

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, Florida

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting October 19, 2020

Note: Due to Coronavirus guidelines on Social Distancing the meeting was held online via Zoom, Meeting ID: 987 7765 7587

Priest-in-Charge: Michael Durning

Sr. Warden: Phil Beauchamp Jr. Warden: Dan Depies Treasurer: Joe Nixon
Clerk: Pat Cates

Class of 2021	Diane Niford	Cheryl Sharpe	Iris Brookins
Class of 2022	Phil Beauchamp	Robyn Harker	John Russotto
Class of 2023	Dan Depies	London Bates	Judy Warner

I. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:29 by Canon Durning.

II. Opening Devotions:

- The Opening Devotion was given by Dan Depies

III. Discussion on Cold Weather Sheltering:

- Chris Schombs gave background information on the Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) and also brought attention to Handout #1.
- The CWS has been housed for the past 20 years in Clearwater and sponsored by Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church.
- The building in which the CWS is housed is no longer habitable, and the Session of Peace Memorial will probably move to dismantle it.
- As a result they will no longer be able to house a CWS in the area.
- In the past they have housed between 80 to 140 persons and are open when the temperatures drop below 40 degrees. Last year the shelter was opened four times.
- The CWS Committee is looking for new spaces. One option is property around the court house in Safety Harbor. Should this become a possibility the homeless persons would have to take bus transportation to the facility.
- Chris mentioned a number of local churches that might be available to help in times of cold weather including Good Shepherd.
- Chris went over the rules and procedures with which residents must abide during their stay.
- Following his presentation there was a lengthy time of discussion and questions.
- Among the items discussed were the use of Kirk Hall; separation of men and women; restrooms; food; volunteers; security; PPE

equipment for Covid; bus transportation; leaving possessions in Clearwater and smoking.

- It was noted that Good Shepherd does have a responsibility to care for the homeless but also has a responsibility to maintain the parish during the interim period.
- Canon Durning reminded the Vestry that currently the parish is between Priests, and any decision regarding the homeless should be made after a new Rector is called.
- He proposed that Chris be informed that currently the Vestry has a responsibility to handle other issues in the parish and that no decision concerning the homeless will be made without a full-time Rector in place.
- It was consensus to accept Canon Durning's recommendation.
- John Russotto will contact Chris Schombs to give him the Vestry's decision.

IV. Reporting in:

A. Priest-in-Charge:

- Canon Durning brought attention to his report Handout #2
- He talked about the program "Comfort and Joy" which is from the Church of England and based on the Letter to the Romans, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."
- The logo includes a house and a church as many people are worshipping at home as well as in church.
- He would like to assemble a booklet of Advent meditations to provide words of encouragement to the congregation.
- There will be one meditation for every day of Advent written by members of the Vestry, Officers, staff and other church leaders. Cindy, Carey, Bob and Michael will write the meditations for the Sundays of Advent.
- Meditations should be approximately 450 words. A wide license is given contributors on their topic.
- The booklet will be available in print and electronic form.
- Deadline for submission of meditations is November 1st.
- Canon Durning was concerned that persons who should be asked to contribute will not be asked.
- There was a brief discussion on contributors, and it was suggested that if a person did not get a chance to participate in the Advent booklet that there will be future opportunities such as during Lent.
- Canon Durning talked about other services including All Saints Sunday; Veterans Remembrance and Kirkin of the Tartan.
- The Community Thanksgiving service will be an online experience on the Thursday before Thanksgiving.

B. Finances:

- Handouts #3A, #3B and #3C by Joe Nixon, Treasurer
- From Handout #3C it was noted that more money is being contributed to the parish by less people.
- Attention was brought to the number of persons (54) who are no longer giving.
- There was a brief discussion, and it was recognized that because of privacy issues, it will be very difficult to determine why these persons have stopped giving.
- Dan Depies will contact Joe Nixon to see if it is appropriate for the two of them and Judy Warner to have a discussion to determine the best way of communicating with the entire parish concerning giving and to somehow focus on the 54 persons who are not giving.
- It was suggested that Dawn Gordon be asked to work with Dan, Joe and Judy.

C. Building and Grounds

- Dan Depies updated the Vestry on current projects.
- The hot water heaters have been replaced in the Rectory and the church and improvements have been made to the sound system in the Sanctuary.
- Work in the bathrooms is continuing in the Rectory. Because of the age of the system there is much work that has to be done.
- Butch Niford was able to negotiate with the church insurance company for monies to help with repairs to the bathrooms which were a result of damage.

V. Discussion proposals:

A. Stewardship for 2020-2021

- Judy Warner reported that the Stewardship Committee is composed of Robin Megal, Canon Durning, Phil Beauchamp, John Russotto and herself.
- They have adopted the theme “Faith Filled Generosity”.
- The Stewardship Campaign will be very similar to last year’s program. It will run for four weeks beginning January 17, 2021. It was decided to begin the campaign a little later in the hopes that the Canadians and other snowbirds may have time to return to Dunedin.
- Canon Gray will be asked to preach on January 17th. He spoke at the kick-off of the 2020 Stewardship Campaign.
- Sermons will also be offered by Cindy Roehl and Canon Durning.
- In addition there will be witness testimonies offered at each service as per last year.
- February 7th will be gathering Sunday.
- The committee is looking into appropriate music for the campaign

- Carey Cherivtch and Dan will provide attendance figures to the Committee to assure that the maximum number of congregants are reached.

B. Sacred Ground Anti-racism training

- Cindy Roehl gave an update on the work of the Clearwater Deanery and their preparations for this training.
- It is planned that one clergy and one lay persons will lead a program in each parish.
- The program consist of ten workshops taught about once every three to four weeks. It will take approximately ten months to complete the program. Participation should be limited to 12 persons.
- There are some parishes that want to begin the training soon.
- Cindy is looking at the possibility of next spring for a program at Good Shepherd.
- Canon Durning concurred with this plan provided a new Rector is in place.
- He noted that the time between Rectors is not the best time to begin new programs.
- Anti-racism training will be respectively removed from the agenda for the present, and it will be added to the agenda in the future by Cindy at an appropriate time.

C. Vestry Voices and Vibes

- Future issues of Vestry Voices and Vibes will be published in November and December.
- For November, Cheryl Sharpe is writing an article on the work at the Rectory and Mary Ratliff will submit an interview of a new member.
- Iris Brookins is the lead person on the publication and Diane Niford will be proofreading articles.
- The Vestry will keep looking at Vestry Voices and Vibes in two month sections.

VI. Decisions:

- Approve September 21, 2020 minutes
- Cheryl Sharpe made a motion to approve the minutes; Diane Niford seconded.
- Approved.

VII. Not to Forget...

A. Search Process (Wardens)

- Phil Beauchamp reported that he had received a note from Canon Norman that the closing date for applications is this Saturday (25th)

- Canon Norman reported that there has been “good interest” in our parish.
- After he meets with the Bishop he will meet with the search committee to present the candidate applications.

B. Milestone Calendar (Dan Depies)

- Dan Depies asked the members to review the calendar to look for any errors in the dates recorded.
- Cheryl reported that January 16, 2021 should be added to the calendar. This is the deadline for annual reports to be submitted to Dawn Gordon.
- The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for November 16th at 6:30PM.
- It was noted that this is before the meeting of the Finance Committee.
- The Finance Committee is working on a recommendation for a roof contract on the Furniture Thrift Store among other items.
- Through consensus it was agreed to hold the November meeting on November 23rd at 6:30PM.

C. Contingency Planning

- Phil Beauchamp updated the Vestry on the status of solar power.
- January 2021 was previously designated as the month that the Vestry will take another look at solar power, and it will be placed on the January 2021 agenda for discussion.
- The parish budget is presented to the Vestry at the November meeting.
- Currently Joe Nixon and his team are working on the budget to be discussed at the November Finance Committee meeting.
- It was noted that the 2021 budget will be a challenge for the parish.

D. Closing Devotions

- Judy Warner moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Diane Niford
- Canon Durning offered the closing prayer.

VIII. FYI:

- Next Vestry meeting 6:30PM Monday November 23 (ZOOM)

IX. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Pat Cates
Clerk