

Church of the Nativity

Minutes of the Vestry

March 17, 2020

Attending: Stephanie Allen, Michael Warrillow, Betty Sammit, Carrie Mash, Rene Garces, Cheryl Waechter, Robert Joines, Kat Belk, Stephanie Sumner, John Oldham, Kim Stoke, Mike Rhaney, 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 2:1-11.

Discussion of how to do church during the crisis led by Stephanie Allen:

Stephanie and clergy members throughout the Diocese were on a call with the Bishops this morning, and the following changes are to be announced to all churches:

- All church activities, meetings, and services were to be suspended through May 17, which is after Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter.
- Communion cannot be taken to the sick.
- All in-person pastoral care visits must be suspended, even at the time of death. Instructions will come out later about what to do about funerals.
- When services are live-streamed, no more than 6 can be present.

We brainstormed ways to maintain our bonds of community when we cannot gather together. But it is hard to plan in this ever-changing situation with so much uncertainty.

- We will continue to live-stream our service of Morning Prayer on Sundays. Our first such service was on March 15. The service was live streamed at 10:30, and 553 people saw at least some of it. Robert Joines will continue to record the video, and Josh Booth will post the audio as he has been doing in the past few years. Robert will put them on YouTube after they are concluded, and a link to them is on the website.
- It was suggested that, to foster a sense of community, we could ask participants to post photos as they watch the service. Robert will handle that.
- Stephanie plans to add a “children’s chapel” talk at the end of the services.
- If Jason is feeling better this Sunday, he will contribute music, perhaps some well-known hymns that parishioners can sing along with at home. If he is not well, Robert offered to play his guitar. Perhaps there are others who could offer their musical talents.
- Robert will also post something during the service about paying your pledge.
- We usually receive our largest amounts of donations during Palm Sunday and Easter services. Carrie hopes the Diocese will be giving us help/directions about what to do.
- The financial report indicates that we were ahead of pledges in the first two months of 2020.

- John Oldham will find out more information about how we can support the Food Bank and Inter-Faith Food Shuttle.
- The Vestry members will be happy to make calls to parishioners to check on them. The Pastoral Care Team has a list of those who might need special attention. Stephanie will provide a script of talking points if that would help.
- A Google sheet was suggested to share what we heard from parishioners. Any sensitive information would not be included, but shared with Stephanie and David only.
- Stephanie is offering help from her discretionary fund to those in the parish in need. When Vestry members make their calls, they could mention this.
- Kathryn Buckley, our Youth Minister, is working on ideas for the youth to get together online. She is also considering a Wednesday evening gathering online for parents and kids.
- Cuyler O'Connor will continue to do family Bible Study, but online now.
- Teens and college kids have offered to help with child care for parents who must work.
- John and Carrie will meet with others online to discuss our finances.

In conclusion, we must give ourselves grace and let the Spirit in, to help us to reach out to others and to keep calm and carry on.

Junior Warden Rene Garces posted the following on the Google Drive:

- B&G Work Day scheduled for March 2020 has been postponed.
- All American has been called several times to deal with Worship building HVAC issues in Nursery, Narthex, and Nave.
- Yearly back-flow valve tests required by City of Raleigh were conducted on February 20 2020 by Simplex-Grinnell; tests passed and reports received.
- Two power outlets for video equipment needed to live-stream services were installed under the video box located in the back hallway of the worship building.
- Habitat House build has been postponed until the end of April 2020.
- Installing locking mailbox to replace existing mailbox on the schedule.
- Meeting with lawn service folks this week to begin lawn service next week.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with virtual prayer at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Christensen
Clerk of the Vestry

The Next Scheduled Vestry Meeting is Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7 pm via Zoom.