

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2021

**Members Present:** Doug Merritt, Ramona Curtis, Mark Williams, Richard Barber, Beverly Cook, Richard Searcy, Carol Canter, Joe Fesperman, Gwen Temple, Mother Stephanie Parker, Rev. Dn. Susan Whittington

**Others Present:** John Harwell, Bill Harris

The meeting started at 11:05 a.m. with a prayer by Joe Fesperman.

**Meeting Minutes:** Richard Searcy made a motion that was seconded by Doug Merritt to approve the February 14, 2021 Vestry Meeting Minutes. The motion passed.

**Financial Report:** John Harwell advised that February is historically strong and was a good month. Total income for February was \$38,064 and exceeded budget. Non-operating income of \$22,423.66 was received. This was an investment earnings distribution. Profit for the month was \$39,683.33. March does not look quite as strong at this point. Operational checking increased over January. There was very little change in the other funds balances from January. Carol Canter made a motion that was seconded by Gwen Temple to accept the financial report. The motion passed.

**Crisis Assistance:** Carol Canter advised that 49 neighbors have been helped from January thru this point in March. Wilkesboro Methodist, North Wilkesboro Methodist, First Baptist of NW and the Lutheran Church are helping Crisis Assistance. Bag lunches and grocery bags are being distributed. In place of Easter lilies, food for flowers will be done again. Step Ahead is not currently meeting with anyone.

**Sr. Warden:** Mark stated that he is grateful for the work being done around the grounds and the work that crisis is doing. He has gotten information from Reins Sturdivant to help with the cemetery guidelines update. A short term working group of Gwen Temple, Doug Merritt, Carol Canter will work with Mother Stephanie and Mark on this. They will report proposed changes within 6 weeks from today and sooner if possible. Mark has been working on the reopening seating layout for about 60 people with social distancing.

**Jr. Warden:** Joe Fesperman advised there is a drainage issue behind the church. He has a quote for \$1300 and the work will be done. The campus is being pressure washed now. He is working with Michael Laws on cleaning around the stained glass windows and Fred Meyer on cleaning the labyrinth. The lawn maintenance contract has been renewed with Adam Bowers and Cedar Ridge Landscaping. The new contract includes cleaning the gutters three times a year. The furnace in the chapel has been replaced. Volunteers are needed to help with the plantings and raised garden beds.

**Rector's Report:** Mother Stephanie advised that three pledges that were followed up on have been received. It is now time to do this year's Parochial Report for the Diocese. The goal is to start in person

services Easter Sunday. The Diocesan Guidelines have been updated to allow 30% capacity with face masks, social distancing and restrictions on singing and wine. The total number to attend would be 64 for the sanctuary and 23 for the chapel. There would be one service at 9:30 Easter Sunday with the goal of returning to 8:30 and 10:30 services two weeks later on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Parishioners would have to sign up to attend any service. An overnight vestry retreat is being planned for May or June. The next vestry meeting will be in person.

The meeting closed with a prayer for leadership at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Harris

Clerk of the Vestry