

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
7145 Fieldcrest Drive  
Lockport, NY 14094

**Vestry Meeting**  
March 8, 2021

**Attendance**

*Wardens:* Jack Taylor, Gloria Bryant

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

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

*Excused:*

*Absent:* Theresa McCabe

*Other Attendees:* Tim McQueen

Fr. Thomas Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and offered the opening prayer.

**Minutes Approval**

There were no corrections to the minutes of our last meeting on February 8, 2021. John Scott moved the minutes be accepted as presented. Seconded by Pat Few and carried.

**Finance**

Sue Bauer gave the Finance report. After talking to the Finance Committee who recommend using EFT and confirming the Diocese has no issues with using EFT to pay as many bills as possible, Sue recommended we use EFT. Following discussion about other options and the issues, John Scott moved we use EFT to eliminate issues with receiving bills and mailing checks. Mary Brennan-Taylor seconded the motion and it carried.

John Scott said that after further investigation, he believes that applying for ERC (Employee Retention Credit) is more beneficial than PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) loans, so he withdrew the recommendation we apply for a PPP loan.

There was discussion about the Finance Committee. The Vestry wants them to meet quarterly and become the decision makers on all matters financial. Among other things they are to decide when to send contribution statements. It was decided that Fr. Thomas and the Wardens will write a letter to the Finance Committee advising them of their added responsibilities.

Mary Brennan-Taylor moved the finance report be accepted. It was seconded by Debbie Bronschidle and carried.

**Remarks by Clergy Present**

- Fr. Thomas Mitchell: The clergy retreat last Thursday and Friday was very good. There was time for discussion and he found everyone shares a common situation – it's not just our church who is anxious to reopen. Thanks for all the cards and food after his father died. Burial will be March 18<sup>th</sup> in Florida so Fr. Thomas will be going down for the day. Sunday services are going well and attendance is good (last Sunday there were 25 in the parking lot and 8 on

YouTube Live), but he is still hoping to open by Easter. There is no announced date for Bp. Sean Rowe to reevaluate opening churches. Linda Betts is home and she was getting her COVID shot today.

- Fr. Joseph Kozlowski: no report

### **Warden's Reports**

- Jack Taylor – Sr. Warden: Jack asked about the roof warranty questions we had earlier. The warranty is Alacrity then Property Services of WNY then the roof manufacturer's warranty on the shingles. This is per a Church Insurance representative. There was no response from either the Diocese or Church Insurance regarding paying for the second set of repairs.
- Gloria Bryant – Buildings and Grounds: The furnace filters will be replaced this week.

We need an outreach coordinator. We need new blessing boxes in underserved areas of town. Debbie Bronschidle will get info on new boxes (which would need shelves). Fr. Thomas recommended we put together a map showing where the current boxes are so it would be easier to identify underserved areas of town. Tim McQueen pointed out there is great need in the northwest and western neighborhoods.

### **Old Business**

- Employee Letters of Agreement – no update
- Church Lanterns Update – Tim McQueen: We still have no quotes (it's only been a week) but Johnson Electric seems interested in doing the job. Hildreth still has not sent a quote.

### **New Business**

- Vestry Report Assignments – We discussed various assignments.
- Furnace Maintenance Contract – HW Bryk & Sons: Gloria Bryant made a motion we accept the maintenance contract as submitted by Bryk. John Scott seconded the motion and it carried. Tim McQueen suggested that we require Mike (he's the one who knows the system and can fix it) be the only one sent to work on our system.
- Gardening and Landscaping Proposal from Sue Lerch – Sue Lerch and Marilyn Freeman are willing to do the gardening on all but the garden by the flag poles if John Scott would take on landscaping that area once the wall is down. John agrees to that.
- Vestry Letter to the Bishop – John Scott would like the Vestry to write a letter to Bp. Sean about opening churches. Vaccines are more available, we could still require masks, and social distancing could still be practiced. Ventilation is still an issue in our church (and in most restaurants) as is rehanging the lanterns so no more will fall. Restaurants are now operating at 75% and people have masks off to eat. After discussion, it was decided that rather than send a letter it would be more effective for Fr. Thomas to talk to all clergy in this deanery and see if the group could influence the Bishop to open.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Food Drives – March & April: There is need of more protein, so please focus on that along with all the other items.

### **Closing**

Fr. Thomas Mitchell offered the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sue Bauer*  
Office Manager

**Next Vestry Meeting:**  
**April 12, 2021 7:00 pm via Zoom**

**April Reports:**  
Church School & Youth (Cheryl), Congregational Care (Ann),  
Men's Group (Ken), Outreach (Theresa)