St. Brendan's Vestry Minutes

November, 2020

The Vestry met November 18, 2020. Present via Zoom were Pastor Elaine Hewes, Pete Dane, George Pazuniak, Tom van Buren, Meg Graham, Jane LaChance, Bill Scaife and Curtis Flowers. Pastor Elaine called the meeting to order and asked Meg to lead a meditation. Meg's insightful offering was based on Second Peter 1:19. Elaine asked Meg to send it for publication in the Navigator.

The October minutes, previously having been circulated electronically and corrected were approved.

Pastoral Care
Elaine reported that PC Ministry reviewed the prayer list at its meeting and that it will be read in entirety during Sunday service once a month.

Education and Spiritual Development
Jane related that in addition to the on-going courses there may be a new offering from Elaine, contingent upon the Ministry's approval. It would be a three-part series on Lutheranism.

Worship and Music
Pete, reporting on that ministry's liturgical preparation for Advent, said that the theme is Waiting, adding that this includes hope and that their ministry meetings are never dull. Pete and all the Worship and Music team were commended for their offerings on the previous Sunday for the bishop's visit, particularly Pete's translation of Psalm 90.

Property
George said he was meeting with the roofer this week to review and perhaps update the roof replacement proposal. George also reported that despite some frustrating delays the church is moving closer to having a fiber optic connection.

In addition George said in response to diocesan encouragement for all parishes to have broad internet presence he had set up a trial Facebook page for St Brendan's so that the vestry could consider that option with a real example in front of them. Some discussion followed as to the desirability of St Brendan's having a Facebook page. Elaine suggested the vestry all look at what George has put up while she contacts the diocese for their input and recommendations. Bill suggested perhaps we could look as well at what other parishes have on Facebook. Further discussion and decision was deferred to December's agenda.

Outreach
Tom reported that the ministry is systematizing and prioritizing where the parish might make responsible contributions on several fronts, both geographical and by area of concern. Outreach thinks it could be helpful for them to embark on a system of shared leadership by rotation and asks the vestry for input and authorization to try this. After discussion, the vestry agreed that a rotation model should be experimented with and noted this model might prove helpful for other ministries as well. Pete moved, Jane seconded, that such an experiment be authorized and that Outreach report back to the vestry on how it goes. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance
Bill reported that finances are still in good shape even considering the expected end of year deficit. Stewardship has done an excellent job in meeting and perhaps exceeding its goal. Pete added that even with the fine work of Stewardship we must prepare for a similar deficit in 2021. The Finance ministry asks the vestry to look at Pete's recent memo outlining several ways to approach making a trimmed down budget and/or setting in place contingency plans for dealing with a shortfall. Vestry members are asked to respond to the memo by Nov 23.

Pastor's Report
Elaine reported that the COVID 19 task force will have the same protocols for temperature checks, etc. in place for Leslie Rice's Thanksgiving work group's use of church facilities as we have previously required for indoor presence. Elaine and George will prepare and monitor.

Elaine advised

- that Bishop Thomas will attend our vestry meeting in January.

- that the communications meeting proved so helpful that we plan to have them about once a quarter.

- that in 2021, she expects to float the idea of a "Reformation Dream Team" to learn more about the Emerging Church Movement and begin imagining how the Church might better serve the world now and into the future.

The meeting ended with the Prayer Attributed to St. Brendan.

The December vestry meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Respectfully submitted,
Curtis Flowers, Clerk