Vestry Minutes for September 23, 2020
St Brendan-the-Navigator Episcopal Church

The Vestry of St. Brendan's met September 23, 2020. Present via zoom were Pastor Elaine Hewes, Pete Dane, George Pazuniak, Meg Graham, Jane LeChance, Tom van Buren, Bill Scaife and Curtis Flowers.

Elaine opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes of the August meeting, having been circulated and corrected via email, were promptly approved.

The Pastoral Care team reported pre-meeting by email that Diane Greenlaw's willingness to serve another term as chair was gratefully received by all. The team continues to maintain regular communication with homebound members and parish summer folk as well as acting as the heart and hands of all the parish community in support of one another. The team expressly welcomes input from everyone with thoughts of how they might widen and deepen their care within our community.

Outreach

Tom reported that Outreach had heard and approved a proposal from the Opiate-Free Island Project that St Brendan's allow OFIP to use our facility for a needle exchange program, thus giving a local site for the program in the hope of reaching more people.

Ashley Pesak, representing OFIP, requests table space near the back door of Parish Hall for about two hours once a week. She would use this table area for setting up supplies but expects the actual exchange to be done by drive-through near the back door of the building. The COVID Task force likewise considered the proposal also giving its approval. Final approval to proceed must come from the vestry. After reading the proposal the vestry felt they needed additional information before proceeding so will immediately seek more discussion with the applicants so we may make a timely decision.

Education

Jane had provided by email the Education Ministry's current and upcoming offerings. There was note taken and brief discussion of the possibility of future Education efforts focusing on issues that Outreach is identifying and concerning itself with and the thought that coordination between the two ministries could be fruitful.

Music and Worship

Pete reported that Worship is in transition in consideration of indoor worship and liturgical needs.

Finance

Meg expressed the committee's sense that our financial position is good, comparing satisfactorily with same date last year, even considering COVID.

Pastor's Report

Elaine reported that Anna's current contract as administrative assistant is up at end of September and that Anna plans to leave the island for the month of November at least. Considering that most of Anna's work of necessity is currently being done online which appears to be working well, Bill moved that we extend the current contract through the end of 2020, using the months of October and November to continue evaluating how well this remote work serves and then in December access how Anna and the parish wish to proceed thereafter. Meg seconded the motion which was swiftly approved.

In view of the already lengthy meeting Elaine said other matters she had intended to report on could easily wait and suggested we hold them until next meeting which is scheduled for October 28. The vestry agreed and the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,
Curtis Flowers, Clerk