

Vestry Meeting  
St. Francis By-the-Sea Episcopal Church  
January 20, 2021

Present via ZOOM were Terry Briggs, Junior Warden Sarah Everdell, Heather Ford, Bill Gould, Prudy Heilner, Treasurer Kevin Hunt, Senior Warden Milissa LaLonde, Clerk Chris Ramsay, Fr. Brent Was, and Lynne Yurosko  
Nathaniel Boëchat was absent.

Fr. Brent opened the meeting at 5:01 p.m. with a prayer.

The Vestry voted to accept the **minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting.**

**Treasurer's Report, Kevin Hunt**

As of end of December, we had budgeted \$205,000 and actually received \$200,600. We had pledges greater than that; about \$11,500 is still outstanding of which we might see a couple of thousand dollars in January. There is typically a gap between the amount pledges and the amount received.

The Gift Revenue dollar figure dropped because donors asked that a gift made in 2020 be applied to Pledge Income instead.

The Other Revenue, Infinex Fund Valuation represents interest from our CDs less Infinex's fees for selling stock gifted to St. Francis.

The \$20,000 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan received in May 2020 is still counted as a loan since it won't be forgiven in 2020. Had it been forgiven in 2020, our Net Revenue loss would have been \$4,000 instead of \$24,000. There's no way to know when it will be forgiven. Kevin has reached out to Canon Terry Reimer to ask how this should be represented on the Parochial Report. The PPP loan currently shows as a Liability on the Statement of Financial Position.

An Equity account was set up to reflect the Flower Guild fund balance of \$900.

At the request of the Outreach Committee, their end-of-year balance of \$1,135 was transferred to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

The dollar value given under Planned Giving Acknowledgements is \$14.00. This amount is a placeholder only; it indicates that there are fourteen people who have told Kevin of a Planned Gift.

Artifex Architects & Engineers sent us a bill for \$5,574.46, which is above Kevin's spending limit of \$5,000. These funds come from the Buildings & Grounds Repair & Maintenance reserve account, and the Maine Steeple Foundation grant will reimburse 90% of this. Bill Gould moved we authorize Kevin to pay \$5,574.46 to Artifex, Chris Ramsay seconded and it passed unanimously.

Bill Gould proposed we accept both the Statement of Financial Position & the Revenue & Expense Report, both as of December 31, subject to minor revisions, Milissa LaLonde seconded and it passed unanimously.

The Diocese has asked for a copy of the financial portion of the Parochial Report by February 15. Kevin has a draft of it on an Excel spreadsheet, comparing the last six Parochial Reports. Kevin will send this data to the Vestry before the February 3 meeting.

Brent suggested that a **Vestry page be created on the church's website**, with the financials and minutes posted there for anyone who's interested. The Vestry agreed. Brent will follow through with Bob Publicover, and once that's done, will let Chris know to send the approved Financials and Minutes to Bob for posting

The **Building and Grounds Committee** suggests that disposition of **St. Francis Fair materials stored in the basement** be addressed. Bill Gould pointed out that the storage room is small; we can't safely work in it now because of Covid-19. Once we can safely work there, an inventory can be made. The largest items are pole tents that were used to provide cover for eating areas and other spaces. These could possibly be sold. A few pop-up tents might be worth keeping. Until Covid-19 is more controlled, Heather suggested keeping the tents in case we need them for outdoor worship. Lynne offered the upstairs of a barn for storage, if needed, for this and/or for Christmas lights. Kevin will make a pdf of a map of the Fair layout that gives dimensions of the tents, and email it to the Vestry. Action on this was tabled until it's safe for several people to work in the storage room.

The **Outreach Committee** met on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Votives were sent to Harbor House, the Island Nursing Home, where cards were also sent. One hundred eight books and toys were sent to the Emmaus Center, and \$1,000 for sheets was given to H.O.M.E.

Heather is contacting Spectrum to advocate a **hardwired fiber optic internet** line down the Hinckley Ridge Road.

Brent has met **Lisa Durkee, Pastor of the Blue Hill Congregational Church**, and **Jerry Springston, interim Pastor of the Blue Hill Baptist Church**, and anticipates collaborating with them.

The Diocese has established **metrics for reopening churches**: (1) a fourteen day downward trend in new cases, deaths and hospitalization from Covid-19; and (2) a new case rate per 10,000 of less than 16 (currently it's 226); and (3) a positivity test rate of under 10%. Until such time, it strongly recommends churches continue to meet online.

**Lent** – Shrove Tuesday (February 17) and Ash Wednesday (February 16)

We discussed **bags for Mardi Gras / Lent**, similar to the Advent baskets, which were a huge hit.

Brent suggested ashes, perhaps in a little cup for self-imposition during Ash Wednesday service. Discussion brought up other items to include – pancake mix, maple syrup, Mardi Gras beads. We'll obtain these and possibly other items, and keep abreast of who's getting what via

email. Those who can will meet at church on Saturday, February 13 at 10 a.m. to assemble bags.

We will do the **salt bowl** this year. People can mail their thoughts to the church, or possibly drop them off at specified time(s).

Brent discussed **Holy Week** – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Morning (April 1 – 4)

Maundy Thursday does not lend itself to online.

Good Friday last year was online. In the past we've offered it in conjunction with the Sedgwick Baptist Church, St. Brendan on Deer Isle, Trinity in Castine, First Congregational in Blue Hill, and possibly First Baptist in Blue Hill.

For Easter Morning, Lisa Durkee of First Congregational is very interested in reviving a joint Sunrise service, possibly at the base of Blue Hill. Brent will keep in touch with her about this, but it may not be possible this year.

A **Puzzle Swap**, possibly in conjunction with people coming for their Lent bags on Sunday, February 14. No puzzles with missing pieces, please.

Milissa relayed a suggestion from Kathy Thompson for a fundraiser. **Hannaford Grocery** has a program in which 5% of money spent on a gift card donated can be donated. She and Kathy will look into this.

Our next Vestry meeting will be on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Ramsay, Clerk