

## **The Church of the Good Shepherd**

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Minutes for August 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting by Zoom due to the COVID-19  
Pandemic

**Clergy and Staff present:** Arianne Rice+

**Officers present:** Tina Thomas (Sr. Warden), Harry Andrews (Junior Warden), Dick Reid (Treasurer), Bill Nesbitt (in coming Treasurer) Cynthia Fraser (Registrar)

**Vestry members present:** Missy Adams, John Bonn, Liza Ebeling, Harry Gormley Jr., Kate Knott, Brooke Riegel, Hillary Shaffer, Rebecca Williams

**Vestry members absent:** Van Gardner+, Bill Baker, Sarah Lemon (GS Day School Director)

### **WELCOME AND GROUP CHECK INS**

The meeting opened at 6:30 PM by Zoom since everyone was social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Arianne+ opened asking everyone for a two word check in as to how they were feeling and a spiritual reflection from 1 Corinthians 3:7-9.

“Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

She asked us to reflect on the following: “As we give so much time and energy to our roof and building, I invite us to reflect on what our community is beyond a building? What holds us together? As servant leaders, what is our common purpose? Are you finding growth in your faith through the work of this community?”

We then broke into smaller groups and discussed this for 10 minutes. We then shared our answers which included that since the pandemic we are more like a church than ever before calling to check on one another, we appreciate the people we are working with on the Vestry, we appreciate the Brene Brown classes from Arianne, the Sacred Circle workshops, our work with SLYC during Camp Imagination, the virtual coffee hours after the 10AM services, creating a sense of family, and it was mentioned the Ruxton community has enjoyed our bell ringing project.

### **RECTOR’S REPORT:**

Arianne+ said the 8AM outdoor services are going well and she is looking to expand to 20 people social distancing in September. At 10 AM, she is hoping to add a solo or duet from the choir soon. By September 20<sup>th</sup>, she would like to invite more lay ministers to assist with the 10AM service and maybe add a small group of 10 indoors with windows open and socially distancing. She has asked the B&G Taskforce to help make this feasible, and Bill Nesbitt asked about cleaning before and after each service? She also wants them to look into allowing a few people to be allowed into the church for silent prayer, but B&G Committee said they are not ready for that yet.

She mentioned a Homecoming Sunday on September 13<sup>th</sup> which would be a zoom event after the 10 AM service, to get everyone engaged after the summer break and to discuss what is going on with the church community and with the roof, steeple and bell tower repairs, and mention the beginning of the Capital and Annual Giving Campaigns.

She also mentioned a need to do more with youth and families, but it is challenging with social distancing.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Bill Nesbitt is our new Treasurer. He said the church continues to be in sound financial shape and our investments have actually made money since March. We are almost back to our pre-pandemic status. Mark McGrath met with the Finance Committee and discussed an investment strategy to balance how we use our funds better, especially those which we need to be more easily accessible. He mentioned a \$7,000 gift for the steeple renovation and he will use the Disciples Fund to finish this phase of the roof repair. We discussed the Harris Jones Memorial Fund and it was determined this was designated for the Buildings & Grounds and not necessarily the steeple. There is \$541,000 currently in the Disciples Fund. He said the Operating Account has \$51,000 for steeple. He is working with Dick Reid on getting the application from M+T for the application for forgiveness for the PPE loan money. People are paying their pledges early this year, he said.

### **JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT:**

Harry Andrews showed a photo of the roof with the new slate shingles. The steeple he said is leaning and the lightning rod is the only thing holding it up. The cost to take it off the roof is \$14,665. They need to take it down to finish the slate roof and would like to not interfere with the Day School carpool lines in about 2 weeks. He said that Cole Roofing can store it with a tarp for 2-3 months until we decide if we want to repair for about \$150K or get a fiberglass replica made or not have a steeple and use the bell tower as our steeple with a cross on top. The Bell Tower also needs repair but it can be deferred until next year and can be fixed with new fascia boards for now. To fix the Bell Tower would be \$47,500. Harry suggested that this be repaired simply now as part of the current roof repair and that the bigger repair be part of the Capital Campaign. He was asking if the B&G Committee is ok with this?

### **SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:**

Tina Thomas discussed moving the Annual Meeting to January like most other churches and it would be the first Sunday after Epiphany. The vestry members due to rotate off this past May would stay on until January 2021 and those scheduled to rotate off in May 2021 would stay on until January 2022. Brooke Riegel brought up that we need to come up with new Vestry candidates now for this coming January. Tina said they will discuss the date change in the Homecoming Zoom meeting with the congregation and get approval from the congregation to change the bylaws. They can then be changed at the Annual Meeting in January.

Tina invited the Vestry to call all the parishioners and organized a phone-a-thon to invite members to the Homecoming Town Meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a presentation on the roof, the building, all that is going on and connected with the church.

She said that Bill Baker has agreed to Chair the Annual Giving Campaign with Harry Gormley's help. Tina will be Chairing the Capital Campaign which will run concurrently with Annual Giving. She said she needs some volunteers to help her and Bill will need another volunteer.

Tina has been working on laying the foundation for launching a \$1 million-dollar Capital Campaign to raise the money needed for the following: finish all phases of the roof, hire an assistant rector for three years, make other improvements on the physical plant and raise our endowment funds. She plans to launch this at the Homecoming Meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Missy questioned whether it was a good idea to run the campaigns concurrently, and Tina said she met with the Finance Committee on August 10<sup>th</sup> and they recommended them together.

Tina asked for support from the Vestry in all of these endeavors.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **DAY SCHOOL REPORT:**

Liza Ebeling said she met with the Day School Board and they will have a staggered opening and are excited to open. They have worked hard to open responsibly including having a GBMC doctor by video conference to help with the psychological effects of Covid-19. They will have a cleaning service every day and have added hand sanitizer stations and will use the church tent for some activities outside in good weather. Ascension Lutheran is partnering with Good Shepherd as some teachers cannot return because they have kids at home, who are not returning to school this Fall. Liza said "hats off to Sarah" and her staff for navigating this pandemic incredibly well and preparing for all eventualities.

#### **OUTREACH COMMITTEE:**

John Bonn and Hillary Shaffer reported there was no meeting in July as we are participating in the Sacred Circles discussions with Mabeth Hudson. SLYC had their showcase at the end of their Camp Imagination. Cynthia Fraser was able to see it online and Brooke Riegel went in person with water balloons and gifts for the campers. Brooke said Jackie really stepped up and did a great job helping the kids this year.

Arianne+ mentioned that the \$150K to repair the steeple could fund the St. Luke's program for 3 years. She also said she needs more volunteers to help Kate Knott and Wim Cassard with the AV during the 10AM services. Tina asked that the vestry members upload photos of themselves for the online church directory to encourage others to add photos as well.

#### **PASTORAL NEEDS:**

Arianne+ asked that we pray for Van Gardner's + continued recovery. Others offered up silent prayers for other pastoral needs. We concluded by saying "The Lord's Prayer." The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments:

Rector's Report

Senior Warden Report

Junior Warden's Report