

March 23, 2020 Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present at the virtual meeting: Patty Alexander, Vince Adduci, Sue Carroll, Karen Edwards, Robin Reed, Chuck Cash, Frenchie Gogos, Joanne Comstock, Lacy Douglas, Walter Douglas, Cliff White, Fred Bentley, Rosie Sweeney, Carl Adams, Donna Alvarez. February Vestry Meeting minutes were approved pending the addition of Mike Brown's name to the Demographic Task Force. Fred will be timekeeper, Rosie will do the opening prayer in April, and Joanne will do the evaluation. Patty asked us to check in by saying a few words on how we are doing at this difficult time. The Dwelling in the Word discussion was on Second Corinthians 9:10-12. There will be a virtual Vestry Retreat on Saturday, April 18 from 9:00AM to 12 noon.

Lacy Douglas was thanked for her Vestry service and handed the baton off to Walter Douglas.

Rector's Report

The focus of the report is on being the church in a time of pandemic. There will be no public worship until May 16 at the earliest. Per Bishop Mariann, the office is officially closed. Patty comes to check on the building and collect mail; and, with Patty's approval, Kim Matthews comes in to work occasionally. Manor and Wonders are closed for now. Joey is doing virtual music lessons. There is no official word on Holy Week and Easter; the Liturgy committee will be working on that with Patty. There are ways that St. Dunstan's is connecting virtually. There is an online nightly compline service at 9:00PM, and Robin will lead an online morning prayer service following the daily office. The time is to be determined. There is virtual Bible study on Wednesday at 10:30AM. Patty would like to do a virtual Sunday service from the church. Chuck pointed out that he could assist in making a virtual backdrop of our altar, and Patty could be live online in front of that. Patty asked that we let her know about those who need pastoral care. She would like more volunteers to make calls to parishioners. Patty is going to taper back on the daily message and would like volunteers to do an inspirational message or write a blog to be posted. The next topic was Ministry Liaison Assignments. Some Vestry members have signed up and others said they would be happy to be assigned by Patty. She will send out a complete list of assignments, and at the next meeting, we will discuss what our responsibilities are in regard to our assignments. On the matter of outreach to the AME Zion Church, seriously damaged by a summer flood, \$2,000 has been allotted from the Outreach budget, and there are independent gifts from parishioners as well. Rosie said that there should be more publicity on our contributions since not many people know of the situation. Patty reminded us that there is still a possibility that we could share space with a church in Gaithersburg and get some additional income.

Rector's Updates

Because of the pandemic, no one has been hired for the Children's/Youth Ministry position, but Patty has someone in mind who would be very good. In the area of Social Justice, the Deep Dive did not happen, but regional clergy did meet with Cricket Park, and the primary areas of emphasis met with approval. Those areas are mental health, hunger and homelessness. The Demographic Task Force has met once, but their work is on a temporary hold. There is dissatisfaction with the present cleaning service, and Kim is interviewing for a new service and the possibility of a deep cleaning. John Wyss's letter on the dispute with Romero Landscaping was visited, and thanks go out to John for his work on this matter. Patty summarized that their case seems weak. Robin will continue next year as an unofficial intern; she will be with us but not for Seminary credit. Patty is also excited by the possibility of Fergie Horvath, currently a Deacon, joining us as a Seminarian.

Wardens' and Vestry Members Reports

Carl said that he thinks the next fundraiser could be in the Fall, and he is working on ideas for it. Chuck reported for the Building and Grounds Committee. Our new company, Ruppert, did a good job on the

gutters and window wells. They will be doing work on a regular basis. Chuck reported that the Men's Group will be meeting virtually on Friday; and on Saturday, they will have a virtual lunch together.

Treasurer's Report

Via email, Cliff distributed a balance sheet as of February 2020 and a Treasurer's Report for the General Operating Fund. So far, two months in, things look good. Since we've collected large pledges up front, we've collected \$100,000 instead of the \$80,000 projected. There is \$150,000 in the checking and savings. There are no concerns; he will send out regular statements. Chuck asked how the endowment fund was faring in these times of flux. Cliff said that the fund has dropped only two thirds as much as the S & P markets. Cliff also reported, upon her passing, Audrey Rosselot left a bequest of \$10,000 to St. Dunstan's. He suggested that a tithe of 10% be paid to the Outreach Fund. His suggestion was put in motion and passed by a unanimous vote.

After a prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Alvarez