There was a regular meeting of the vestry of Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill, on the above date at 7 p.m. in Dixon House.

There were present The Rev. Joseph Wolyniak, associate rector, presiding; also Tim Albert, Charlotte Biddle, Lisa Budd, Cheyenne DeMulder, Ruth Desiderio, Clark Groome, John Kimberly, Chuck Lower, Steve Pearson, Kristen Poole, Amanda Scates-Preisinger, and Stephen Stone.

Cliff Cutler, Anibal Aponte-Boyd, Chesley Lightsey, and Tabitha Oman were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

I. The meeting began with a short form of evening prayer.

II. Joseph Wolyniak read the Listening Hearts Guidelines.

III. Ruth Desiderio asked the vestry to participate in what she called “the dreadful ice-breaker,” saying that we come together every month but don’t really get a chance to know each other’s backgrounds and gifts. This is especially important, Ruth said, as we embark on the challenges and increased activity of our upcoming interim and search.

We broke into two- and three-person groups to share our feelings about Saint Paul’s and to describe the most meaningful ways we participate in the parish and what that means to us.

After the 10-minute get togethers ended the sense of the vestry as reported by many of those participating was that this was an enjoyable and enlightening experience. Many spoke about what they learned and how they were enriched by it.

Ruth said that there will more opportunities to get to know each other better.
IV. The minutes of the January 28, 2019 vestry meeting were approved as submitted with Kristen Poole, who was not at that meeting, abstaining.

V. Joseph noted that there are some people who have begun attending Saint Paul’s regularly, some of whom look like they will become members. The vestry was urged to be on the lookout for new faces and to help make them feel welcome.

VI. At 7:50 p.m. the vestry went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Executive session ended at 8:30 p.m. and the regular vestry meeting continued.

VII. Joseph reported the following:

• We welcomed the new director of music, Andy Kotylo, on February 12. He and his family are currently renting in Manayunk and plan to buy a home once their previous house is sold.

• The February 24 evensong was well attended.

• Children, Youth and Family Minister Coordinator Anthony Carella’s last day on staff is Thursday, February 28. He’ll be staying in the apartment at least through March.

• Joseph has had conversations with the potential next occupant of the apartment. He would be responsible for making sure the buildings are locked up and secure. He would also be available in case of an emergency after hours. It would be a non-stipendiary position that would trade housing for his security duties, estimated to be about eight hours a week.

• Canonically, Rector’s Warden Ruth Desiderio will be in charge after Cliff leaves and until a new rector is in place.

• The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper is March 5. Cheyenne DeMulder asked for help with a specific need for an additional pancake flipper.

• Ash Wednesday services on March 6 will be at 7 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m.
•On March 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. Madeline Schroth and Joseph will lead a Lenten retreat to the Philadelphia Music of Art. They have selected 12 pieces of art. Madeline will be sharing some reflection on the history of those pieces and Joseph will lead quiet or silent spiritual reflection.

VIII. Kristen Poole brought the vestry up to date on the climate change reading group. They meet once a month with an attendance ranging from six to 10 people.

One of their principal concerns is that Saint Paul’s electricity comes from fossil fuel and not from renewables which they believe would be only marginally more expensive.

Property Chairman Tim Albert noted that while the initial costs might be only slightly higher than what we’re currently paying those costs might increase rapidly. The reading group will work with the property and finance committees to find out what might or might not work for Saint Paul’s. It was mentioned that if the parish buildings were metered separately perhaps we could start by converting only part of the campus.

Kristen also mentioned that there is an interest in having a community garden either here or in conjunction with the Schuylkill Center.

She also asked if questions about sustainability might be included as we put together the parish profile.

XI. There will be a single service at 10 a.m. on May 5, Cliff’s last Sunday. Bishop Barbara Harris will preach. Other dignitaries will be included in the service. Bishop Gutierrez will be represented by the Rev. Shawn Walmsley, the diocese’s canon to the ordinary for evangelism and administration.

Steve Pearson reported that there will be a luncheon reception and celebration for Cliff’s ministry after the service. The details are still being determined by a committee that includes Joseph, Steve, Ruth, Cheyenne, John Kimberly, Virginia Emlen, Joe Fafara, Cathy Davis, Fred Straub and Ned Smith.

It was agreed that Amy Cutler should be thanked and her time with us celebrated as well.
Joseph said that there is a list of people Cliff wants invited. The list includes bishops, other clergy, rector’s wardens and many others. Joseph will forward it to the vestry so that we might add names to the invite list (here’s the link to that list: https://bit.ly/2IFUDps).

XII. Ruth reported that the nominating committee is hard at work. She distributed the description of vestry responsibilities and duties as we move into the transition, a time she described as “a period of heavy lifting.”

XIII. Ruth is collecting names of those who have expressed an interest in serving on the profile or search committees. She asked that the names of anyone whom a vestry member has heard from or is thought to be a good candidate for these committees be forwarded to her.

XIV. The Rev. Kirk Berlenbach, the diocese’s canon for growth and support, will visit us at a date to be determined.

XV. The need for check signers was discussed. It was moved and seconded that the vestry officers (Ruth Desiderio, rector’s warden; Stephen Pearson, parishioners’ warden; Anibal Aponte-Boyd, accounting warden; Clark Groome, secretary) be authorized to sign checks and other financial documents. The motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Property Chairman Tim Albert reported that the current kitchen cleaners’ fee has increased from $1,780 to $3,000 and said we should find someone new and less expensive to do this job.

There was considerable discussion of the rectory after Cliff leaves. Apparently, Cliff feels it needs some improvements. The questions raised were: Will the interim rector need to live there? (The odds are very slim that will happen.) Could we rent it? (If we did it would become taxable and there is the question about whether renting it would earn the parish more than the taxes will cost.)

There was also the possibility, Tim said, that we could use the empty rectory to serve the parish breakfasts while the Parish Hall and kitchen are being renovated.

This is a topic that needs further discussion.
XVII. There has been an offer by the developer of 2 E. Chestnut Hill Ave. to renovate the alley that runs from Saint Paul’s to Germantown Ave. We do not own the alley but are allowed to use it with the understanding we will maintain it. This is an issue still under discussion and requires no vestry action.

XVIII. Bishop Gutierrez will meet with the vestry on **Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Dixon House.**

XIX. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the vestry will be **Monday, March 18 at 7 p.m.** in the Dixon House library.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned after a closing prayer at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Groome  
Secretary

*Subsequent to the meeting the date of the bishop’s visit with the vestry was changed to **Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Dixon House.**