

**Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2019**

**Vestry Present:**

Jim Key  
Burdett Keeland  
Susannah Webb  
Jennifer Macia  
Rita Justice  
Kristie Van Arsdel  
Priscilla Plumb  
Gretta Boshara  
Steve Killworth  
Victor Lamas  
Randy Byrd  
Barbara Hass  
Al Hergenroeder

**Vestry Absent:**

Shannon Westin  
Linda Sylvan

**Clergy Present:**

Neil Willard  
Liz Parker  
David Wantland

1. **Opening prayer:** Barbara Hass
  
2. **Community Sharing:** Steve's sister had breast surgery, which appears to be a surgical cure. Jennifer welcomed the return of her daughter from India but it was sad that her father-in-law passed away at age 93. Randy's wife Sherry is retiring. Barbara's husband Bill is leaving hospice care and they have two contracts on their house after having no contracts for nine months. Jim Lober's mother died last night, she was 95. George Webb received a service award from Rice University.
  
3. **Financial Report:** We are operating with a balanced budget. The financial report was presented on paper copies; no amendments were offered and there were no further questions. The Finance Committee is planning to present a list of concerns with possible ways to address them in the future.
  
4. **Communication Council:** Jennifer Macia. A paper copy update was circulated and the highlights include: media outreach in the Village News and in the Houston Chronicle (in progress) regarding Jerusalem Peace Builders; extensive media coverage of the Kensingers' funeral; youth IFTAR coverage expected to be in a Houston Chronicle upcoming addition. Campus signage updates were noted; the architecture tour video featuring Steven Cox being is planned for the fall, coinciding with the stewardship campaign; youth communications are being led by David Wantland and Davis Mathis on Facebook and Instagram and there was a casual gathering for youth transitioning from grades 5 to 6 and their parents. Susannah Webb will be speaking at the Women's Night Out rescheduled to May 23. Joe and Gail Adams talked about architectural design for people who are aging; confirmations and a reception was held with Bishop Monterroso May 19. The remaining announcements are in the handout. If you type in Ash Wednesday or Lent on Wikipedia you will see images of Palmer's front of the church and altar.

5. **Evangelism Council:** Randy Byrd. There are new Palmer mugs. Nametags for parishioners and newcomers are being updated. There are three newcomers going to confirmation class currently and there will be 8 to 10 for the fall confirmation class. On the first Sunday of the month at 11 o'clock there will be a lunch for newcomers starting June 2.
6. **Outreach Council:** Liz Parker. There was a dinner last night that 4 Palmers attended for the Assisting Reentry program that is part of the Prison Entrepreneurship program, a 501(c) 3 that is new to Palmer. It was held at a local home and parishioners brought food. People reentering society made two specific suggestions: meet those reentering society at the bus stop and provide them with work boots. One man was given the outstanding business plan award and he plans to start a company raising bees.
7. **Stewardship Council:** Susannah Webb. There are 291 pledging units with the goal being 315. The new stewardship goal is \$1,650,000 which we are short of by \$57,000. Apparently, several memorial gifts have been given for the Kenzingers. Memorial gifts go to the Palmer Endowment.
8. **Worship Council:** Victor Lamas. Victor is conducting a survey of the Holy Week Services. He has two new acolyte candidates and they are reviewing acolyte training. There's a question about "dead" spots in the nave where people cannot hear the speakers from the altar; this is under review.
9. **Junior Warden:** Burdett Keeland. There is a \$92,540 bid received to replace the piers in the foundation for Saint Bede's chapel; only the \$21,000 foundation repair will be done now, pending support from the Endowment. Burdett, after consulting with an energy broker, recommended that we sign a five-year electricity deal at a rate of 0.042; this will include electricity for the rectory. Current electricity costs are \$10,000 lower than they were last year at this time, potentially related to the efficiency of the new air-conditioning units. Our elevator maintenance company, Otis, is being replaced by Humble Elevator Services Co. Burdett said that the gates that need to be locked after hours will get new electronic locks at a cost of \$9,085, which is within the budget of \$10,000. All Burdett's recommendations were approved.
10. **Senior Warden:** Jim Key. Vestry Council leaders are being asked to write and submit to him a description of the role council members play. The Vestry agreed to sign and approve a letter of support for Jeff Bohanski's bi-vocational priesthood candidacy.
11. **Clergy Reports:**
  - Neil Willard, Rector. The summer worship schedule began last Sunday. The organ schedule has been covered during Brady Knapp's sabbatical. Jack Karn wants to switch his sponsorship to become a deacon from his church in New England to Palmer. There will be two themes during the upcoming year, the first of which will be reconciliation this Fall. Greg Hahn may be speaking at that time for an adult learning series. Other speakers may include a new Rice clergy member, Bishop Doyle and Nick Porter.
  - Liz Parker, Associate Rector. Liz credited funeral coordinators Vickie Harshbarger and Ann Pittman for their exemplary pastoral care. There will be a thank you lunch this coming Thursday for all those who've been involved in supporting our recent funeral services. Seventeen Palmers attended the recent IFTAR dinner at the Turquoise Center. The confirmation class "This Is Us," has been well received and will continue next year. The Wednesday night Healing Eucharist will be changed to incorporate Taize service elements.

- David Wantland, Curate. Davis Mathis and Jack Karn have led four interfaith youth programs so far. The Pride Parade will be in June and the Jerusalem Peace Builders summer camp for 25 youth from the Middle East and United States will be held at Palmer August 1 through the 13th. David recognized Danna Kurtin for taking on a lot of the responsibility that had been handled by Stuart Kensinger; Danna is now a member of the Jerusalem Peace Builder's board.