

Christ Episcopal Church
7145 Fieldcrest Drive
Lockport, NY 14094

Vestry Meeting
February 8, 2021

Attendance

Wardens: Jack Taylor, Gloria Bryant

Vestry: Mary Brennan-Taylor, Debbie Bronschidle, Pat O. Few, Theresa McCabe, Ken Miller, Ann Rucci, John Scott, Cheryl Urtel, Sue Venezia-Waddell

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

Excused:

Absent:

Other Attendees: Tim McQueen

Fr. Thomas Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm and offered the opening prayer. New members were then installed.

Minutes Approval

There were no corrections to the minutes of the January 4th meeting. Mary Brennan-Taylor moved the minutes be accepted as written. Seconded by Sue Venezia-Waddell and carried.

Finance

The finance report was given by Sue Bauer. There is a typo in the emailed report that has been corrected in the official copy: the number in the last line on page one should be \$ 5,765.81 not \$5,65.81. It looks like we will finally get a refund for Employee Retention Credit as ADP has our 941 correct for the 4th quarter of 2020. Theresa McCabe moved the report be accepted. It was seconded by John Scott and carried. A couple accountants were suggested to do our annual audit. Sue Bauer will follow up.

Remarks by Clergy Present

- Fr. Thomas Mitchell: 1) Fr. Thomas pointed out that the Vestry is responsible for ministry for the parish, i.e. the spiritual side of what we do. Sue Bauer will send a list of ministries and have a list of assigned ministries with reports for the next meeting. He would like us to look at our mission statement also. 2) He acknowledged there is a lot of concern for the church because we are staying closed. The concern is that we are losing people but at the same time we need to protect our elderly (most of the parishioners) and that is what the Bishop is concerned about. We are doing our best to balance needs with safety. 3) Fr. Thomas is calling three people a night, and he encouraged all Vestry members to also call parishioners for a chat. 4) Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 pm. He is looking for something spiritual for Lent – perhaps a discussion group or book discussion. 5) He urged Vestry members to consider doing new job periodically to stay fresh.
- Fr. Joseph Kozlowski: Fr. Joe made three points: 1) The Diocese is the basic unit of Episcopal Church, which is why we follow the Bishop's directions. 2) The Vestry needs to concentrate on ministry, not facility maintenance. 3) We need to get back to assigning members to ministry and having monthly reports.

Warden's Reports

- Jack Taylor – Sr. Warden: no report tonight.
- Gloria Bryant – Buildings and Ground: no report tonight.

New Business

- Review minutes of Annual Meeting: This is a review for accuracy only – the minutes will be accepted at the Annual Meeting next year. No changes were suggested.
- Furnace Maintenance Contract – HW Bryk & Sons: Gloria Bryant wants more quotes before we make a decision. No action taken.
- Parochial Report: Gloria Bryant moved we add Martha Farone (she still does a lot for Christ Church even though she now serves the whole Deanery) to the list of Clergy and accept the Parochial Report. Seconded by Mary Brennan-Taylor and passed unanimously.
- Vestry Terms: Those with the three highest votes will take the three 3-year terms: Pat O Few, Theresa McCabe, and Sue Venezia-Waddell. Ann Rucci will do the 2-year term, and the two 1-year terms go to Mary Brennan-Taylor and John Scott.
- Diocesan Wardens' Conference: Fr. Thomas Mitchell encouraged Jack and Gloria to attend the online meeting on 2/20/2021. He finds meetings with others holding the same position are usually valuable opportunities to discuss issues and learn from each other.
- Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, March 8th. We will meet the second Monday of each month.
- Old website: The Diocese hired a new company to take over hosting and managing the websites supported by the Diocese. There is also a new domain host. The new website company will convert the old site to a new format and train all the webmasters. Pat Few will be doing a lot of training and then a lot of work to update the site, especially with new photos, which couldn't be added to the old site. Everyone agreed that the site is a valuable tool to interest potential new members and keep others informed of what is happening at Christ Church. Thanks, Pat, for your ongoing service as webmaster.
- John Scott asked the members to be thinking about the possibility of applying for a PPP loan in spite of the Bishop's objection to it. Sue Bauer pointed out that you cannot apply for both a PPP loan and ERC. In effect we would lose the option to get the checks (no strings attached) in order to get a loan that we can hope would be forgiven.
- Gloria Bryant said there is a desperate need for peanut butter and jelly right now. Please add it to other donations for the Food Drive on Saturday, February 13th.

Old Business

- Employee Letters of Agreement: Fr. Thomas has signed all the letters and will be sending them to the employees to sign. He will discuss concerns with each employee.
- Church Lanterns Update – Tim McQueen: Tim is still talking to Brian at Hildreth about doing our lanterns. He is going to talk to them about not changing the altar peak lights to see if that makes it more doable for them – they would not need to reach as high with a lift or scaffolding.

- Tim McQueen is concerned about the organ company that maintains our organ. They closed in December when the owner had surgery, but they are still closed. Hopefully it is just to avoid COVID while he recovers.
- Christ Church Emergency Plan: Ken Miller is extracting room sizes from the church drawings so we can provide information needed by the county emergency planner. He is about half done.

Adjournment

Fr. Thomas Mitchell offered the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Bauer
Office Manager

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