

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS – August 2021

A virtual meeting of the Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd was held pursuant to the Bylaws and by the order of the Vestry on Tuesday, August 17, 2021.

Members Present: The Reverend Dr. Doug Scharf, Fr. Derek Larson, Michael Howard, Gwen Gouery, Heather Graham, Beth Bohnsack, Beverly Cunningham, Tracy Smith, Steve Pollard, Rob Taylor, Matt Ulman, Merike Seely, Mike Greene, and Mark Chittum

The meeting opened with prayer.

The **agenda** was approved with a minor modification to reflect the lack of a school financial report.

Financial Reports: Mike Greene presented reviewed Financial Reports for June and July. The reports were reviewed in detail and showed that the parish remains in good financial condition. Year to date the parish continues to have an operating surplus.

School Financial Reports: the school financial reports were not available and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

2020 Annual Financial Review: Mike Greene presented the findings of the annual financial review. The review is conducted to satisfy Diocese requirements. There were no discrepancies identified with regards to general matters. Two recommendations with respect to minor issues with the operating fund were made and accepted by the church.

Pennies for Heaven: Pennies for Heaven has been very successful this year even with reduced operating hours. Given the success and the time invested a compensation increase for Beth Long and Denise Parson was approved.

2021 Assistant Rector Housing Allowance: A portion of Fr. Larson's salary is allocated as a housing allowance. The Vestry approved the allowance for the remainder of the year.

PPP Loan Update: Mike Green informed the Vestry that discussions are still being held with the bank on the application for forgiveness. The application must be submitted by September 5th.

Investment Committee: Mark Chittum presented a report on the church's investments. The balance of the portfolio has increased for the last quarter, Year to date and for the last year.

COVID Safety Protocols and procedures: Due to the increase in COVID 19 infections in Palm Beach and Martin counties mandatory masks will be required for church services and any indoor activity.

BRIDGE Plan Update: The Rev. Dr. Scharf reviewed an annotated BRIDGE plan identifying all the areas of activity related to implementation of the plan.

Fall Program Planning Update: For the fall there will be no change to the worship schedule or to office hours. Staff will be spending more time working from home and limiting the number of staff in the office at one time. Finally, all education and formation programs are on hold until at least September. Program timing will be reassessed as needed.

Vestry Membership: Rev. Dr. Scharf informed the Vestry that the replacement for Mike Hanseter will be approved at the next meeting.

Senior Warden Report: Heather Graham thanked Merike, Mike Greene and Mark Chittum for their work on the various financial issues. Heather also welcomed Fr. Derek and requested prayers for the school as they deliberated on the mask issue.

Junior Warden Report: Mike Howard identified completed and ongoing maintenance items/projects. They included: Continuing AC replacements and repairs; toilet overflow on the Ryan building; completion of room modifications and painting in the Ryan building and plantings on the south side of the church

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM with a prayer led by the Rev. Dr. Scharf.