

St. Matthews Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

March 16, 2021

Vestry Members Present – Sara Ceresa, Faith Cirre, Phil Eschels, Gaylee Gillim, Teri McDonald, David Niehaus, Troy Petrie, Gibbs Reese, Hannah Savells (Youth), John Shelby, Bill Shory, Speed Stodghill, Rhody Streeter, and Peggy Woolley.

Others Present – Edie Nixon, Treasurer.

Clergy and Staff – The Rev. Kelly Kirby, Rector, and the Rev. Benjamin Hart, Director of Congregational Life.

Opening Prayer – Rev. Kirby opened the meeting at 6:15 with the traditional prayer and noted that a quorum was in attendance.

Reading/Reflection – Troy Petrie gave the reflection based on a recent article in *The Atlantic* on what divides us as people. He mentioned the Dalai Lama Buddhist philosophy about the illusion of self and the African principle of “Ubuntu,” as expressed by Archbishop Tutu.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting were accepted as written.

Financial Report – Edie Nixon provided highlights for each of the following February 28th reports as follows:

Balance Sheet:

- a. Our operating cash has improved with receipt of our second PPP loan.
- b. The balance on our Stockyards Bank loan is down to \$492,000.

Income Statement:

- a. The \$90,000 received in February pledges reflects one-quarter of the anonymous donor’s pledge.
- b. The year-to-date actual for pledges and plate offerings is \$30,000 over budget. We are \$38,000 positive for net income over expenses.
- c. Bill Shory will research some additional functions for fundraising on our streaming platform.

On a motion by Faith Cirre with second by Phil Eschels, the financial report was accepted, subject to audit.

Reopening Guidelines for In-Person Services

Rev. Kirby explained our modified reopening plans for in-person worship. She stated that Eucharists will begin on March 17 and that reservations are required for “live” Sunday services. Streaming of the 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Sunday services will continue and the next step will be allowing the AA groups back into the building for their meetings. Masks and social distancing are still mandated and clergy will distribute consecrated bread.

Vestry Committee Liaison Reports

- Building and Grounds – Speed Stodghill reported that an updated “to do” list has been distributed to the committee. The “Episcopal Church” welcome sign on Brownsboro Road will be replaced. There is a dead tree in Rev. Hart’s front yard that Bob Ray will remove (at a cost of approximately \$3,000) and an anonymous gift from a living steward of the church will fund the home’s fireplace repair and garage construction. A survey will be needed before the garage project can be undertaken. Finally, the AT&T line in the Memorial Garden was cut once again.

- Dimensions of Faith – There were excellent reviews for Dr. Louis Brogdon, the speaker on March 7. His message of “do some good somewhere” was articulated in a thoughtful manner. There were about 80 attendees on this Zoom gathering, joined by several hundred on the Facebook streaming platform and YouTube channel.
- Nominating Committee – This committee will meet in the fall to begin work.
- Outreach – Faith reported that the committee is planning how to manage their ministries and will begin evaluating funding requests in May.
- Planned Giving – This group will meet on May 3. George Wheeler chairs the committee and Rev. Kirby reported that we have added a new steward.
- Stewardship – David Niehaus reported that the group will meet on May 2.
- Vision Implementation Team – Peggy Woolley stated that the team is reviewing the last five years of the e-Spirit newsletter to get an overview of work done (e.g., outreach) at the church. The team will meet in April.

Wardens’ Reports

- Phil Eschels, Senior Warden – Phil feels we have begun to turn the corner from the last twelve months. He noted that we have fully leased all of our rental space.
- Speed Stodghill, Junior Warden – No additional report.

Rector’s Report

Rev. Kirby asked the vestry to sign up for the monthly reflections. The following commitments were made:

April – David Holzknrecht	September - Gaylee Gillim
May – John Shelby	October – Peggy Woolley
June – Sara Ceresa	November – Faith Cirre
July – Rhody Streeter	December – Phil Eschels
August – Speed Stodghill	

Rev. Kirby also mentioned that she has hired a ministry coordinator, Julie Mushkin, for a ¾-time position, beginning July 1. Julie will be in charge of Sunday programming and Dimensions of Faith. The job is based on a 26-hour work week. Reverend Kirby will write a job description for the other part-time position of Youth Coordinator, a weekend ministry.

Finally, Rev. Kirby noted that she had changed the scope of the Unsung Hero award and given it to Richard Thompson posthumously for his work at our food pantry. Richard was a member of Bates Memorial.

Theological Reflection – Peggy Woolley spoke to Alex Keyzer’s death on his 17th birthday.

Compline – Troy Petrie led us electronically, followed by adjournment of the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

NOTE: For record purposes, this meeting was held in a voice video-conferencing format (Zoom) in compliance with national regulations established by our federal government during the nationwide COVID-19 epidemic.

Respectfully submitted,


Gaylee Gillim