**Vestry Meeting Minutes**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**January 12, 2021**

Vestry Member Attendees: Ann Amoroso, Don Greer, Jim Whitcomb, David Drichta, Janet Guillen, Bruce Howard, Alice Jewel, Carol Lenker, and Adrian Quintanilla.

Vestry Members Absent: None

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

Guests: John and Cherie Kittle, Sarah Reeves, Bill Campaign, and Desiree Moultrie

The Vestry meeting opened at 6:15 p.m. with fellowship among the Vestry members. Upon conclusion, Reverend Lucy Strandlund led the Vestry members in a blessing prayer, “Where the Map Begins”, from Jan Richardson’s book, Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons.

What Gifts do I offer to St. John’s? – Introduction – Each Vestry member has a special gift to bring to the Vestry and to St. John’s. What is that gift the Holy Spirit has carved out for us? It will probably take 6-8 months to identify and reveal these gifts. Ann Amoroso and Reverend Lucy Strandlund are working on a plan to assist in identifying these gifts; this plan will be revealed at the February Vestry meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Ann Amoroso, Senior Warden.

**MINUTES**

The December 15, 2020, minutes were presented. Motion was made by Bruce Howard and seconded by Janet Guillen to accept and approve the minutes as written/presented. Motion passed.

**ELECTION OF VESTRY OFFICERS**

Each Vestry Officer has agreed to continue their service for the year 2021: Ann Amoroso, Senior Warden; Don Greer, Junior Warden; Jim Whitcomb, Treasurer; Janet Guillen, Outreach Liaison, Shelley Howard, Clerk of the Vestry and Counselor, KC Barker. Ann Amoroso, Senior Warden declared the slate of Vestry Officers approved by acclamation. Motion was made by Bruce Howard and seconded by Jim Whitcomb to accept the slate of Vestry Officers by acclamation. Motion passed.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Outreach Committee – Preliminary Budget Report**

Sarah Reeves reviewed the 2021 preliminary budget noting the preliminary budget is over budget and more work needs to be done to balance it. The Budget Committee is comprised of the following members, Jennifer Mitchel; Bill Campaign; Sarah Reeves; Becky Luft; Janet Guillen, Liaison to the Vestry; Steve Chapman; Carol Lenker; Alice Jewell, Advisor; and Carrye Franzel. The committee will be meeting next week to discuss and finalize the 2021 Outreach Budget. The Committee’s goal is to get as many people involved in Outreach as possible.

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**COVID Update**

**Trends** – A COVID trending chart was presented by Pam Johnson showing the number of positive cases and the daily new cases are not reflecting a downward trend. In fact, the statistics reflect an upward trend. It was noted that the University of Texas puts out an interaction map showing positivity rates in every county around Comal County and including Comal County. This item, “trends”, will remain an agenda item to assist in developing reopening strategies in relation to the positivity statistic rates linked to these charts.

**Reopening strategies** – Based on current trends, there will be no “grand opening” in the next few months. The church will continue operating as we are currently doing while maintaining a safe environment for our parishioners. Some things are being looked at to provide worship safely in the future. As weather permits, look at having events outdoors, especially during Lent. Worship in the Park might be held in our parking lot instead of at Landa Park.

It looks as if it will be June and after vaccinations are completed before people will feel safe returning to Church. Rev. Hardaway is aware of 15 people who have tested positive for COVID. All have recovered and no hospitalizations were required. Our current protocols are keeping our parishioners in a safe environment. The Choir is seeking a go ahead if protocols are kept.

**Security Issues – Email sent on Kevin Winkler**

New Braunfels churches have been informed by law enforcement that we should be aware of Kevin Winkler. Notification of this will be sent to the proper committees who enter the church often asking them to be sure to lock doors behind them – situational awareness. More investigation into this matter needs to be conducted by the Church with the New Braunfels Police Department.

**Goals 2021**

The Vestry members reviewed the Goals for 2021. Rev. Ripp Hardaway noted that goals are intentional actions taken to make STJEC better at the end of 2021 than the beginning. He asked that each Vestry member categorize their goals into Worship, Outreach, Nurture, etc. Upon completion, the Vestry members are to send to Jenny Montgomery, Administrative Assistant to the Rector, the top five (5) goals that are important to them and want to work on in 2021.

 **Junior Warden Report**

Don Greer, Junior Warden, requested the Junior Warden Report remain on the agenda for each Vestry meeting. Mr. Greer reported:

* Electrical work has been completed. We are now in compliance with local codes.
* Gas leak in kitchen in Parish Hall was rectified today. (3 leaks reported)
* A fire extinguisher inspection is coming to kitchen (fire suppression unit) for maintenance and fire alarm inspection – a possibility remains of placing an extinguisher in the Sacristy.

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 **Update on Virtual Training for Stephen Ministry**

Jim Whitcomb, Treasurer, reported that because of COVID no in-person training has been offered/conducted since the onslaught of COVID. But Stephen Ministry has now provided a virtual solution. The course would require a commitment of five (5) weeks, two (2) days per week, 2.5 hours per day. Training will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays or Wednesday and Fridays of each week. The cost of the training is $1,700.00. Mr. Whitcomb reached out to people interested in leading the program ministry. Mr. Whitcomb requested this be an “action” item for next month’s Vestry meeting.

 **Curate’s Report**

 Reverend Strandlund shared the following:

* Communication – Grace Symmons, Director of Communications, is diligently rebuilding the STJEC website, page by page, for easier navigation. She is also reformatting the bulletin and eNews and these changes will be rolling out soon.
* Lent and Holy Week – Ash Wednesday is only five (5) weeks away. The Worship Committee met today and has begun planning for Lent and Holy Week. The EfM group will be offering the Stations of the Cross outside again during Lent. Staff and volunteers are also working diligently to present creative ways to observe Holy Week both online and in-person.

**Rector’s Report**

Rev. Ripp Hardaway shared the following:

* New Assistant Bishop Rayford High will be visiting the Church February 7, 2021 participating in confirmations.
* Nothing to report on the progress of the Columbarium. Jim Whitcomb, Treasurer, shared the DWTX has given permission to move forward on this project.
* Rev. Hardaway reminded the Vestry members the meetings will begin each month at 6:15p with fellowship. If a Vestry member must miss a meeting, please inform us. It is then the Vestry member’s responsibility to find out about the meeting missed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Financials**

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

Mr. Whitcomb noted that they were close in finalizing the 2021 budget and that it was his opinion that the Church is in much better shape than he anticipated

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Reverend Hardaway closed the meeting leading the Vestry members in the Lord’s prayer.

Ann Amoroso, Senior Warden, adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Howard

Clerk of the Vestry

**PLEASE NOTE: Next Vestry Meeting – Tuesday, February 9, 2021 – 6:15pm**