



Vestry Minutes
Thursday, February 4, 2021

Highlights:

*This year's church officers were elected: Denise Crenshaw, senior warden; Betty Warner, junior warden for membership development; Howard Matthew, treasurer; and Jim Treece, secretary.

*New members of Vestry were briefed on what to expect at future meetings, and background materials such as the church's Bylaws and an organization chart, detailing areas of ministry and committees, either have been or will be distributed.

*The Buildings & Grounds Committee is exploring bringing fiber optic-based high-speed Internet service to the church, which will be necessary if we wish to stream live worship services when in-person worship resumes.

Present: Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, Rev. Anthony Estes, Ruth Boeder, Claire Brown, Mary Brown, Denise Crenshaw, Desmond Jones, John Leney, Carolyn Maher, Howard Matthew, Anthony Mitchell, José Rodriguez, Jim Treece, Betty Warner. Action items underlined.

Jim led the **Opening Prayer**, which will rotate among Vestry members this year. After a brief get-to-know-you session, the **minutes** of the Jan. 21 and Jan. 31, 2021, Vestry meetings were **approved**. The following slate of officers was elected unanimously: Denise Crenshaw, senior warden; Betty Warner, junior warden for membership development; Jim Treece, secretary; and Howard Matthew, treasurer.

Emily outlined plans for Ash Wednesday and Lent, as part of a **Worship & Education Update**.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, there will be two virtual services: One live on Zoom; one a pre-recorded video available for viewing at one's convenience. Both will happen early in the day. We also will do something outside, similar to an Ashes-to-Go-type service, although we will need to maintain 6' distance, so no touching or imposing of ashes on someone from outside your household or "bubble." Prior to Ash Wednesday, parishioners will be invited to take a photo or video clip of themselves imposing ashes on family members; Katrina will weave those photos and videos into a slide show for the Ash Wednesday video. This aims to be reminiscent of the close-up, face-to-face imposition in previous years. On Feb. 14, we will have a drive-through event in the parking lot with stations offering materials to pick up, e.g., devotionals and perhaps meatless recipes for Lent taken from the cookbook under way, and pancake kits for sale by the J2A in place of the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Liza Parkinson organizing this, as she did for the J2A Greens sale.

The first two seasons of our Deep River Lenten series were explorations of spirituals. This year will be devoted to Art Song, a form of classical singing. Most of the singers will be from Opera Modo's Diversify Opera program, so again the focus will be on African-American Art Song and opera singers.

Finally, our Last Things series (the name might change) is expected to start March 7, meeting online Sunday mornings at 9:30, examining considerations related to end-of-life planning: *What funeral arrangements are possible in these pandemic times? Speakers from funeral homes, plus Ed and Emily on issues related to funeral and memorial services held at Christ Church. *What does our theology say about funeral and memorial

services? *What about grief? *Planning for medical needs at the end of life, with a hospice director – how to think about decisions you want to make for yourself and how to make those decisions on behalf of someone else. Ruth Boeder suggested her father in Illinois may be able to help, due to his background in this field. Jim will follow up with Ruth. *And planning financially for the end of life. Thinking about your legacy, and how planned giving can be part of that.

Emily then gave Vestry a **Racial Justice and History Update**. The Facilitating Racial Justice pilot program continues to meet, after its four sessions during Advent. It will meet again this weekend to discuss next steps. Among the things rising to the surface is a desire to look at our own parish history: what have we done and left undone. Heritage committee may be working on this, also.

Heritage committee is also, through Stuart Grigg's leadership, building a digital archive on our website, so that stories we collect have a place to live. John Leney added that years ago, he had scanned a bunch of old church directories. Emily will ask Beth Ann whether we still have them or if they need to be resurrected.

Desmond was invited to bring the new members of Vestry up to speed with a **Buildings & Grounds Update**.

Working from the "open issues" spreadsheet, he noted the following: *Roofing. We wanted to complete that last year, but it was delayed for various reasons. Got the quote in the latter part of December, for \$6,200, from Steeplejack. It's in the budget for this year, and was approved at Vestry's Jan. 21 meeting. *Hot water heater. Twice, the new one being delivered from Lowe's was damaged. Now, we're getting the third one directly from the contractor. *Internet service within the church. There are not many buildings around us that would utilize the sort of high-speed, fiber-optic service we desire to enable live-streaming of worship services in the sanctuary. (Implication: We can't piggy-back on services already provided in the area.) We're currently paying ATT \$4,500/yr for internet and phone. Very slow and unreliable. We have three quotes: ATT, \$15,600/yr; Comcast, \$17,400/yr; Managed Way, (the only guaranteed speed) 100 MB (less than the others, but should be sufficient for our needs), \$99/month (\$1,188/yr). This may be funded with money from parish development. We've arranged a site visit tomorrow with Managed Way. Their quote is good until the end of this month.

He then turned to the major projects under way:

*Bell Tower. There's still some stonework to be done, and haven't started window replacements yet. To be finished as early as possible in the spring.

*East/West Walls. In some places where some pews are blocked off along the East wall, you can see underneath the wall to outside, due to foundation problems. Also true in the vesting sacristy area. We did extensive work in the form of walk-throughs, bids, consultations, etc. We've awarded a contract to repair the church flooring, at a cost of approximately \$42K. Hope to do this repair while we're still not meeting in the sanctuary, so that costs can be held down because the contractor won't have to work around Sunday worship.

*Stormwater project. We're waiting on a revised quote based on design changes. Contractor is GiffelsWebster. Initially \$70-80K, but we found additional problems with the drainage system.

*As a part of our capital campaign, we're trying to come up with a master plan, a physical assessment of our property and our property needs. The cost of this assessment, already awarded to Quinn Evans, is \$10,500. (A more thorough assessment brought a bid of \$32K.) It includes walk-throughs, interviews with staff, and a review of our building documents (e.g., blueprints).

That segued into Emily's **Capital Campaign Process Update**. This week, Partners for Sacred Places started the feasibility study. We're paying Partners about \$18K to carry that out, to assess our readiness for a capital campaign: what's an appropriate goal, how might we space the campaign over the coming years, and so on. They'll conduct about 45 hour-long interviews, and then provide us with an aggregated summary of their

findings. About 20-25 households from our parish, representing different areas and ministries in our congregation, and another 20 with folks outside of our community, including some who may not have had any dealings with Christ Church before, to shed light on what our community knows about Christ Church and what needs we might serve. We can expect to hear that info about mid- to late-March.

A key takeaway: the capital campaign will not fall on the Vestry. We'll be forming a capital campaign committee to carry the process forward. Some Vestry folks may be involved, but not the Vestry as a body.

Emily then reviewed points related to the **new Vestry's organization and orientation**, starting with what to expect at the next meeting:

- Financial Reports from January 2021
- Monthly Activity Reports from Clergy & Staff
- Reports from some ministries: This year, we might target different ministries in different months, so that we hear from everyone over the course of the year.
- Possible motions/decisions on expenditures, e.g., for building projects
- Jane Forbes provides an educational/orientation session about our finances. We schedule that separately, to allow adequate time for questions. We hope to do this in February or early March.

In discussing the schedule, it was requested that we receive an Outlook Calendar notice, including the Zoom link. Emily will ask Sarah to do that.

The Bylaws were sent to all Vestry members. In addition, members were asked to sign up to Vestry Representative at worship services, to lead Vestry meeting opening prayer, and to take on ministry/committee liaison positions. Denise, Betty, and Emily are updating the ministry/committee organization chart, and we will finalize liaisons at our next meeting. Denise also will contact the new Vestry folks to deliver a binder of materials, and some materials for signups on where you'd like to be a liaison.

In **Other Business**, Emily said the CEEP (Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes) annual conference is coming up in early March. Speakers include Archbishop of Canterbury and our Presiding Bishop. Sessions are organized by ministry. She will send out info about that in the coming days.

Jim said he has received a notice of new grants available from Partners for Sacred Places, and a webinar explaining how to apply. He will forward it to Buildings and Grounds and Finance Committees.

Proposed Meeting Schedule

- **Thursday, February 18, 6:00-7:30pm**
- **Thursday, March 4, 6:00-7:30pm**
- **Thursday, March 25, 6:00-7:30pm**
- **Thursday, April 15, 6:00-7:30pm**
- **Thursday, April 29, 6:00-7:30pm**
- Thursday, May 13, 6:30-8:00pm Mutual Ministry Review. This will be done by a subcommittee: Emily, both Wardens, and two representatives of the Vestry at large. Those two will be charged with gathering feedback from the rest of the Vestry ahead of the meeting.
- **Thursday, May 20, 6:00-7:30pm**
- **June date(s) TBD**

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Treece, secretary