

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS – December 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, December 14, 2021.

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

The meeting opened with prayer.

The **agenda** was approved as amended to include the Pennies for Heaven Space allocation.

Financial Reports: Mike Greene reviewed Financial Report for November. The results for this point in the fiscal year are remarkable with a small surplus at the end of November. This surplus has not occurred in recent memory. The good result is due to the faithfulness of the parish in supporting the church with their gifts.

School Financial Reports: The School Financial Reports for October was presented. The school is the black both for the month and year to date. Cash flow is strong and enrollment numbers exceed budget. In addition, Parents Association fundraisers have done very well to date and exceed expectations

2022 Giving Update: Merike Seely presented an annual giving comparison report. To date the 2022 annual giving campaign has done very well. We are currently about \$100,000 short of our goal. This amount is much better than last year. Both average pledge and median pledge has increased. Given expected pledges we should reach our goal.

2022 Budget Approval: The final proposed 2022 budget was presented to, and approved by, the Vestry. The proposed budget was revised slightly from the draft reviewed in November to reflect a recalculation of pension obligations. The budget reflects a deficit but is not a major concern since reserves are available and prior proposed budget deficits did not actually materialize.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held on January 23, 2022. There will be one service at 9:00 AM with the meeting scheduled to start at approximately 10:30; a reception will be held in the courtyard after the meeting.

New Initiatives: Fr. Larson has been working remotely with the Dioceses on a program for community engagement. He will be leading a task force with a tool to study all aspects of the local demographics. The church is also developing a Buildings and Grounds Committee to oversee all campus issues. Mike Howard and Jo Woods will be on leaders on the committee.

BRIDGE Plan Update: The BRIDGE plan has been in effect for approximately eighteen months and needs to be updated. The Vestry will update the plan at its retreat in the spring.

Head of School Appointment: Interviews for the Head of School has been held. A final decision is expected in January.

Pennies for Heaven Space Allocation: Pennies for Heaven are using 25% of the Parish Hall for storage and to display large items. The 25% space allocation is still needed for current operations and the use of the space has been extended for 6 months.

2022 Vestry Nominating Committee: The Vestry Nominating Committee is composed of the four outgoing Vestry members: Kathy Hawken, Steve Pollard, Gwen Gouery and Rob Taylor. Five candidates need to be nominated, four for three-year terms and one for a two-year term. Individuals should contact a committee member if they are interested in serving.

Senior Warden Report: Heather Graham clergy, Merike and Mike Greene for their outstanding work in supporting the work of the Vestry. Their hard work is appreciated.

Junior Warden Report: Mike Howard did not provide a specific report but noted that the campus is very active this time of year. As facilities are used more repairs and other problems are identified.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM with a prayer.