

The Church of the Good Shepherd
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Minutes for May 23, 2021 Annual Meeting held by Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Clergy and Staff: Arianne Rice+, Sarah Lemon (GS Day School Director)

Arianne+ announced that she was taping the meeting on Zoom.
First, the group broke out into small groups of 4-5 to talk and reconnect.

RECTOR'S REPORT:

Arianne+ led us in a prayer for the meeting. She then proposed that we change the date of our Annual Meeting to within (60) sixty days of Epiphany and suggested this go into effect starting in January 2022. It is easier to get more people to attend than in the Spring, and it is easier to schedule a Vestry retreat. The Nominating Committee will then present new names for Vestry in the Fall and present them at the January Annual Meeting.

Arianne+ then did a Zoom poll which showed unanimous support, and the change was accepted.

She then thanked Harry Andrews for his years of service as Junior Warden and for staying on beyond his term during the pandemic. Tina Thomas, Senior Warden, thanked him for his help as she took on the role of Senior Warden and for getting the church through a really challenging time. She announced that Bill Baker will be the new Junior Warden and he will do a fine job for the church. Julie Minch was thanked for her work on the Altar Guild and all the Altar Guild members were thanked.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Tina Thomas said she emailed out her full report and she reiterated the quotes she included about being flexibility in this pandemic. She gave special thanks to Wim for his help with technology, the choir and Arianne+ for being so flexible and leading us through such as challenging time.

She thanked Rebecca Williams and Cynthia Fraser for coordinating the bell ringing effort to honor healthcare workers during the pandemic. Rebecca organized Good Shepherd parishioners to ring every day at 7 PM from late April till September. Cynthia organized other churches in the area to join us, getting about a dozen different denominations, and helped in promoting the word to area hospitals, so they knew we were ringing for them.

Tina thanked the Vestry and said it is a great experience, very bonding and she made new friends and learned a lot.

She thanked Arianne+ for organizing Sacred Ground and “Love is the Way”, which were great programs, she hopes we have more of in the future.

She mentioned Stewardship and that we need more pledges, we are not there yet to meet our yearly goal. She also said we need more help in technology with live streaming and thanked John Horine for stepping into to help.

She thanked the Altar Guild, Julie Minch, Christy Root and others and said they need more help even if just to help clean up after a service, no flower arranging skills necessary.

She thanked Mabeth Hudson for keeping the Outreach Committee going and active throughout the pandemic.

The Personnel Committee is still searching for an Associate Rector, and they continue to meet monthly.

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Harry Andrews said they wrapped up some projects this year, but didn't start new ones. There were repairs needed like the water heater and some electrical work and he said the church is aging so there is always something that is needed. It was good we invested in the AV equipment, it has served us well in the pandemic for streaming services and he thanked Sara Noon for spearheading that effort. The roof on the Nave is complete and only one more phase of roofing left to complete. He said, "a church is not a building, it's the people and he thanked everyone."

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bill Nesbitt reported the church is in a strong financial position, especially the balance sheet and endowments. We have a \$3 million asset base with few liabilities. He did mention a few areas of concern. For the past three years, the church has been operating at a deficit and not meeting expenses. He is also concerned we have not met our Stewardship goal of \$425,000. Currently, we have \$350,000 in pledges, so we are \$75,000 short. He wonders how quick we will return to in person worship in full and if that will help with Stewardship? The Church applied for and received loans during the pandemic and they have been forgiven. He said we need to fund an Associate Rector and sure up our staffing, we need a tech savvy expert for the streaming services, we have Capital needs for large expensive projects like finishing the roof, AC will need to be replaced soon and kitchen upgrades, so we will need a Capital Campaign soon. He thanked Kim Chalmers for making his job easy.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mabeth Hudson echoed Tina Thomas's quote about flexibility and she said the Outreach Committee continued to meet the needs of the community and world even while not meeting in person. She thanked Jill Hanson for Loaves and Fishes, Suzanne Whitney for ACTC, Stephanie Bartal for SLYC and Cynthia Fraser for Communications. She also said Ellen Brinkley quietly put together the Lenten Booklet this year based on the Sacred Ground experience.

She said SLYC will be having Camp Imagination for two weeks at Good Shepherd at the end of July and will need volunteers. She said thanked Suzanne Whitney, Barty and Clai Carr for their home food collection sites for ACTC and for Barry and Muffy Rollins and Jane Love for volunteering.

DAY SCHOOL REPORT:

Sarah Lemon, the Day School Director, said the school was active most of the year and only closed for two months. They had their highest enrollment ever Sept 1st, but it dropped to 81

during the pandemic partly because they could not do the parent toddler classes which involved 27 students. Some of the staff had to quit to stay home with their kids since Baltimore County Public Schools were closed. Ascension Lutheran helped to fill the gap because they were not able to reopen and so some of their teachers helped out at Good Shepherd. They shared curriculums, grant opportunities and Good Shepherd's experience with reopening helped Ascension Lutheran when they were finally able to reopen too. Sarah thanked the teachers and staff and especially to Arianne+ for helping to make their lives easier with a task force that kept them up to date on the Diocesan guidelines. She gave special thanks to Harry Andrews, Rebecca Williams, Poppy, Tina Thomas and Board members, Dee Baker who stayed on for a 4th year, and Sydney Baker for staying on the Day School Board. She thanked the three teachers, who are retiring this year, and a special thanks to Harry Andrews for getting the roof fixed without any disruption to the school.

The 2021-2022 school year has 135 kids enrolled and she is excited to expand the kindergarten. She is grateful to the church and Kevin King for sharing the Choir Room and for the church being gracious in sharing Room #14, the nursery and foyer for the expanding Day School. She is looking forward to the June meeting with Arianne+ and Ann Mellow from the Association of Episcopal Schools to discuss how the school and the church can support each other's missions.

Arianne+ said she has two baptisms today and said there are holes in the children and youth ministries. She was happy Bishop Sutton+ was able to confirm the teens who should have been confirmed last May. She wants to get the teens back and said she needs a second clergy to help with generational needs and with overall staffing. She hopes to have a special prayer during her June 6th service for anyone graduating this Spring.

She mentioned that the Diocese is taking it slowly with re-entry and they are still in the orange phase, so masking is still required at services and limited attendance. She hopes in June they will move to yellow, and then we might be able to have a Coffee Hour.

She thanks Kim Chalmers and Lauren Rohrs for their extraordinary help during this time. She also thanked the Altar Guild and put out a request for more volunteers. She thanked Sara Noon, Wim Cassard for his leadership with the technology for the streaming services and to Kate Knott for learning and helping Wim with all the remote services.

Rebecca Williams thanked Arianne+ for being our rock and doing the work of many people during the pandemic. She appreciated her sermons and leadership in this unprecedented time.

Arianne+ said, for the summer, she will be combining services from June 27- August 15. They will be at 9 AM, and she will have some guest preachers over the summer.

The Annual Meeting ended at 11:54 AM.

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

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