



**The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist**  
Post Office Box 441 / 307 Federal Street  
Milton, Delaware 19968



[www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org](http://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org)

**Vestry Minutes for The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist**  
**April 21, 2021 – Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Jill Malloy, Sharon Lamando, Fr. Tom White, Clara Escobar, Bel Gwiazdowski, Rob Konnyu, Scott Kresge, Jean Skocypec, & Ed Stout.

**Absent:** Tom Sombar

**Meeting was called to order** by Senior Warden Jill Malloy at 7:00 pm.

**Opening Prayer** was given by Father Tom.

**Acceptance of March Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made by Bel to accept the March meeting minutes. Sharon seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**Treasurer's Report –**

Ed reported that he sent out the packet of financial information ahead of time and asked if anyone had any questions. The rental account is up to date and the tenant has been paying on time. Ed reported that the investment statements have been coming late since the Truist took over SunTrust. Bel asked if we could have a monthly P&L statement to show the breakdown of costs each month going forward.

Jean made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Sharon seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**Priest Comments –**

Fr. Tom reported that there was a parishioner that was airing grievances on social media, and he wants us as a leadership to know what is going on. A member of the parish let Fr. Tom know that another member was doing this. Fr. Tom was upset that they did not come to him or either of the wardens rather than do it publicly. He asked the vestry going forward that if we see anything that we let him know right away as he is not on Facebook. The grievance was that the member claimed that no one has reached out to them in over a year, except the stewardship letter.

Fr. Tom asked for any insights from the vestry on this issue. The vestry felt that the parishioner could have reached out to let us know that they were not being fed spiritually. Fr. Tom stated he would follow up with this member at some point.

## Committee Reports

### Property

Sharon gave the property report. Scott stated there were a few wasps but hasn't seen any for two weeks. Sharon said there was a problem years ago at the back of the sanctuary. Jean commented that she has seen some as well up around the altar. Sharon will talk to Mike to see which exterminators we have used in the past. Sharon is still waiting for a price for the pressure washer, Scott Wilkins for the shaded north side of the sanctuary project.

The tenant, Nicole, has requested to use the green food truck on June 13<sup>th</sup> for a birthday party. The vestry discussed it and decided to allow it, but it cannot be present during church hours since we are considering being reopen for in-person Worship. The decided time was between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., and it cannot stay overnight and no dumping of any liquids, etc. like before. Sharon will notify Nicole of the decision.

### Parish Administration

Scott reported we have been doing 2 services every week since the last meeting because of Lenten morning prayer services. The analytics have continued to grow, and we had between 20-25 total household views of the morning prayers services. Holy Week numbers were similar for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Palm Sunday reached 68 households, and Easter 66 households for what was the highest numbers since we started streaming. Since Easter, the attendance, on average, is up more than before the Easter season.

### Outreach

Clara stated that for the committee right now it is all about the Yard Sale and she turned the reporting over to Jean. Jean said most shifts are covered for the yard sale. Ted & Carole have not committed to pricing. This year they will have 2 cashiers, versus everyone carrying money. The town approved that we could close the street if the weather permits. Bel asked if we had enough volunteers committed to baking and Jean felt we did. They will be receiving items the week prior to the sale and pricing as they come in.

### Youth Ministry

Jill reported that she and Scott are still recording the Sunday School lessons and Scott is posting them online. She would like to have the last one be a zoom class like before and will be discussing the possible date with Fr. Tom to coordinate like last time. The bulletins and other pages are put up on the web site for them to download and Ed continues to mail out the crafts when necessary, to coincide with the lessons.

### Music/Worship

Fr. Tom reported that Bishop Brown's expectation for our drive by communion is that the parishioners have watched the online Mass prior to coming to for communion. It was discussed and the feeling is that was pretty much the case as most attending are online for each Mass.

## **Old Business**

### **Sidewalk/Steps –**

Jill reported that she was supposed to meet a mason for a quote today, but the afternoon storms blew in and they canceled. Jerry contacted Greg Wingo regarding a meeting again with him to make sure we will be fixing all that needs to be fixed and that the town doesn't come back one month after we fix the sidewalks and have more to be fixed at an added expense. Jill asked for another mason for a second quote. Ed suggested that we use the list from the town for a second quote, which she said she would get. Sharon also stated that she has two possibilities for quotes.

### **Outside Groups –**

Safe Harbor UCC, the Women's Group, and the Stamp Club used the church prior to the pandemic. We noticed after the lock down that the utility bills dropped dramatically. There were security issues as well with keys being passed on to others and we never had an accurate list of key holders for the church.

Sharon made a motion that we do not allow any outside groups to use the building going forward. Rob seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Fr. Tom will talk to Safe Harbor, and Jill will issue letters to the Stamp Club and the Women's Club stating the decision by the vestry.

## **New Business**

### **Exterminator –**

Sharon reported during the committee report that we possibly need an exterminator to evaluate the sanctuary for wasps. A motion was made by Bel to authorize an exterminator to come in with an amount up to \$500, Clara seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

### **Name Plaque for Memorial Garden –**

Etched in Time, the company responsible for engraving of the plaques, is no longer in business, so there is a jewelry store in Georgetown that will do it. Jill has removed an existing one and sent two blank plates over for Barney and Shirley Lane to be engraved with Jerry. If they can't get the exact font, Jerry will get as close to the existing as possible and we will ask for a record of that font to be kept on record with the file in the office.

### **Church Credit Card –**

Apparently if we do get rewards on the existing card by Elan, Ed is not allowed to get information. Jill is proposing to use a business card like Chase Ink where we know we are guaranteed rewards dollars. Jill will ask Ed to look into getting another company card. Fr. Tom is suggesting that we have a card with a woman's name on the account so that is not a problem in the future when different members try to use the card like in the past.

### **Regathering –**

Fr Tom reported on the regathering of in-person Worship. St. Peters has indicated that they will begin regathering for in-person Worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fr. Tom will start doing weekly videos outlining how we will progress towards regathering. We are part of The Episcopal Church in Delaware and we will follow the guidelines set forth by the Bishop's Task Force. For now, we have to

stick to the guidelines agreed to. Fr. Tom then read through the bullet point guidelines we will have on the website to the vestry members. One of the wardens will be present each Sunday in case there is a problem with a parishioner or the reservation process. The plan is to take as many reservations as possible and rotate through them each Sunday. For example, if we get 30 reservations, then 20 will be the first week and the next 10 will be the first for the following Sunday. The question was raised can we have a reservation per couple or household, but our plan is to have a master list of each individual attending in the event we have to contact someone who attended on a previous Sunday for any reason. This is required by the task force.

It was decided that one side of the sign on Federal Street would be to announce in-person Worship by reservation only and the other side would still state that we are live streaming.

Jill will reach out to Sandy Criscimagna regarding the updating training of ushers.

Jerry will take down a can from the second row of lights on the beam and Fr. Tom will take it to Delaware Electric to see if we can get replacements and brighter lights to offset the fact that we have to take down the temporary production lighting we have been using for the past year to enhance the streaming experience.

Bel will assist Scott in contacting those that will be attending Mass each Sunday with the reservation process.

#### **Shirley Lane Memorial Service –**

The family is asking for her Service to be Saturday June 5, 2021. The vestry approved it and decided that the service has to follow the same exact requirements as the parish has to adhere to by the Bishop's Task Force. Reduced numbers, no singing, no fellowship, etc. Fr. Tom will be in touch with the family regarding this service.

At 9:20 p.m. a motion was made by Sharon to adjourn the meeting. Bel seconded the motion, and all were in agreement.

#### **Next Vestry Meeting – Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 7:00 via zoom**

Respectfully submitted by Scott Kresge, Clerk of the Vestry.