

Church of the Nativity
Minutes of the Vestry
April 21, 2020

Attending: Stephanie Allen, Michael Warrillow, Carrie Mash, Rene Garces, Cheryl Waechter, Robert Joines, Kat Belk, Stephanie Sumner, John Oldham, Lori Special, and Gail Christensen.

The meeting convened at 7:03 pm via Zoom video-conferencing due to all church services, activities and meetings being suspended because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Bible study: Stephanie led the Vestry in a discussion of Romans 2:17-29.

Rector's Report: Stephanie Allen

Stephanie thanked the Vestry members for calling parishioners; people appreciated it and felt more connected. The Stephen Ministers were also making calls.

Holy Week and Easter went well. A special thanks to Robert Joines for his live streaming services. Some services were pre-recorded by Robert, and some were produced by the Diocese. Some people were watching the live streams who never come to church. People were comforted by seeing the organ and the altar, and enjoyed seeing each other on coffee hour Zooms. We will continue to stream services even after we are allowed to worship in person again, but there are too many unknowns to begin planning how we will be together after the shutdown ends.

It is likely that the Bishop will extend his instruction to close churches beyond May 17. He is waiting for direction from Governor Cooper. We know we are not planning to open the campus until at least June 1.

The Diocese is offering a Zoom conference for lay leaders on May 8. More information to follow.

Kathryn Buckley:

Youth Minister Kathryn Buckley has been doing clinical pastoral education at hospitals locally and has decided to pursue a Master's of Divinity at Campbell University. Admission to the program requires Vestry approval. Cheryl moved that the Vestry express our approval of her desire to pursue preparation for ministry and recommend her for admission to Campbell University's Divinity School. Robert seconded. The vote was unanimous. The application will be mailed as soon as it is signed by the Clerk of the Vestry (which happened the following day).

Sr Warden's Report: Carrie Mash

The Finance Team did not get the application to the bank in time for the PPP program (a loan from the federal government that would be forgiven if we met certain criteria). The Diocese, which applied the day after the bill was signed, was denied but will probably apply in the second round of the bill. Our bank, BBT (now Truist) will not guarantee that our application will be approved in the second round, since we are further down in the queue. We have no other option but to wait. The good news is that we don't really need financial help at the moment. That may change as the summer approaches.

Jr. Warden's Report: Rene Garces

- The B&G Work Day scheduled for March 28 was canceled, rescheduled for the Fall.
- Thermostat setpoints in Curry Hall building and in Estill House hallway and conference room were set to heat starting at 65F and below, and to cool at 80F and above, to minimize electric bills. Thermostats in Narthex, Nursery, and Sacristy were turned off.
- Locking mailbox has been installed, replacing the old mailbox in the same location.
- A combination lock was installed on the gate to the fence surrounding 3 cooling units of HVAC for the worship building; the combination has been taped in each building's key lockbox.
- Habitat House build continues to be built using Habitat personnel, and not open to volunteers; the house is expected to complete and be occupied mid-June/2020.
- Yearly fire alarm inspection scheduled for 6/1/2020.
- Lawn service scheduled to begin 5/8/2020, at \$225/cut and \$450/month. The restart after the winter was pushed back a month already, with Rene mowing the lawn until the lawn service would begin. He may continue mowing between service mowings.

Pastoral Care Update:

The Team is continually checking on those in the church who are in elder care and assisted living, and also on parishioners who work in health care, to assure they are doing OK. Over 60 people are on the prayer list for significant illnesses, and we are sharing those lists on the weekly email. God bless David Lynch, who is on the phone daily with those struggling through this crisis. Please keep David in your prayers.

Financial Update: John Oldham

We have experienced strong results January to March, thanks to good communication about paying pledges. We are ahead of budget by \$44.4K. Income is down from rentals, and expenses are down, not drastically, because we still pay salaries, mortgage, and insurance. Outreach is still spending for groups we support, such as Habitat and Rise Against Hunger. Regular giving may be where we take a hit. We need to keep reminding people about maintaining their pledge during these strange times. Thanks to Alfred Christensen for setting up various means of paying pledges electronically - Venmo is particularly popular - and people are sending us checks, too. We do have reserves we can draw from if necessary.

We do have money in the Discretionary Funds to help people during this crisis. Let us know if you are aware of someone in need.

Vestry members do not need to come into Estill House to sign check requests. You can send an email with your approval of the reimbursement to Megan or Phil.

Approval of the March Vestry meeting and special April Vestry meeting minutes:

The minutes of the March 2020 Vestry meeting were submitted for approval. Lori moved to accept the minutes as written; Robert seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The minutes of the April 2020 special Vestry meeting were submitted for approval. Cheryl moved to accept the minutes as written; Kat seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with a prayer at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Christensen
Clerk of the Vestry

The Next Scheduled Vestry Meeting is Tuesday, May 19 at 7 pm via Zoom.