St. Brendan-the-Navigator Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes, February 24, 2021

The Vestry met February 24, 2021. Present via Zoom were Pastor Elaine Hewes, Senior Warden Pete Dane, Junior Warden George Pazuniak, Meg Graham, Jane LaChance, Bill Scaife, Tom Van Buren and Curtis Flowers.

Pastor Elaine opened the meeting with a reading in memory of Ginny Peacock, of the 23rd Psalm in the King James Version. The minutes, having previously been circulated and amended electronically, were approved. The 2020 Parochial Report, having previously been circulated and discussed electronically, was approved.

Meg offered that joint efforts with "like-minded groups" as indicated in the Parish Report would a good first step, but that she hoped we would move further outward to cultivate groups with whom we have less in common, that these are the groups we have real need to hear from.

Jane reported that the Welcoming Ministry has added a storytelling event for March 19. This will be Irish Tales.

Tom, for the Outreach Ministry, reported a successful community Food Safety During COVID presentation by Cheryl Wixon. Tom noted also that the Parochial Report's list of outreach projects drew attention to what other diocesan parishes were doing and was good food for thought for St. Brendan's as we consider other needs and opportunities in our own area.

Pastor Elaine reported that the Personnel Committee would meet February 25, to consider updates to the job description for parish administrative assistant and asked the vestry for any input that might be considered. Discussion followed on possible needed number of hours, use of volunteers, projects. A proposed new job description will be ready for the next vestry meeting.

Pastor Elaine led a discussion of pros and cons of St. Brendan's having presence on social media, particularly FaceBook. Concerns were control of access to posting, what demographic might be reached and necessity of frequent maintenance. There was consensus that we continue developing our experimental FaceBook presence with a firm policy being set on matters of its use. The suggestion was made that the diocese might be helpful in this matter.

Pastor Elaine and organist-choir director Connie Mayo for Connie's annual review. Connie indicated that all is well in her role as Director of Music. She indicated an interest in exploring the possibility of taking a course or workshop on choral conducting, which the vestry enthusiastically supported.

Pastor Elaine and the Rev. Vicki Reeser of the Deer Isle Sunset Congregational Church have begun planning possible offerings and events in which our two congregations may wish to participate jointly. The first of these is tentatively set for May.

Pastor Elaine had questions about our parish spaces rental fee. Our policy is that outside private and for-profit groups pay full rental fees, while non-profit groups pay only a nominal amount.

Pastor Elaine, mentioning her hope that an ongoing group begin concerted thought about a Re- Formation of the church for our time and suggested that the Bangor Theological Seminary, now in Portland, was an excellent resource for us to explore.

Tom reported that his contact with the diocesan Racial Justice Commission has led him to think he should continue to explore possibilities for us with them but also to think in other possible directions. Pastor Elaine suggested that the Rev. Lev Sherman could be a good resource on Native American matters.

Bill suggested two good programs currently on offer are Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s program called The Black Church in America and the PBS program on contralto Marian Anderson.

The meeting was closed with a reading of the Prayer Attributed to St. Brendan.

The vestry will meet next on March 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Curtis Flowers, clerk