

Vestry Check-In Minutes July 9, 2020

Highlights:

*Now that contractors can get into the buildings under certain health and safety protocols, the Buildings & Grounds Committee updated the Vestry on a number of repair and maintenance projects that are kicking into gear, taking advantage of the fact that the buildings are largely unoccupied due to the pandemic.

*The Property Use in Pandemic task force has held its first meeting, reviewing both broad policies and specific logistical details of the first three events on the church grounds in months: sanctuary walk-throughs by contractors so they can prepare bids of repair projects; the interment of a former member in the columbarium; and a celebration of the Rite 13 students' passage into young womanhood in the lawn along Woodbridge.

*Vestry agreed to survey parishioners as to what other services, and when, they would prefer as we gradually re-open to in-person worship.

Present: Lisa Jones, Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, Christine Galli, Chuck Atwater, Howard Matthew, Betty Warner, Rev. Anthony Estes, Denise Crenshaw, Desmond Jones, Roger Basse, George Port, and Jim Treece.
Absent/Excused: Phil Brown, Carolyn Maher. Action items underlined.

Reports Submitted: Stewardship

Emily opened with a prayer adapted from one delivered by the then-bishop at a party the city threw for Charles Trowbridge on his 83rd birthday, on Dec. 29, 1882.

The minutes of the June 25 meeting were **approved** with minor corrections.

Under **Old Business** (i.e., action items from the previous meeting):

Vestry was asked to review the preliminary plan and get back to Emily quickly with any thoughts. Emily: The Property Use in Pandemic (PUP) committee met last night. The re-opening plan has been revised and will be further revised. After that she will send it to the Vestry again.

Roger will activate the shepherds this weekend. Roger, asked if he had received any feedback, said the people he contacted were disappointed that there wasn't more we could do in-person, but every one of them was supportive of being cautious and mindful of people's health. Betty reported, "People's spirits seem to be much better now."

Lisa will tell Jon Miller to get his deposit back. Done.

The first order of business was a report from the **Property Use in Pandemic** task force which met July 7. Emily listed the PUP team: Emily Williams Guffey, Anthony Estes, Lisa Jones, Howard Matthews, Lauren Leney, Liza Parkinson, Jim Treece and perhaps Kathryn Treece as she is able, plus staffers Sarah Tribelhorn, KaClarence Haynes, and Calebria Webb. The PUP task force discussed the re-opening protocols and came up with some additions, e.g., asking basic questions to people when they arrive and developing protocols for tracking. The group reviewed three coming events as examples of how we'll start to implement the protocols: walk-throughs (held today, July 9) by contractors to prepare the bids for work on the sanctuary floor; the gathering of a small group of family members for a columbarium interment on Friday, July 10; and a July 15 celebration of our Rite 13 students' passage into young womanhood. The group also shared best practices from other organizations, such as Comerica Bank, Wayne State University, and various other educational bodies.

Lauren Leney is leading Rite 13. She, the Rite 13 team and Emily had already been talking about the celebration from liturgical and communications perspectives. The PUP team discussed the logistics: how to handle the sound issues; how much interpersonal contact is essential and appropriate, and how many people will fit with appropriate spacing. The event will be by invitation only; Leney is determining whether there will be

sufficient space to invite godparents. Emily has blocked out the service – who stands where, almost like a play – to determine how many can attend, knowing that family groups can stand together.

The PUP team will meet again next Tuesday. There are more logistics to work through, especially for outdoor gatherings, and doing so may take several weeks.

Betty: St. Stephens had a service last Sunday. They took people's temperatures, with someone at the door checking as people come in. Christine relayed the safety protocols she faced at two recent doctor appointments.

Jim: My takeaway from the PUP meeting was that we were setting rules for three very different events, but not setting them in stone yet. We'll see how those rules work and adjust based on what we learn. This is uncharted territory, so we had to go into very detailed specifics, such as, how do you hand off a microphone to another speaker?

Emily disagreed somewhat with the implication that our rules are in flux, saying that what has been printed and submitted to the bishop's office is our policy. As we change it, we'll submit new versions. In fact, she will need to submit a new version before the Rite 13 service.

Other suggestions for outdoor events which have been raised, but were not addressed at the PUP meeting: Prayer services in Sperry Park; what a series of prayers for racial justice might look like, maybe including the raising of a Black Lives Matter flag (which the church has); and a small morning or evening prayer service in the courtyard. Music Director Ed Maki-Schramm is looking into non-wind instrumental music, and could program tower bells in advance.

We envision worship services that don't try to replicate what was normal for us before, but to embrace this season to try other things. The outdoor gatherings won't be on Sunday morning. They may occur on Sunday evening, or early morning for those commuting to work, or evenings.

Howard suggested we poll the congregation to see which of these have the most attraction. That idea received strong support.

Roger passed along questions from the **Heritage Committee**. First, when will we come together to celebrate the anniversary? Probably in 2021, rather than this year. Lisa said it may depend on how many people get together for the celebration. Denise said she would hate to do all the preparation for a fabulous event, and then have a Covid-19 surge and have to cancel it. "I'd rather wait," to allow as many people as possible to take part, she said. Roger raised the possibility of doing smaller things before next year.

The committee's second question was whether they could access the archives on the second floor of Sibley House. Roger requested an answer from the PUP Committee. Also, he said Zoom meetings don't work for some committee members; they want to meet face-to-face. Is it possible for up to 10 of them to meet in the courtyard, or in Roger's back yard – even if later rather than sooner? Lisa: We'll discuss that request at the next PUP meeting. She also suggested that Emily put the latest iteration of the protocols on the website.

During our period of **Dialogue and Reflections**, Lisa shared a piece of artwork, drawing on the verse John 13:34: "A new commandment I give unto you: That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." She gave her response to the art and scripture, and invited others to do so as well. Here is a link to the art, and the scripture reference.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DxRYX3AEMjBZvwu2pw5vzveQxopAHh0r/view?usp=sharing_eil&ts=5f073a25

On behalf of **Buildings & Grounds**, Desmond reported on five projects:

1. The bell tower workers are evaluating three mortars, to determine which matches the existing work best.
2. The walk-through for contractors looking at the east and west wall repairs took place, with bids expected around July 20. Because the workers won't have to take time at the end of each Friday to clean up the sanctuary for Sunday worship, they expect that the work may be finished in less than three weeks. But we'll know more when the bids arrive.
3. The flooring work is to be included with the wall bids.
4. The B&G Committee representatives discussed the stormwater project with Giffels Webster, which will present a new plan next Monday. It was agreed that the B&G committee will review the new plan.

5. We've told Quinn Evans of our desire for a new master plan for the buildings, and they understand what we want. The Vestry needs to decide when we want to do that. No action was taken, in part because we first want to see the walls/flooring bids in order to get a sense of the B&G cash-flow schedule, i.e., when those invoices will arrive in what amounts.

Other matters. *Water-heater/boiler repairs are on hold for 2-3 weeks while awaiting parts. *KaClarence is clearing rubbish in the south parking lot, across Woodbridge, in anticipation of possible gatherings in that open space. *The vendor for the security-camera upgrade will provide us with a schedule for the work, with two or at most three persons inside and outside the church in almost all locations. We'll want to coordinate that with the work on the walls/floors. *Likewise, we need to decide if workers will be allowed into the building for the boiler repairs. Emily: Any use of or entry into the building needs to be cleared by her, and then coordinated by KaClarence and Sarah. George: I'm still filling out the forms for both the grant (\$10K) and loan (\$250K) we have been awarded by the diocese, but Canon Jo Hardy wants to know when we will want the money. Desmond: Invoices are arriving – we will owe about \$27,500/month for this phase of the bell tower work – so the answer is now.

In other business, Jim suggested we put the equivalent of a membership or “contact us” card not only on our website but also in the weekly online worship service materials, in an effort to further engage those new individuals who are worshipping with us, some from out of state.

Chuck said that his contacts with some of the more senior members of our congregation indicate that some still have issues worshipping online. Roger noted that four or five people in his shepherd's flock had issues, but all have been resolved, thanks in part to the J2A tech crew. Lisa said we need to keep this on our agenda.

Carolyn will be up north, and will see us in a couple of weeks. Lisa has been in touch with Phil, who has scheduling conflicts and may have to put his status on the vestry on hold.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Treece, secretary