

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING MAY 20, 2021

The May Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:00 p m by Fr. Josh Stephens, our Rector. Members attending were: Senior Warden Jennifer Shelton, Junior Warden, Jerry Tanner, John Barker, Elizabeth Christenbury, Terry Enslin, Marie Hyder, Shelley Schiro, Lynn Wiescholek, and Dick Zecher. Cynthia Easterling, Janet Johnson, and Gibson Sims were absent.

Devotional: The opening devotional was led by Terry Enslin who read from the compilations of Oswald Chambers – *My Utmost for His Highest*.

Approval of Minutes: Marie made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15 Vestry meeting; it was seconded by Jerry and was passed.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh began by discussing the Bishop's visit that included confirmation and reception into the church as well as Fr. Josh's official installation as our Rector. The services, which were held outside the carriage entrance, were well attended. Fr. Josh expressed his appreciation for the gifts, the reception, and the efforts of all who participated.

In further business, following the resignation of Janet Johnson from the Vestry, Fr. Josh made a motion to replace Janet's position on the Vestry with E.R. Haire. It was seconded by Terry and was passed by the Vestry.

Continuing, Fr. Josh discussed the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of St. John scheduled for Sunday, June 27 @ 5:00 p.m. at Hubba Hubba with food and drink available for purchase. Along with the St. John parish, the Village of Flat Rock will be invited. A bluegrass band, *Pretty Little Goat*, will be performing.

The Stewardship Committee will be meeting soon to discuss the upcoming Stewardship Campaign. Fr. Josh talked about possible themes and the Stewardship timeline. Letters will be mailed in September and events surrounding the campaign are being planned. One focus will be increasing the number of pledging units.

Concluding, Fr. Josh announced the regathering of the Healing service on Wednesdays, the Tuesday evening gathering, and the upcoming Creation Care Camp scheduled for June 14-18. Creation Care Camp for ages 4 – 10, will focus on nature study, devotions, and play. Youth who are above the age of ten may serve as camp counselors.

Senior Warden's Report – Jennifer expressed her gratitude to everyone who helped with the Bishop's visit and events surrounding the confirmations and installation last Sunday.

Junior Warden's Report - Jerry reported that he and Tom had meet to discuss the feasibility of going forward with a truck for Kevin and installation of new doors for the Education Building. He also discussed a new key system for the church that ensures keys cannot be duplicated. In addition, Jerry stated that the church is on a wait list with John Pace from Tar Heel Paving who will update the parking areas.

Committee Reports

Eucharist Visits – Dick reported that retirement villages and nursing homes are now open for visits. We have 10 households with 15 total people who wish to be included. However, currently we have only 8 members who are trained as Lay Eucharist Ministers. There will be a meeting soon to go over new procedures. In addition to his report on Eucharist Visits, Dick also made a plea for volunteers to help with the Gate Opening Ministry.

Historic Churchyard - The Historic Churchyard Committee has scheduled a spring workday for June 5th from 9 AM to noon. All are welcome. The Committee appreciates the support from the Vestry and the interest that Father Josh has shown in the churchyard. Several morning prayer services from different locations around the church highlight what a special place the churchyard really is.

Episcopal Church Women - ECW announced a sale of previously donated items on June 9. The Storage Shed, which is used to hold donated items, must be emptied so that repairs can be made. While the building is structurally sound with a good foundation and solid frame, some areas in the building has been deemed unsafe. However, it has been difficult to find contractors to repair the shed. Efforts are continuing.

Pastoral Care - Terry has taken prayer shawls to some members of the congregation. The Committee will meet in June to further define their mission and explore new ways to serve.

Additionally, a newly formed church committee is working to welcome new families to the parish. They will prepare baskets filled with gifts and information about St, John in the Wilderness. A copy of Louise Bailey's book will be included.

Treasurer's Report- Tom reported on the 2021 Operating Income / Expenses and Forecast as well as the Balance Sheet. Income continues to exceed Expenses at the present time and Tom projects a small surplus at the end of this year if current trends continue.

Tom also reported that the current balance on the loan from PNC for the new Parish Hall is \$125,414. We have accumulated \$40,620 in our Mortgage Debt Sinking Fund for payment against the principal of the loan. Negotiations with PNC for early payment of the principal have commenced.

Examining **Outreach**, at the end of April more than \$28,000 had been disbursed from all Outreach Funds and Accounts. This represents 34% of our 2020 Outreach disbursements and 30% of our 2019 disbursements. There remains \$173,135 available for disbursement, including ongoing programs such as Backpack and ECW. Except for the ongoing receipts and disbursements of ECW, Backpack and Good Friday Collections, there were no additional disbursements for Outreach during April.

Tom was pleased to report that the Organ Project has been completed. The final payments for the project have been made: Angerstein Organ Works, Ltd. and Morgan Master Electrician Company. Angerstein has agreed to cover the cost of the second electrician that was required to

complete the work. Adjustments to our Balance Sheet to transfer Construction-in-Process will be forthcoming.

Operating Reserve and Capital Reserve: Tom has prepared an analysis of our Operating Reserve and Capital Replacement Reserve. A proposed Operating Reserve and Capital Replacement Reserve Policy and Recommendations have been reviewed by the Finance Committee and will be presented to the Vestry for their consideration and adoption. After discussion, the Vestry will continue to study the information and vote on the policy proposal at the June meeting.

Financial Audit: Contact has been made with Corliss & Solomon and with Carland & Andersen Inc. to request proposals for audit of our 2020 finances and processes, and possibly some aspects of our 2019 finances. An audit report for 2020 is due to the Diocese by September 1. Carl Shaw CPA, PLLC, who conducted the audit for 2017 at a cost of \$12,975, has not responded to emails or phone calls. A request is hereby made of the Vestry to appoint an audit team of three independent parishioners to select an auditor, oversee the audit, and report the results to the Vestry.

Jerry made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded by Jennifer and was passed by the Vestry. After a closing prayer, the May Vestry Meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry