



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Loving the Lord  
and Our Neighbors

Thursday, June 17, 2021

## **VESTRY NOTES:**

The vestry met Wednesday June 16 to discuss a variety of matters. Finance Committee reported that pledges again were ahead of projections and expenses were still under budget. We revised our Covid protocols because of the continued drop in numbers in our area. Details below. There will now be a committee that coordinates Outreach made up of the people who head up the various ministries and Harlan Matthews will chair it. Julia and Mark will put together two Christian Formation groups, one for young families and one for teens to plan programs for this coming year. They will be looking for just a few volunteers to help with the planning. We have had an inquiry from Katy High School about a program for beekeeping that needs places for hives that several people involved with the Property will be considering and report back. We have a request for a second blood drive in late August 28 which is a Saturday this time.

We heard a presentation from Denise Trevino on the IDI, Intercultural Development Index. This is a tool to look at how adaptive the parish and parish leadership are to cultural differences. In a growingly diverse community like Katy our ability to work in cross-cultural world is very important to our future growth. Key leaders in the parish will be asked to take an anonymous survey and Denise will present the results to the August vestry meeting. We will then work with Denise in how to put these learnings into practice. Emanuel Episcopal Church did this prior to their move into a new neighborhood that was more diverse and it has been very helpful in establishing their presence there. The vestry believes this will help us identify ways that we can reach out to a larger portion of our community.

**COVID CHANGES:** The vestry met Wednesday evening to discuss our Sunday morning COVID protocols. Given the diocesan guidance and the positive trend in the numbers, we are making several changes. (We were fortunate to have someone from Diocese at our meeting who was talking to us about something completely different but was able to offer some COVID guidance.) We do not need to continue to sign up ahead of time for services or need to check in when you arrive. That means the table in the narthex will be gone.

**COFFEE:** These changes make it possible for us to return to coffee in the narthex. That will begin this week. The vestry member on duty will serve it to keep the number of people touching the pot to a minimum.

**MASKS:** Masks are not required if you have been vaccinated or have antibodies from a previous infection. Those serving communion at the rail are required to wear a mask while distributing communion. The tricky part comes with the fact that some people may feel more comfortable wearing a mask and keeping a social distance. These include people who have compromised immune systems who have been vaccinated but have not had a strong response and are at risk of infection. We also have children that have not yet been vaccinated. It was strongly recommended by the diocese that we provide a section of seating for those who fall in this category. We decided to reserve the front half of the pulpit side as a mask required section so that everyone can feel safe attending. This does not mean that if you chose to wear a mask you have to sit in that section, it means that everybody sitting in that section will wear a mask.

**ACOLYTES:** Acolytes who have been vaccinated or had COVID do not need to wear a mask while serving.