

Vestry Meeting
St. Francis By-the-Sea Episcopal Church
February 17, 2021

Present via ZOOM were Nathaniel Boëchat, Terry Briggs, Junior Warden Sarah Everdell, 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 5:02 p.m. with a prayer.

The Vestry voted to accept the **minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting.**

Treasurer's Report, Kevin Hunt

As of the end of January, **pledge income was over \$50,000**, mostly because of pledge prepayments which became "Income" as of January 1, 2021. We continue to see strong pledge dollars coming in.

Just over **\$1,200 has been received in Patty Deetjen's name**, almost all of which has gone directly to Outreach, which plans to establish a campership at Camp Bishopswood in her and Rudy's names.

The **Statement of Financial Position** had an error that has just been corrected, and that report will be posted on Basecamp in the next few days.

The **Parochial Report is due to the Diocese as of March 1**. Kevin will drop off the financial details with Barbara at the church for her to add to the electronic copy. At Brent's request, this financial data and the third quarter deficit report have already been sent to Terry Reimer (Canon for Finance and Stewardship) so he could initiate the second draw on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for the Diocese.

The Finance Committee had two recommendations at their most recent meeting:

A **Vestry page will be set up on the church's website**, where the monthly Financials and Minutes will be posted after approval by the Vestry. A brief financial report will be made quarterly to the congregation, possibly verbally at Coffee Hour.

Two sizeable funds exist on the Balance Sheet – the Downeast Spiritual Life Conference Fund (about \$13,000), and the Music Fund (about \$34,000). If necessary at the end of the year, the Finance Committee will recommend potentially tapping into these funds. In this case, permission would be sought from the Downeast Spiritual Life Conference Fund committee. The Music Fund was expressly designed to pay for music director and musicians, and could be used to retroactively repay the church for Lorna's and Carlton's salaries and maintenance of the instrument.

Brent will send the **Parochial Report** to the Vestry in the next week or so for approval, and then it will be sent out electronically.

Buildings and Grounds Committee, Bill Gould

We had a joint **inspection of both fire alarm system and elevator**; everything was approved.

During this inspection, the company which inspected it determined that our **fire alarm panel is analog**, which they no longer support. We need to move to a digital panel and circuit board.

The Committee recommends this year's budget be amended by \$4,000 which will no longer be needed for the upgrade, and that next year's budget have potentially \$15,000 to replace the complete panel & circuit board with a digital one.

The Committee has been in touch with three companies regarding the **necessary work on the steeple**. Once a proposal is finalized, they'd like to have a joint meeting with the Vestry.

Things are not as bad as we thought with either the bell or steeple; nothing needs to be done this winter.

Ray Yardy met with the state fire warden about **emergency lighting** – it's technically not necessary because of our sprinkler system, but we're keeping the lighting in place nonetheless.

We'll switch from incandescent to LED lighting which will save the battery life. Ray is developing a maintenance procedure for replacing the incandescent bulbs with LED ones.

Milissa did some work on identifying some **St. Francis Fair materials** in the storeroom – nothing can be done about moving things around until after the pandemic when more people can work in the storeroom. Milissa and Suzanne Decrow put together a cursory list of what's there and their recommendations for things to keep, give away, or otherwise dispose of.

Outreach Committee, Sarah Everdell

We were given a **\$2,000 grant through Maine Community Foundation** from an anonymous donor to be used for food, health or warmth in winter.

Sue Grindle is contacting *Friends in Action*, to assist people with transportation to vaccination appointments.

They're working to set up a proposal for a **Camp Bishopswood campership** in the Deetjens' names.

Half of money given to Outreach is given to the **Magic School Bus**, which takes food and books for kids to different locations in eight towns in summer and fall.

Maintenance is needed at Harborview Apartments – it was built as Section Eight housing for a thirty year lifespan more than thirty years ago. The owner lives in Florida. Sarah Pebworth (Blue Hill's Maine State Representative) is looking into this.

The **Flower Guild** is looking into a possible Easter flower mission.

Senior Warden Report, Milissa Lalonde

Kathy Thompson suggested we look into the **Hannaford Corporate Gift Card Program**, a small fund-raising effort in which Hannaford gift cards be used and 5% of dollars spent through those cards be donated to St. Francis. It's very detailed. She will continue to work with it.

Milissa wonders how people might feel about doing **Stations of the Cross outdoors** in Lent (weather permitting)?

Rector's Report, Brent Was

Brenda Swazey's funeral will be on Saturday, February 27 at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

We've invited to join St. Brendan's and Trinity on Thursday March 18 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom to watch *Traces of the Trade*, followed by a discussion with the filmmakers.

Planning for **re-opening of in-person worship** should begin. Maybe we should start outdoors – Blue Hill town park? – for spacing and better Zoom coverage. Maybe two services could be held each Sunday – one streamed; one at the church. Advance reservations might be needed to attend in-church services, because of limited numbers and distancing. We should form a **committee to talk about returning** – Nathaniel, Bill, Lynne and Milissa volunteered. Dennis DeSilvey would be good candidate as well.

A bit more long-term, we need to consider what we're going to **replace the St. Francis Fair** – the community has suffered a loss of affordable purchases, and the church no longer has that income. How can we match the energy to the needs in the community? Lynne has been thinking about this, and has been looking at available spaces (workable space, cheap rent!).

On internet connectivity at church – Nathaniel suggested AT&T signal boosters (around \$500) he will send information to Brent about this. Sarah suggested we might have to consider a capital campaign to raise the money for an internet connection we can use going forward – Zoom services will be ongoing henceforth, for congregants and others who can't get to church. About \$80,000 would be needed for a hardwired fiber optic internet line down the Hinckley Ridge Road. Brent suggested we table this for the moment – Heather has been working on parts of this.

Our next Vestry meeting will be on Wednesday, March 3rd.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ramsay, Clerk