

Vestry Meeting
St. Francis By-the-Sea Episcopal Church
December 16, 2020

Present via ZOOM were Nathaniel Boëchat, 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
Heather Ford 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 2, 2020 meeting.

Finance Report, Kevin Hunt

About \$38,000 of pledge income was received in November, helped by the reminder letters sent out. As of today around \$193,000 of the pledge goal \$205,000 has come in, and more is usually received in January.

Everything else on Revenue & Expense report is in order. Salaries and Wages are higher than projected because 2020 contained 27 payrolls instead of the usual 26.

The total Net Operating Revenue to date shows a deficit of only \$3,700, a remarkable achievement. Some large bills have come in for December, so Kevin is expecting a \$15-18,000 deficit at the end of the year – a pretty positive achievement when a deficit of near \$30,000 had been anticipated.

Other Revenue relates to stock donations, which when donated have always been sold immediately.

Prepaid pledges for 2021 are considered a liability on the Statement of Financial Position until 2021 actually arrives, when they become pledge income. At the end of 2019 we had about \$12,000 in prepaid pledges; at the end of 2020 we'll probably have over \$20,000 in prepaid pledges.

Christmas Wreath sales yielded a little over \$900 raised by the Flower Guild. It has been asked if that money can be used in 2021, especially around Easter? Currently there is no designated account for Flower Guild; donations for flowers are placed in the General Funds account through Flower Income (41500), and flower purchases made through Flower Expense (52238). After discussion, Sarah moved that a Flower Guild fund be established and filled with the money raised by wreath sales. Bill seconded, and the motion passed. Kevin will take establish the fund; Melissa will tell the Flower Guild. Gifts made for flowers will continue to go into the General Funds Flower Income (41500) account.

Several additional gifts have been received for Annual Giving, for a total of about 87 pledges received.

The Vestry was asked to consider the following resolution:

Whereas the Rev. Dr. Brent Was is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Blue Hill, Maine, which does not provide a residence for him, the Vestry resolves that of the total annual clergy compensation of \$80,274 paid to the Rev. Dr. Brent Was beginning January 1, 2021, \$22,016 be designated as a housing allowance within the meaning of the term as used in Section 107 of the IRS code of 1986.

Chris moved to accept this resolution; Sarah seconded and it passed unanimously.

Buildings and Grounds Committee, Bill Gould

The steeple can safely wait until spring, and it doesn't look like a crane will be needed. The Steeple People, in Machias, has 40 years experience; we need to ensure they meet with the requirements of our steeple loan.

After a final assessment is made, the Buildings and Grounds Committee would like to meet with the Vestry to discuss cost and alternatives.

The sprinkler system is set up to have inspections in conjunction with the elevator inspections to save money. The elevator has been inspected, passed with flying colors, and Barbara is working to obtain a certificate.

Plowing this winter will be handled by Derek Astbury. Not all of the parking lot will be plowed this winter. Both churches entrances will be shoveled out to provide access.

Ray Yardy did an extensive review of heating costs. Right now oil is less expensive than wood pellets, so we'll stay with that until and unless the opposite becomes true.

Outreach Committee, Sarah Everdell

Because of Hammond Lumber's generous involvement, an additional 30+ children were given presents this Christmas.

Votive candles were distributed at Harborview Apartments and the Island Nursing Home.

Since the first of November \$4,000 has been received in donations for Outreach. The Outreach Committee last week voted to send \$1,000 to H.O.M.E. Blue Hill Books and Out on a Whimsy have been completely paid, and about \$1,500 remains. The Outreach Committee voted today to send \$500 to the Lions Club. The remaining funds will be added to the Rector's Discretionary Account.

Children's Ministry

Brent brought up the question of what we want to do with the children's ministry? We have \$200 per month budgeted for it. He mailed out a children's newsletter, and plans one for each liturgical season. He sent out individual newsletters to fourteen children for whom we have names and addresses – each child received a separate piece of mail.

Some history of children's ministry and Sunday School at St. Francis was discussed. At one time when we had more children, we had people who regularly taught Sunday school, possibly on a volunteer basis.

A few brainstorming thoughts –

Milissa mentioned a possible children's phone tree.

This isn't the time to do something like a Zoom Sunday School – kids have so much screen time now already.

We need to be careful not to “showcase” children.

We'll keep children's ministry in the back of our minds 'til later in the Spring.

Other Business

We discussed how happy people were to receive the Advent bags – Shrove Tuesday (February 16, 2021) bags might be a bright spot in the middle of February.

The shopping ministry hasn't seen much call lately. Milissa plans to inquire around to see who is interested and able to perform this service. We're also on the call list for Healthy Peninsula in this regard.

Terry Briggs has spoken with Canon Terry Reimer at the Diocese about Amazon Smile and their donation program. Canon Reimer sent her a packet of information about it. It's a little involved, and may not happen quickly but can be done.

The Epiphany Fire on Wednesday, January 6 will start at 4 p.m. Brent will do an online Mass at noon that day.

Brent plans to be on vacation the week between Christmas and New Year's. For the Sunday service on December 27, we will use the Diocesan service. Bob Publicover will stream it on our Zoom link at 9 a.m., and coffee hour will follow. Brent will be here for the New Year's Eve service, and for church on January 3, but otherwise will be on vacation that week.

Our next Vestry meeting will be on January 20th. If something necessitates an earlier meeting, we can call such a meeting as needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Ramsay, Clerk