

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

September 15, 2020

Vestry Member Attendees: Linda Lund, Don Greer, Jim Whitcomb, Janet Guillen, Bruce Howard, Carol Lenker, Tori Smith, and Adrian Quintanilla.

Vestry Members Absent: None

Other Attendees: Father Ripp Hardaway, Reverend Lucy Strandlund, Pam Johnson, and Shelley Howard.

Guest Speaker: Steve Alwais, St. George's Episcopal Church, San Antonio, Texas

Reverend Lucy led the Vestry members in the Order for Evening from the Book of Common Prayer. Janet Guillen provided the devotional from the book, Open Hands, chapter five, "Prayer and Prophetic Criticism."

Upon conclusion, the meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Linda Lund, Senior Warden.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY – GUEST SPEAKER – STEVE ALWAIS

Steve Alwais gave a brief synopsis of his life of transitioning from being of the Jewish faith to accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior. He expressed the importance of trusting God to provide by sharing our time, talent and treasure thinking from your spiritual heart. Steve will be communicating his message to the congregation in October. Steve closed with the "Serenity Prayer". (See presentation attached)

MINUTES

The August 18, 2020, minutes were presented. Motion was made by Jim Whitcomb and seconded by Janet Guillen to accept and approve the minutes as written/presented. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reopening Strategy Updates

Linda Lund, Senior Warden, informed the Vestry members that most of the signage had been completed including handwashing, signs outlining protocols to be posted in/outside the Sanctuary. Safety guidelines have been written for those participating in the Altar Guild, Adult Choir, Lay Readers/Acolytes and greeters and ushers willing to volunteer to come into the church. Another call out for volunteers has been made to the Ministry Leaders for participation, noting that the Vestry members have acknowledged their willingness to help. Schedules will be made as the same people will not be able to come each week. Sign Up Genius is ready to roll out for congregants to register to come to Church services. Children's participation in the service will be at the discretion of the family's comfort level.

Is it now time to open? Indoor/Outdoor services? A discussion ensued noting that 52 of the 85 churches are holding some type of service. Janet Guillen reported on the status of COVID-19 cases in the school district showing a positive outcome as well as in Comal County. Pam Johnson also presented graphs from Comal County showing a gradual decrease of cases over a 14-day period. The discussion then moved to selecting the

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date of opening as October 11th with a “dry run” to be held on October 4th. A discussion of whether the services should be indoor or outdoor resulted in Reverend Hardaway, Reverend Lucy and Pam Johnson, Parish Administrator, setting a plan for conducting either one of these types of service. This plan will be emailed to the Vestry members for their thoughts and approval. Upon approval, all guidelines for opening will be communicated/published to our congregants.

Goals 2021

Reverend Hardaway noted that the Vestry members needed to be thinking “what needs to be accomplished by our church in 2021.” “What can we do to make St. John’s better by the end of 2021?” It was suggested that the Vestry members reach out to 2-3 church members and ask this question for feedback. Reverend Hardaway asked the Vestry members to return their ideas by the first week in November.

Fall Parish Meeting/Vestry Election Process

The Fall Parish Meeting will be held on October 18, 2020, via Zoom. Reverend Hardaway will open, followed by a “Budget Update” from Jim Whitcomb, Treasurer; “Opening Protocols” from Don Greer, Junior Warden, and reports from Reverends Ripp and Lucy.

The Vestry Election will also be held at the Fall Parish Meeting with the following members being nominated for Vestry service: Ann Amoroso, Alice Jewell, and David Drichta. These nominations will be approved by acclamation if no names from the floor are sent to Karen Shumway, Nomination Committee Chair. If a vote is necessary, the vote will be conducted over multiple days. Church members will be able to drive by the church secure a ballot, vote, fold their ballot and place their ballot in a box provided or in the church’s mailbox; all done safely. Ample opportunity will be given for everyone to vote.

Rector’s Report

- Work is being done on the hiring of a Director of Communications for St. John’s. Currently, nineteen applications have been received, reduced to six applicants for interviewing next week. The position has been elevated to forty hours per week which should not impact a major deficit on the financials.
- Financials still are incredibly positive. A bill has been received from NBU in the amount of \$3,000 for water usage the past six months. This bill is being examined by Desiree Moultrie, Director, Finance, in collaboration with NBU.
- Tish Sutton, Director, Music, and Ian Flores have been doing an exemplary job with our new camera technology. Emma Kypuros has also been trained on the equipment. They have trained and continue to train the use of this system.
- St. John’s Food Drive produced over 200 pounds of food and many monetary donations. The children’s Sunday school classes will be sponsoring a winter clothing drive for Navajoland.
- Reverend Hardaway noted that the Vestry Zoom meetings should be made public and the minutes and financials should be posted in the St. John’s E-News.

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Trunk or Treat Event

The Vestry received a note from Cheryl Smith, Director, Children and Family Ministries, of ideas from families to have Trunk or Treat during this COVID time. All the ideas include the wearing of masks (costume or not), social distancing, hand sanitizers and wipes being readily available. The event would also be limited to St. John's families, not a community event. Proposed date, Sunday, October 25th. After discussion by the Vestry members it was suggested that a "drive by" trunk or treat would be acceptable. Families could decorate their cars, wear costumes, drive by about six trunks and pick up pre-packaged candy through car windows. No food would be available. Linda Lund, Senior Warden, will communicate this information to Cheryl Smith.

Curate's Report

Reverend Lucy shared she has been with St. John's for 2-1/2 months, has settled in and feels wonderfully comfortable. She is off to a wonderful start with the formation of the class, "Becoming a Blessed Community", which averaged 27-30 attendees each week. Reverend Lucy plans to continue planning classes, the next class possibly with the topic, "Coping with the Pandemic," a spiritual practice, best quality of life, with Jennifer Mitchell and others to be live streamed. Reverend Lucy also shared she would begin a bible study at the end of the month. She is also helping with St. John's E-News and liturgical planning.

ACTION ITEMS

Vestry Endorsement to the Priesthood – Reverend Lucy Strandlund

The Vestry Endorsement to the Priesthood form for Reverend Lucy Strandlund was presented to the Vestry members and discussed. After discussion, the Vestry members were asked to sign the form and return to Jenny Montgomery, Assistant to the Rector, by early next week for return to the Diocese of Alabama.

Formation of 2021 Budget Committee/Assistant Treasurer Position

The new 2021 Budget Committee has been formed with the addition of Ed Guillen, Alice Jewell, and Bob Wells. This committee will begin meeting in October ready to build the 2021 budget. An Assistant Treasurer will be selected in January 2021 after the joining of the new members to the Vestry.

Financials

Mr. Whitcomb shared the "carve out" from the Unrestricted Operating Funds to be shifted to the Diocesan Investment account will be executed once the PPP Grant is squared away with the bank and off the books. Outreach funds showed significant progress last month in the allocation of funds. The extravagant bill from NBU is being worked on by Desiree Moultrie, Director, Finance. The financials are looking good for finishing out the year.

Mr. Whitcomb presented the financials. Motion was made by Janet Guillen and seconded by Don Greer to accept the financials as presented. Motion passed.

Reverend Lucy closed the meeting with the Collect from Compline.

Linda Lund, Senior Warden, adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Howard

PLEASE NOTE: Next Vestry Meeting – Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 p.m.