

Christ Episcopal Church
7145 Fieldcrest Drive
Lockport, NY 14094

Vestry Meeting
January 4, 2021

Attendance

Wardens: Ron Steen, Jack Taylor

Vestry: Debbie Bronschidle, Gloria Bryant, Ken Miller, Cindy Theurer, Cheryl Urtel

Clergy: The Rev. Thomas J Mitchell, The Rev. Joseph Kozlowski

Excused: Jim Glaser

Absent: Patti Dickinson

Other Attendees: Timothy McQueen

Fr. Thomas Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Today is the celebration of Elizabeth Seaton, the first canonized saint in the US and founder of Sisters of Charity, so our opening prayer honored her good works.

Minutes Approval

The following correction was made to the minutes of our last meeting, December 21, 2020: due to the requirement that reports be mailed to those without computers before the online annual meeting, reports are due January 10th, not the 17th as previously announced. Debbie Bronschidle moved the minutes be accepted as amended. Seconded by Gloria Bryant and carried.

Finance

Sue Bauer presented the finance report (see attached copy). Concern for the Alacrity Solutions guarantee (5 years on labor, 1 year on materials) prompted the decision to send a letter to the Diocese and Church Insurance. We replaced the roof in October 2013 using 30-year shingles. In September 2020 repairs were made with shingles with a 1 year warranty – in effect we lost 22 years on the life of the roof. Further, in November repairs were required on the September repairs, and Church Insurance is cutting another check for that.

There was also a discussion on organ upgrades and moving forward with them when finances are tight. The project was approved at the November 15, 2017 meeting and needs to go forward to keep the faith with those who donated. Our organ maintenance person has recently had surgery for colon cancer, so nothing will happen until he recovers from the surgery. From the minutes of that meeting:

Several parishioners have offered donations to the Memorial Organ Fund for new pipes for the organ. This may not be enough to purchase new pipes or renovated pipes from another church. The old pipes could be sold and the money received would also go toward the purchase. A motion was made to accept the contributions offered and ask for donors to assist in the purchase. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn and a new motion made. Sue Bauer made the motion to accept the contributions offered and use the money received from selling the old pipes to go toward new pipes and offer the opportunity for others to contribute if they wish. Seconded by Sue Heschke and carried.

Gloria Bryant moved the report be accepted and the discussed letter to the Diocese and Church Insurance be written. It was seconded by Cindy Theurer and carried.

Remarks by Clergy Present

- Fr. Thomas Mitchell: Drive-in worship is going well. A few people are joining via Zoom and a good number are watching the services once they are posted to YouTube.
- Fr. Joseph Kozlowski: No report

Warden's Reports

- Ron Steen – Sr. Warden: No report
- Jack Taylor – Buildings and Ground: No report

New Business

- Need for Wardens and full Vestry: We have recently become aware of the need for a full Vestry with two Wardens if we wish to remain an autonomous church. The alternative is that we become a mission which means handing over all decision making to the Bishop, and he will be forced to close the church if it is not viable. After discussion, it was decided that Fr. Thomas will write a letter to the members informing them of the situation we are in and requesting that some agree to serve as Wardens or on the Vestry. The letter will be sent to the Vestry for comment before it is sent out.
- Annual Meeting
 - Reports – due January 10, 2021, not on the 17th as previously stated – the guidelines for an online meeting require reports be sent to parishioners with no computer access before the meeting.
 - Guidelines from the Diocese – sent to the Vestry
 - Quorum: ballots will be counted to determine if we have a quorum.
 - Because of the lack of candidates for Vestry and Wardens and concerns about having a quorum on Zoom, during discussion, we realized if it is necessary, we could adjourn the meeting to a later date.
 - Ballots need to be returned before the meeting.
- Furnace Repairs – Sunday morning the church was 47° so Bryk was called. The guy on call Sunday was relatively new and could not get the system running – our system is very complex with four boilers. Monday morning Mike, who is experienced and excellent, came out and found that a wire nut in an electrical box had disintegrated which caused arcing and stopped boiler two. As the arcing continued, it melted the insulation on wires to the other boilers in the box until none of the boilers were working. He made the necessary repairs and the heat is on.

Old Business

- Church Lanterns Update – Tim McQueen: Tim has contacted Modern Electrical Construction, Inc. about the lights in the church. They are coming out to look at the situation on Thursday. They would have two men at \$75/hour each. They will do an estimate, not a quote. It was decided that the men in the parish will move the pews out of the way to save time and reduce the cost of the project.
- Christ Church Emergency Plan: in order to become an emergency shelter, the next step is to provide information on the facility to Niagara County. There is no good way

to reproduce the prints of the building, but we can take pictures of the rooms and measurements (similar to what realtors do when a home is for sale) and give that to the County. Debbie Bronschidle and Gloria Bryant will do that on Saturday after the food drive. An in-person tour will be possible once COVID is over.

- Employee Letters of Agreement – postponed to the next meeting.

Closing

Fr. Thomas Mitchell offered the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Bauer
Office Manager

**Next Vestry Meeting:
February 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom**