

Vestry Meeting February 21, 2021 @ 1 pm (virtual via Zoom)

In attendance: Nancy Emmel, John Eads, Liam Clements, Margarita Tschomakoff, Brent Brower-Toland, Ann Balsamo, Steve Hoeplinger, Ann Quay Rushing, Jeff McIntire-Strasburg, Anna Hall

Opening Prayer, Nancy Emmel

Declaration of a Quorum, John Eads reminds everyone of our Vestry Covenant

Appreciations - Discussed by Vestry and names were presented to offer appreciations.

Review of minutes from December and January Vestry Meeting. John Eads motions to pass 2020 minutes, seconded by Jeff McIntire-Strasburg. John Eads also motions to accept Annual Meeting minutes from January 2019. Seconded by Ann Balsamo. Both votes were unanimous votes.

Update by Worship and Music Committee : Ann Quay

- Meeting this upcoming Wednesday (Feb 24, 2021) will focus on worship for the upcoming year. A conversation will be had about supply priests versus guest speakers. The next big focus will be around how to make Holy Week and Easter special.
- Also start discussions about what services will look like in person. We may be hitting soon the six weeks of decline to return back in person. St. John's stipulations were more strict than what the diocese originally said. Bishop Deon recently said that churches could begin to reopen at 25% capacity. We are just now at our six weeks of consistent decline in numbers.
- Churches can reopen with an action plan written and approved by the diocese. We will communicate to the congregation that reopening is a process and that it requires approval from the diocese. Jeff McIntire Strasburg and Ann Quay will discuss messaging regarding a reopening plan.

Supply Priests : Nancy Emmel

- Received a call from Cannon Doris about whether or not we'd like supply priests. At first response, she said no, because she can continue to be the presider while we are doing the Agape Meal. Continuity would be better served as Nancy presiding with guest preachers. She is talking with a number of people to serve as guest preachers. People in the parish may also be willing to preach, but the diocese requires a 'licensed preacher'.
- The hope is that the diocese will secure an interim for St. Johns. There is someone in mind and this person may be available at Easter. Nancy and John will discuss with Doris a timeline and press to have some continuity.
- Open to a supply priest that would offer some consistency. But if we are going to have somebody by Easter, we can be patient and get started with someone by then. What we need is either realistically brief or for the unknown period to have some consistency.
- Pastoral response care team will work with St. John's (a third party to work with Canon Doris and Bishop Deon).

Introductions of Vestry members with Nancy Emmel

- A chance for Nancy to share about herself and Vestry members to introduce themselves. Who you are, family/job, why you came to St. John's, and why you stay.

Adult Ed : Brent Brower Toland

- *Reaching Out* by Henri Nouwen study for Lent. This is a good book for the season and starts next Sunday evening (but not to conflict with the Social Justice committee). The committee is due for a meeting: set for the second Sunday in March.

Communications Committee : Jeff McIntire-Strasburg

- Met Feb 7, 2021 - switched to Constant Contact for Eblast and bulletin. It seems to be working really well.
- Looking at a new logo for the parish. Warren Crews initially suggested that when he was here. It fell off the radar and has now been getting more attention. Getting some input in this process from the congregation. In an early stage with a survey - restarting. Maybe this isn't the best time to be pursuing a new logo, but rather wait until we are through a discernment period with new leadership, defining who we are and where we're going.
- Blog - we need more content on the blog space. Calling vestry members to think about creating blog content. Requesting regular content thought pieces.
- Diocese has a grant for live-streaming equipment (\$2500). This may be something to look into when thinking about moving back into the church for service. Part of the reopening plan would be to also make live stream an option for those not attending in person.

Senior Warden's Report : John Eads

- Vestry Leadership Conference (from Jeff): Theme Vestry 101. Saturday, March 6 from 9:00 - 2:00 pm. We could register as a group, then a couple of us attend each hour and report back. Jeff will take the lead on who can sign up for which section.
- March Vestry workday - may be best to save for when we have clearer direction in leadership.

Loose Ends

- Phyllis has found a convection stove to use Peace Meal funds to cover. Rodney has given the go ahead as the building and grounds chair as appropriate and doable infrastructure-wise. Can we get the current oven serviced rather than looking to buy a new oven? John Eads motions to authorize Phyllis to solicit bids for the current stove, and if repair is not possible or feasible, we authorize to seek replacement of the oven. If the oven is purchased, language must be clear that Peace Meal is gifting the stove to St. John's and can be used for all other St. John's purposes. Seconded by Liam. Unanimous approval of the motion by the Vestry.
- Margarita presents information about numbers about potential reopening. Upon looking at the data lately, as of January 9th (131 new cases), the numbers of seven day average

case numbers are going down drastically. Six weeks later, on February 4 (37 new cases)... February 20 (15 new cases). This was one of our big parameters of the reopening plan of the worship committee. We are very close, if not at the point of moving toward in - person worship. Hospitalization numbers are also going down. Margarita will send information to Nancy and to the Worship & Music committee.