

Vestry Meeting
St. Francis By-the-Sea Episcopal Church
February 16, 2022

Present via Zoom were Nathaniel Boëchat, Junior Warden Sarah Everdell, Heather Ford, Bill Gould, Treasurer Kevin Hunt, Tyler Knowles, Senior Warden Milissa LaLonde, Kate Mulrenin, Clerk Chris Ramsay, and Lynne Yurosko.
Fr. Brent Was was absent.

Milissa opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with a prayer.

The Vestry voted to accept the **minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting.**

Treasurer's Report – Kevin Hunt

Kevin pointed out that prepaid pledges for 2022 showed as a liability until January 2022, when they became pledge income.

Brent's salary increase was put through effective January 19.

Clergy insurance benefits paid in January includes the \$5,450 payment for the Was family's HSA deductible which was authorized by Milissa.

The Children's Ministry salary was added to the payroll system.

Terry and Jim Briggs would like to make a \$1,000 donation to the Wardwell fuel fund. They will donate it to Outreach, and Outreach will direct it be sent to Wardwell Oil for the fuel fund.

Tyler moved the Vestry accept this restricted gift, Heather seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Terry and Jim Briggs will make an unrestricted gift of \$700 to the Building and Grounds Reserve Fund.

St. Francis has received \$5,000 from the estate of Mary Semler, through Planned Giving. The church has also received memorial gifts in memory of Libby Cluett and Marilyn Stewart.

The Diocese communicated this month that the Second Draw of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan was forgiven as of December 17, 2021. Our next financial statements will reflect this.

The **Parochial Report** is due on March 1.

The Financial sections have been completed and were sent to the Vestry. The other sections concern number of parishioners, number of congregants, as well as some summary questions which have not yet been finalized.

The Diocese would have to be contacted for a waiver if we would like a couple of additional weeks before submitting it.

The Diocesan Assessment asks that we provide an estimate of additional expenses due to the pandemic. Kevin entered \$5,200 – mostly altar supplies and Brent's hot spot (most of the electronics were purchased in 2020).

Two questions asked by the Assessment were (1) How significant was the negative impact of the pandemic on our congregation? and What was the impact on our finances? Kevin's answers to both of these is "somewhat insignificant."

In 2021, we had a larger revenue stream than we'd had in any of the past seven years. For 2021, the church's total revenues including those from the Steeple Fund total \$339,682. Our operating and non-operating expenses total \$356,763. Taken together, this is \$696,500 that the business of the church involves. We spend \$9,000 on accounting services, which represents about 1.3% of these monies processed through QuickBooks – well worth the cost.

The **Rector's Report** was given by Milissa

Lenten and Easter services and programs:

The Salt Bowl will be placed at the church.

Stations of the Cross will be every Friday – outdoors on Good Friday, weather permitting

Wednesday Seekers in Lent will be similar to last year – Brent and the Congregational minister will discuss various types of prayer.

Ash Wednesday service will be at 5 p.m.

Thursday evenings, Bible study at 7 p.m., dealing with Paul's theology based on Romans.

Maundy Thursday service will be 7 p.m.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross at noon; St. John's Passion service at 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil will begin on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday service will be at 10 a.m.

Tim Thomas is stepping down from Chair of **Planned Giving**; another person to lead this program is needed.

The Vestry discussed **resuming in-person church** for those masked and up-to-date on their vaccinations. Bishop Brown has told Brent that Dr. Shah told him he'd feel comfortable going back to in-person services now. After discussion, the Vestry voted to resume hybrid services beginning next Sunday, February 20.

Outreach made \$711.50 on the **sub sandwich sale** – this will be evenly divided between Outreach and the general fund.

Milissa will distribute names to Vestry who'd indicated a wish to help **Inreach** – reaching out to people by telephone or notecard.

Milissa will be away for the month of March; she'll attend the March Vestry meeting remotely unless internet reception doesn't allow it.

A **Mardi Gras** celebration won't be held this year.

Education activities, including Confirmation classes, have been postponed until the fall. For the time being, this includes programs for younger children as well.

Outreach is working on developing a new construct, meeting every two weeks. What does the community need that we can provide? The congregation will be surveyed to solicit ideas.

Most of the focus is local but Jane Reinoso had spoken to Sue Grindle two years ago about helping an Ecuadorian village achieve indoor plumbing, and will provide more information.

Anne Schroth, H.O.M.E., Community Compass are being contacted.

Buildings and Grounds is meeting every other month. They have a temporary fix for the exterior door by Barbara's office, and will discuss a security camera for the back hallway.

Other Business

Lynne Yurosko suggested interested Vestry members should meet after Milissa's return specifically to **discuss and brainstorm fund-raising plans** for this year. **Wednesday April 6 at 6:30** was chosen..

The next Vestry meeting will be on Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m., and will be Zoom only.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ramsay, Clerk