



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
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Vestry Minutes for The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist March 17, 2021 – Zoom Meeting

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

Absent: Tom Sombar

Meeting was called to order by Senior Warden Jill Malloy at 7:05 pm.

Opening Prayer was given by Father Tom.

Acceptance of February Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Bel to accept the January meeting minutes and it was seconded by Sharon. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report –

Ed reported he sent out the packet of financial information and asked if anyone had any questions. The operating balance shows over \$21,000 but that was as of the March 15th, it is really about \$12,000 because the payment to the accountant has cleared and we have to allow for approximately \$4,500 in restrictive funds for both the choir and organ funds. The end of the year audit cost us \$4,500. The February statements for the investments are still not in, but he distributed copies of the January statements in the financial report. The largest fund, which is in excess of \$400,000 is restricted and proceeds can only be used for clergy salary which was reiterated in the results from the audit. This was directed by the trustees of the estate. The estimate for the 2020 audit will cost about \$7,500. Fr. Tom asked if someone was going to talk to Judy at the Diocese on how small parishes can afford this on an annual basis. Fr. Tom said he was willing to call and talk to Judy. Ed stated that he will be putting a letter to go with the copy of the 2019 review stating that the audit was not in the current year's budget and we may have to hold back some on the diocesan acceptance as a result of it being a requirement this year. It was asked if the audit will be required for 2021, and Jill asked if we could pursue the internal audit committee like we were intending to do for 2019. Fr. Tom stated the Mary Moubray was still willing to be part of that going forward.

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

Priest Comments –

Fr. Tom reported that he had a zoom meeting with Mother Shelly from All Saints Rehoboth Beach and Fr. Jeff Ross from St. Peters Lewes. The conversation was what are the respective parishes doing about Holy Week and Easter. St. Peter's is doing an outdoor gathering Easter Morning, but other than that they will continue with live streaming services as they have been doing until at least Pentecost Sunday in late May. Mother Shelly state that they are planning a number of things. They will be doing the blessing of the palms with parishioners in the morning outside the church on Palm Sunday and then they will go home and watch a recorded service. They do

not do live streaming because of poor Wi-Fi so they record all their services ahead of time. Their Holy Thursday will be invitation only and will probably include their vestry members. Good Friday, they will be opening up the Sanctuary for people to come in to pray with no sitting allowed. Fr. Tom stated that we will be doing a live stream for Palm Sunday with distribution of palms and drive by communion, Holy Thursday with drive by communion, Good Friday, and Easter with drive by communion. Fr. Tom proposed that he, the wardens and parish administrator meet like they did for the filing of the application to reopen and revisit a possible time period for reopening and present that to the vestry in the future for a vote.

He stated that at one of the recent Bishop meetings that Camp Arrowhead, our Episcopal summer camp on Rehoboth Bay, did a presentation including a fly through of the proposed renovations and capital campaign. This will be open year-round where there can be conferences and retreats as well as the summer programs. They have raised \$4.6 million and are in need of about \$900,000 still. Bishop Brown stated that he has found out that the laity of the parishes want to be involved in this project. This project will also set up a scholarship program for youth that are unable to attend because of lack of funds. Fr. Tom asked if the vestry would like to have a representative from Camp Arrowhead attend a future meeting and do a presentation and see if St. John the Baptist would be interested in supporting this campaign. Scott stated that Walt from Camp Arrowhead has been in touch with him, and they are looking for a 'Parish Liaison' to work with Camp Arrowhead and take the information back to the Parish and sell the campaign to them. Jill asked if anyone was interested in being the liaison and no one volunteered

Committee Reports

Property

Sharon gave the property report. She tried to get in touch with Scott at Wilkins but got to speak to the office and Scott will call back and they are going to meet, and he give an estimate on power washing the shady side of the outside Sanctuary.

Parish Administration

Administration –

Scott reported we have been doing 2 services every week since the last meeting. The analytics have continued to grow with having between 20-25 views of the morning prayers services.

Outreach

Clara reported \$1,400+ from the soup sale in February.

Yard Sale is set for May 1st. Jean dropped off the form to close the street with the town. Typically, the town has it the first Saturday in May. Jill asked if the town officially doesn't have the town wide sale will we still do it. Jean has been to the town and put in the request to shut down Prettyman next to the church. The town would not confirm if they were having the town wide sale or not. So, the committee is planning either way.

The committee is also considering if they will sponsor a child or two for the summer.

Youth Ministry

Jill reported she continues to do Sunday School lessons. Scott continues to tape each lesson and puts it on the web site. She stated that we have filmed through Easter Sunday.

Music/Worship

Fr. Tom reported the team will live stream the Palm Sunday Service with distribution of palms and communion following the Service. Holy Thursday service will be at 7 p.m. with drive by communion. Good Friday Service

will be at 7 p.m. The Communion on Good Friday is traditionally done by reserved sacrament and he asked the vestry their opinion to see what they think about it. It was decided that he will ask those that regularly attend the drive by communion to see if there would be interest. Easter will also be live streamed with drive by communion.

We are now recording the second reading and inserting the video into each Sunday's Mass. The choral reading from the gospel of Mark that will occur during Palm Sunday will be done virtually this year. It will be done via zoom and the recorded video of that zoom session of the Passion will be inserted into the Palm Sunday Service at the appropriate time. After Easter the plan is to use other Cantors interested in participating and inserted in the service as well.

Tom Waite will continue to be the Landscape Chair or at least go to person. He will be sending out an email to the people that have adopted plots and ask that they clean up a little and weed their spots prior to Easter. Saturday April 18th will be the scheduled clean-up day, with the following Saturday being the rain date.

By-Laws Subcommittee

Scott reported that they have yet to be able to meet and he will be scheduling a zoom just after Easter to set up a meeting.

Old Business

2019 Audit – That was covered during the Treasurers report.

New Business

Rental –

Sharon & Jill brought up that there have been issues with the Rental, and they have corrected them. The main issue early on was the food truck, which they violated until we had asked them to remove it completely. The other issue was the dog waste, and they have now hired a service to pick up all of the dog waste on a weekly basis.

Jill believes that the house needs a facelift and some improvements. The appliances are old and outdated. She reached out to Sharon to see if she could purchase a stove and we have basically put that on hold. Jill wants people to think about what we are going to do going forward. She doesn't believe she takes the best care of the house. If we decided not to renew the lease she would have to be notified by June.

Rob asked if we didn't renew the lease would we use a service to take care of that or would we do it ourselves. Jill stated that first we would have to get all the work done with the kitchen, then replace the carpet and repainting would probably have to be done. We also need to repair the front steps. If we get the work done, we could get quite a bit more in rent a month. Rob suggested that we could actually raise the rent even with the existing tenant. Rob asked how many bedrooms and bathrooms, there are 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Jill stated that according to the Cape Gazette, rents for that size are typically going for \$1,500 to \$2,000 a month.

It was suggested that if we decide to renew the lease, we will let her know that there will be a rent increase by the 90-day notice so that she could look around for something else if she isn't happy with the increase. Everyone felt that it should be at least \$100/month.

Camp Arrowhead Appeal –

Jill asked again if anyone can make the meeting on Friday. No one responded, so Jill asked Fr. Tom if he would have someone make a presentation during an upcoming vestry meeting. The vestry did agree for Fr. Tom to reach out to see if we can arrange a presentation.

Regathering –

We need to decide, as a vestry, a plan for when we regather. It was decided that the group that met to submit our application to reopen would meet again. That would be Fr. Tom as clergy, Jill and Sharon as Sr. and Jr. Warden, and Scott as the Parish Administrator and Minister of Music. The Bishop has stated that the guidelines for regathering have not changed as of now, so no singing, 6' distancing, masks at all times, and taking of temperatures. The four will meet and we will have an update for the next vestry meeting.

At 8:30 p.m. a motion was made by Sharon to adjourn the meeting, Clara seconded it, all were in agreement.

Next Vestry Meeting – Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 7:00 via zoom

Respectfully submitted by Scott Kresge, Clerk of the Vestry.