. John Tarrant, interim rector; co-warden Erin Sullivan, co-warden Tom Dillon (by phone), Valerie Andersen, John Culver, Leah Luczynski, Mark Miller, Angie Moon, Louise Penney, and Chris Plankey. **Absent:** Wendy Coakley.

Parishioners with questions or comments may contact Vestry members:

Valerie Andersen, canoeval4@gmail.com	Mark Miller, mark@berkshire.net
Wendy Coakley, wendycoakley72@gmail.com	Angie Moon, amoon@pittsfield.net
John Culver, culvie229@gmail.com	Louise Penney (via Tom's email)
Tom Dillon, tdillon45@hotmail.com	Chris Plankey, chris@djchrisplankey.com
Leah Luczynski, leah@leahinteriors.com	Erin Sullivan, esullypede@gmail.com

The meeting began at about 4:38 with a prayer by John T.

Check-In: Louise spoke of Gwen Sears' putting in a good word about a possible youth trip to Iona; Leah said \$11,000 in the "youth bucket" could be used for such a trip. John C. spoke about attending a meeting about putting together "survival packs" for Berkshire County House of Correction inmates preparing to be released; a handout includes a picture of a sample knapsack and its contents put for each woman inmate of an incarceration facility in Chicopee, and John said the next meeting on this project will be on March 4 at 6 p.m. at St. Helena's in Lenox.

Interim Rector Report: (a) John T. shared the surprising news that Tim Weisman's last Sunday as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church will be March 8, for anyone who wishes to attend the service to thank Tim for his church's collaborations with St. Stephen's in recent years. Tim was called to accept a post at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in New York City. (b) John also noted that Tim will be at the "Chili Cookoff" (one such collaboration) at St. Stephen's on the evening of Feb. 24. (c) Two possible dates for the 2021 annual meeting are Jan. 31 and Feb. 7. (d) John and Jenny Gregg of the Cathedral of the Beloved will "probably swap" once or twice this year, celebrating the Eucharist and preaching, Jenny at St. Stephen's and John at St. Helena's where Jenny also serves.

Profile Committee: Chris alerted the Vestry that two previous St. Stephen's profiles, assembled in 2005 and 2013 each as part of a search for a new rector, are posted on the parish website. He said the Profile Committee meets every other Saturday for two hours, noting the next one would be on Feb. 15. Chris summarized what was learned from the first of two listening sessions the committee planned in the dining room right after the Eucharist on Feb. 9 and 23 for input on parishioners' hopes for St. Stephen's and what they value most about it.

Stewardship: (a) Valerie, chair of the Stewardship Committee, said members at its January meeting discussed the next phase of their plans – an "ingathering," possibly in

May, for parishioners to pledge time and talent. **(b)** She said the committee also discussed legacy giving and how divesting from 401(k) to tax-exempt institutions works. **(c)** Valerie thanked members Craig Reynolds and Al Symonds and Leah Luczynski for their valuable participation in January meeting. **(d)** The committee meets next on Tuesday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. at her house and all are welcome.

Finances: **(a)** Leah explained her some of the entries in the revised 2020 income and expenses sheets and answered questions. “The budget is the roadmap,” John T. said at one point. **(b)** She noted once again how St. Stephen’s is sitting prettier financially because of various amounts budgeted as anticipated 2019 expenses not needed because of Cricket’s retirement as rector last May. **(c)** Bill Carter of the Property Committee came to the Finance Committee’s last meeting with estimates of costs for the new floodlights for the sanctuary. The Vestry approved the purchase of a sample light.

Vestry Liaisons on Committees: Vestry members will serve as liaison to all the parish committees, to improve what has been more informal but less optimal communication.

What to Store in the Cloud: Members began discussing what a parish policy should be. “There is so much hacking in the cloud that it’s not really safe,” said Valerie, speaking from her experience doing legal work, some of it related to insurance companies.

Closing: The meeting was adjourned at about 6:15 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, March 15, at 11:20 a.m. in the Sears Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Miller