

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS January 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, January 19, 2021.

Members Present: The Reverend Dr. Doug Sharf, Kevin Johnson, Michael Howard, Kathy Hawken, Heather Graham, Gwen Gouery, Grace Owosina, Denise Preston, Steve Pollard, Tracy Smith, Rob Taylor, Matt Ulman, Bill Unger, Mike Greene, Merike Seely and Mark Chittum

The meeting opened with prayer. The Agenda was approved as presented. The December 2020 Minutes was approved with minor clarifications to the Financial Report.

Financial Report: Mike Greene gave the Financial Report for December. Total revenue is under budget for the year by \$16,957. Total expenses were under budget by over \$49,000 resulting in a net operating surplus for the year in the amount of \$7,993. Mike Greene praised the amazing support given by the congregation during this pandemic year. In the presentation on the Balance Sheet, it was noted that assets increased due to the surplus and due to the increase in value of the investment account. The value of the restricted revenue accounts also increased due to a bequest, a contribution to outreach and several new funds. The income that was not used because of the PPP loan was put in reserve in case the loan is not forgiven. The church expects to file for loan forgiveness later in the year. The Financial Report was approved unanimously.

In further action the Vestry approved the Finance Committee recommendation to put the \$7,993 year-end surplus into the Building Maintenance Account.

School Financial Report: The School Financial Report was not available in time for the meeting. It will be reviewed at the February Vestry Meeting.

Giving Campaign Update: Merike Seely provided the update. The Stewardship goal is the same as last year at \$618,000. To date we have received \$528,953 in pledges. There are 20 new pledging units and prepaid pledges of \$62,000. Some parishioners with reoccurring payments may not realize they have not yet pledged and will be contacted. The church still expects to meet the goal.

2021 Budget Approval: The Rev. Dr. Scharf stated that the 2021 budget is being changed to revise the process of funding Outreach. Instead of budgeting it in the operating account funding for outreach will moved to the restricted accounts. Due to a gift Outreach is fully funded for 2021 and by implementing targeted fundraising Outreach funding is expected to be the same or increase in the years ahead. The Rev. Dr. Scharf mentioned that this change would also have a positive impact on our Diocesan Assessment.

Additional adjustments were made to the expected revenue in the budget to better reflect new trends. Overall, the revised budget provides for a \$29,120 surplus. The Budget was approved unanimously.

COVID-19 response and re-entry: Based guidance from the Diocesan Reentry Committee, attendance at services is being scaled back 15-20% to increase social distancing from 80 to 65 attendees. Outdoor services on Sunday will continue.

Outreach Committee Lenten Program: The fundraiser will be in cooperation with the South Florida Haiti Project. The goal is to assist struggling families by raising \$17,000 for a container of food to feed school children and families. This will be done instead of packing food which is not possible due to the pandemic. A second container is being funded by the South Florida Haiti Project and the Diocese.

Annual Theme-BRIDGE: The Rev. Dr. Scharf explained that he met with the staff to discuss the theme for the year, based on our goals, feedback and conversations. The 2021 theme will be centered on the word BRIDGE with six areas represented by each letter. The term BRIDGE is appropriate as this is transitional year from the pandemic.

Head of School Transition: A transition Committee is in place. The Committee's recommendation is to appoint an acting Head of School for the school year starting July 1. This process will provide time for a comprehensive survey and search. Heather Vaughn was selected as the acting Head of School. The Vestry unanimously consented to the School Board's appointment of Heather Vaughn.

Youth Report: Grace Owosina provided the Youth Report. The Youth Group is meeting on Wednesdays with usually 20 in attendance; Confirmation classes are ongoing; 15 youth went on a Sunday afternoon hike in Jonathan Dickinson State Park; David Dixon is looking at Sunday School curriculum; and options for the pilgrimage and attendance at Kanuga are being reviewed.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will take place virtually on the 26th of January at 6:00 PM.

Vestry Nominations: The nominees for Vestry are Mike Howard, Beth Bohnsack, Mike Hanseter and Beverley Cunningham.

Senior Warden Report: Kevin Johnson expressed his pleasure serving on the Vestry and commended Father Scharf, Merike and the staff of getting us through the pandemic and back to in person worship.

Junior Warden Report: Tracy Smith reported that COVID-19 cleaning protocols are still being enforced and Christmas setup and break-down was complete.

The meeting closed with prayer for our country.