

The Church of the Good Shepherd
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Minutes for March 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting by Zoom due to the COVID-19
Pandemic

Clergy and Staff present: Arianne Rice+

Staff Absent: Sarah Lemon (GS Day School Director)

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

Vestry members present: Missy Adams, Bill Baker, Liza Ebeling, Mary Ellen Gervais, Harry Gormley Jr., Jill Hanson, Brooke Riegel, Marge Rodgers, Barry Rollins, Rebecca Williams

WELCOME AND GROUP CHECK INS

Arianne + welcomed everyone and she quickly went over our agenda for the evening and opened with a prayer for Church meetings from the Book of Common Prayer, page 814. We then checked in and the question was “what is bringing you joy and what are you finding challenging?”

RECTOR REPORT

Arianne+ discussed the plan for regathering and admitting that we won't have all the answers and as faith community she asked for prayers for several parishioners who passed away in the last week. She mentioned how much the Valentines meant to our seniors that were sent by the COGS Connects group. She mentioned the Lenten Book Club is meeting twice a week until Easter and the discussion about Bishop Curry's book, “Love is the Way” have been great.

She said she plans to try and have two Palm Sunday services at 8 AM and 10 AM, limited to 30 people at each service, indoors and that people have to register in advance. She is planning on 4 masked singers, an organist, Bill Nesbitt assisting her and several ushers, so the total number of people will be closer to 40. If the positivity rate exceeds 5%, then we can't gather. Tina said she will have a Sign-Up Genius for each service and she would like the Vestry members to sign up to be greeters. Arianne+ is also thinking about a Good Friday service, but is not sure about Easter yet.

She said we would have a guest rector on March 21st, Dan Meck, the Head Chaplain at the St. Paul's Schools. Arianne+ is planning a short vacation from April 15-20th and Jim Holmes, a semi- retired clergy member will be our guest rector on April 20th.

Bishop Sutton is planning to visit Good Shepherd on May 2nd and confirm those who should have been confirmed last Spring. The Vestry will meet with him before the 10 AM service at 9 and there may be a way for some to participate by Zoom.

She reported she is still looking for an Associate Rector, there is a dearth of applicants at this time. She mentioned that as we begin to regather, we will be reconnecting with the Day School and there is a great opportunity to reconnect.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Tina Thomas deferred to Harry Andrews to discuss regathering and the school wanting to expand their use of the building.

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Harry Andrews talked about regathering. Several Vestry members went on a tour of the space with Arianne+. Harry said the pews are not wide enough for more than one person unless it is a family and they will space people every other pew with masks. They said there will be no tent this year for outdoor worship and it would not be pleasant with the cicadas.

He talked about the uses of the building as a school, for counseling, yoga, AA and other activities, and that the Day School is looking to expand into some of our spaces. We need to discuss our mission and what is good for the church and the Day School. Someone mentioned the cost share and that we share services like cleaning and trash removal. Coming out the pandemic we need to talk about multi-purpose spaces. Arianne+ reminded us that we are a Church with a mission that has a school and we share a tax id number and they are a potential income stream.

She mentioned again that we need a committee to discuss the Day School and sharing spaces coming out of pandemic. She suggested Jill, Rebecca, Brooke and Liza to start to group.

Bill Nesbitt said the Vestry needs to think about where do we want to be in 3-5 years and if we have a unified vision about the Day School.

TREASURER REPORT

Bill Nesbitt then reported that although the Day School had a difficult year last year financially due to the pandemic, and no summer camp, they did pay their cost share and they plan to pay back the \$58K we loaned them last year. He thinks they need to share their budget and be more transparent about their finances, and we need to be in sync about renovations they plan, referencing the proposed deck out back on Boyce Avenue.

Arianne+ commented that she is meeting weekly with Sarah Lemon.

Bill said that return to in person worship should not change our expenses that much. He said that some members of the Finance Committee recently retired and that he could use some new volunteers if the Vestry knows of anyone interested. Snow removal was expensive this year, costing \$11K, but the church is still in good financial shape.

CLOSING REMARKS

Arianne+ mentioned that she will be giving out palms in the church parking lot from 11-2PM after the Palm Sunday service if anyone would like to stop by and help her.

She mentioned COGS Connects and she hoped we would continue this ministry. Brooke mentioned she hopes to do something in the Spring. Barry and Liza talked about helping to possibly distribute some blessed palms to the seniors in assisted living.

Arianne+ asked for pastoral concerns and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

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