



Vestry Minutes - Nov. 5, 2020

Highlights:

- *Vestry reviewed the All Saints' Day worship, which offered parishioners the chance to enter the sanctuary to pray and pay respects at the columbarium, and discussed plans for Christ the King Sunday.
- *The vestry was urged to suggest names for A) parishioners as well as community partners who might be interviewed as part of the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study, B) the Capital Campaign Committee itself, and C) next year's incoming Vestry class.
- * A racial justice pilot discussion group of eight is forming for December, to be facilitated by Dr. Sandra Montes; Outreach is discussing new ways to conduct the annual Advent diaper drive in a safe way; and Emily's Angels and the newly formed Men's Group reported on ways they will be tending to the needs of our members as the pandemic stretches into the winter.

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

Opened with Prayer by Emily Williams Guffey. Our **reflection** asked: How do we heal?

Minutes (Oct. 15 and 22, 2020) **Approved**.

Worship and Property Use

- *About 10 people on Saturday and 25-30 on Sunday, All Saints' Day, showed up for communion and a chance to enter the sanctuary to pray and pay respects at the columbarium. Ed Maki-Schramm came in and played the organ for about an hour on Sunday; it was the first time since we stopped meeting that he could hear applause.
- *Weekday Prayer services are on hiatus until at least Advent. Attendance was steady between 5-15 throughout the time we held it, from August into early November.
- *Emily would like to open the Sanctuary from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8, 15, and 22, assuming our directives remain unchanged. Communion would be available and this would offer opportunities for individual prayers, in response to some of the requests we've had for both communion and personal time in the sanctuary. It won't be a burden for her to be there on those Sundays. For now, it would be more of a burden than a help to ask people to sign up for time slots, but that might be something to try in the future.
- *Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 22, will have activities from 2-4 p.m.: an in-gathering of pledges (for which Richard Thomas will decorate a collection basin); J2A Greens Sale; distribution of Advent materials; welcoming of three new members; and communion. The ingathering of pledges also will be recognized during the online worship that day. Whether these events are outdoors and/or indoors depends on weather and pandemic conditions, and any new directives from the bishop.
- *Advent and Christmas. Celebration plans are in the works -- musically, liturgically, and educationally.

Outreach, Education, and Care/Connections

*Education. A racial justice pilot discussion group of eight is forming for December, to be facilitated by Dr. Sandra Montes. Those invited to join the pilot group will discuss the topic and gain skills to use when they in turn facilitate other groups next year. Emily is open to recommendations of names for the group, all of whom must commit to facilitate similar groups in the future. Dr. Montes will be our guest preacher on Nov. 15. In addition, J2A groups are meeting successfully and had a fun retreat.

*Outreach will be discussing how to handle the annual diaper drive, as well as support for the Pope Francis Center, in the form of in-person volunteer shifts and/or other support, as it moves its operations to TCF Center. It also is discussing the Blessing Box and Gleaners.

*Emily's Angels/Christ Church Cares. The group has a planning committee and 10 Helping Hands – individuals who have volunteered to deliver packages and such. Recipients will include people identified (by Emily, Shepherds, LEVs, or others) as needing care, as well as people to whom we'll deliver random acts of kindness. The packages will be stored at the church, where Helpers can pick them up. An anonymous donor is underwriting initial costs. Sarah Tribelhorn will keep a master list of recipients served and pending. The group did a pilot run, delivering Halloween treats to about 30 people, and received positive feedback. Roger will send out a call to Shepherds tomorrow with info from and about Emily's Angels, telling people to contact Sarah with any names. Emily will write a note to accompany the packet.

*The Men's Group's first virtual gathering will aim to have fun while discussing our ties to the Detroit Lions.

Finance and Stewardship

We reviewed the latest financials. George raised questions – e.g., how does what we've received compare to what was pledged, and what will we see in terms of loose-plate offerings and non-pledge contributions by the end of the year – saying he hoped at the next meeting to have more info on those topics. He reiterated a need to increase the amount raised in annual giving, so as to reduce our withdrawals from the endowment.

Turning to the annual pledge drive, Vestry members agreed to let the office know by Friday, Nov. 13, their pledge plans, in hopes of being able to tell the congregation that the entire Vestry has pledged. In line with an action item from 10/15: Jim has submitted an appeal for our weekly email to make sure people make their pledges for the year, and to give more money. Another 10/15 action item called for George to draft an additional letter to the congregation about our finances, with details and projections, following up on the article from Finance Committee Chair Jane Forbes.

Christine, Jane Forbes, and Emily hope to provide a draft budget at the next meeting, with two extra columns: a pandemic budget for all of 2021, and a full budget that is not assuming a full year of pandemic. Then we'll have to discuss what form of budget we present to the congregation.

Motion: Vestry affirms our diocesan pledge for calendar 2021 as outlined in the attached letter from the diocese, to pay the full diocesan apportionment share. **Approved.**

Buildings & Grounds

Updates:

**Water heater*: delivery in two weeks. (The one we ordered never arrived; got a refund and ordered a new one.)

**Sump pump*: installed and working!

**Exterior drain system*: appears to be working better due to new sump pump and gutter repairs; will be inspected by video camera next week (Tuesday)

**Vestry room sink*: was backed up and almost overflowing; KaClarence triaged it; plumber to examine and repair next week

**Courtyard drainage*: will meet next week (Tues) with Mike Darga (from Giffels Webster) to finalize plans for drain basin installation; then we'll need to obtain bids; installation should take a few days

**Bell tower*: visible progress! – quite apparent just above the Jefferson Avenue door, RAM will conclude work season within two weeks, they will complete the scope of work in the spring at no additional cost

**Buildings assessment:* Quinn Evans is preparing a proposal, which we hope will be ready for review at our next meeting on the 19th. The assessment itself is scheduled for January. We still need a full project schedule with funding timeline: B&G and Finance will draft it for Vestry to review.

Feasibility Study for Capital Campaign

The contract has been reviewed and signed, and the first payment is being prepared. Official dates: Dec. 1, 2020, through Feb. 28, 2021, though we hope to sign some building contracts before Feb. 28.

Current tasks:

*Start informing parish about the upcoming study and its approach (e.g., community component) and potential timing of capital campaign. Emily has asked Partners for Sacred Places to provide a blurb for this week's e-newsletter; they also will have a form to introduce themselves to community contacts, etc.

*Brainstorm list of interviewees, so we're ready to go in January, in the following categories:

- Faith and lay leaders of CCD (6-8)
- Members and former members of CCD (12-14)
- Community members, business owners, and other local stakeholders (14-16)
- Local philanthropists, foundation officers, and civic leaders (6-8)

Emily is open to nominees by email from all Vestry members. That group may include a few folks from the Capital Campaign Steering Committee. We also need a Feasibility Study Team (Sarah, Calebria, Emily, and maybe 1-2 more) to help with running the logistics of it, e.g., following up with interviewees – "Have you scheduled the appointment?"

*Gradually build Capital Campaign Committee (3-4 members during Feasibility Study, 8-12 members afterwards)

Mission and Vision

Per Denise's motion at the last meeting, Emily is soliciting names for this group, also, as well as for next year's Vestry class. Think of what people you know and what gifts you see in them, to match ministries and gifts. It especially makes sense that the second-year Vestry members work on finding people who they will work with next year. Note that Chuck, Lisa, Christine, Roger, and Phil will be leaving Vestry.

Bishop's Virtual Visit with the congregation: Nov. 17, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

To prepare for that visit, Vestry and ministry-team leaders will meet via Zoom with the Bishop on Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:00-7:00 p.m., to talk about what's happening and what our goals are. FYI, Bishop Bonnie Perry loves fundraising, and sees it as enabling ministry. She has a big vision, and believes in gearing parish ministry for those who have not (yet) walked through our doors. We want to use her to focus us on our goals, and go for big goals. She has a big vision for CCD. She and Emily both see the capacity of this church – we could have 300 people at worship each week. She talks about incremental change—growing incrementally towards growth and more robust ministries. Emily would love to hear her talk with us about that.

Other business/topics

We should talk some more about having had no cases of Covid-19 at Christ Church Detroit. Even Harold Cherry's death was not traced back to CCD. That shows the value of being careful – and it might be worth reminding the congregation of that.

Chuck, as one of Emily's Angels, raised issues of ensuring the confidentiality in people's health and health care while also informing the Angels if, say, they won't be able to enter a nursing home to deliver a gift package. Or can we flag names of gift recipients who have a medical issue? This led to a number of possible

suggestions: Is there a way to put an asterisk by names, alerting the Angel to ask for extra information? Emily noted that sometimes a person is willing for others to know they just had surgery, and other times a person doesn't give permission to relay that information. When Emily supplies a list of gift-recipient names, therefore, she doesn't say why that name is on the list, to ensure confidentiality. Denise said the Angels are not to go into buildings or otherwise put themselves at risk. Angels can always say that being careful is part of our protocol.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Treece, Secretary