

Church of the Nativity
Minutes of the Vestry
February 16, 2021

Attending: Stephanie Allen, Carrie Mash, Rene Garces, Cheryl Waechter, Robert Joines, Stephanie Sumner, John Oldham, Kim Stoke, Beth Crow, Anne Krouse, Bill Sena, Ryan Parker, Mike Rhaney, and Gail Christensen.

The meeting convened with meditation on Psalm 139 at 7:05 pm via Zoom video-conferencing due to all meetings being suspended because of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

Approval of the January 2021 minutes:

The minutes of the January Vestry meeting were submitted for approval. Cheryl moved to accept the minutes as written; Anne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Rector's Report: Stephanie Allen

Ryan Parker, who has been attending Nativity since November 2019, has discerned a call to the Episcopal priesthood. He is now an ordained Methodist minister who is currently a chaplain at the VA in Durham. He told the Vestry at length about his background, his reasons for choosing Nativity as the family's church home, and his wish to be a priest in the Episcopal Church. Robert moved that the Vestry supports Ryan in moving forward in the discernment process. Cheryl seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Finance Report: John Oldham and Mike Rhaney

We had a "good January under the circumstances", although not as good as January 2020. Expenses were down, so income was \$10K more than we spent. However, the amount of contributions from "regular givers" was zero, which has never happened before, so that needs to be looked into.

The Finance Team met recently and presented the final 2021 budget to the Vestry for its comments and approval. The Team's objectives were "reasonably conservative": 1) produce a balanced budget between income and expenses; 2) hold staff salaries flat from 2020; 3) fund outreach as requested; 4) defer investment/long-term expenses, but provide for maintenance and repairs as needed; 5) cut expenses where we could (in worship and parish life, for example, and youth trip cancelled). John moved that the Vestry accept the budget, and Robert seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Our PPP loan from the government is in the process of being approved for "forgiveness". More documentation has been requested, but John fully expects that the loan of \$44K will be forgiven, since no other churches have been denied. The disposition of those monies will be decided at a later time.

Junior Wardens' Report: Rene Garces

Rene reported that two LED flood lamps, controlled by a dusk-to-dawn sensor, have been installed to light up the sidewalk on the north side of the worship building. Johnson Controls performed its yearly inspection of backflow valves outside the southeast corner of the Worship building and inside the fire panel utility closet in Curry Hall. Duke Power is to be contacted to repair the street light located in the southeast corner of the parking lot located east/southeast of the worship building because the light is out; Rene will request that the light be replaced with an omnidirectional LED light that will light up parking spots next to the stairs going down to Mary's school in the woods, since cars have been detected on camera going into the darker areas of

those parking spots in the late evening. The thermostat was replaced in the rector's office and Stephanie reports that the office is no longer overheating. An aluminum and cork strip has been installed in the hallway of Curry Hall to hang children's artwork, per Mary's request. Lawn service was stopped after November 2020 and will be resumed some time in March 2021.

Lent 2021 Plans: Stephanie Allen

The Ash Wednesday service this year will be on Zoom at noon and 7 pm. Two book clubs will meet during Lent: one led by Stephanie and Karen McGugan, and a second by the Social Justice group. Sacred Conversations continue, and the Christian Essentials group wants to continue on a regular basis. The Spiritual Discipline group will meet on Wednesdays via Zoom for those wishing to pursue a spiritual practice during Lent. And a Lenten series on grief will be led by Phillip Bass on Thursday evenings.

We have had several deaths in the parish this month, including The Rev. Diane Corlett, the previous rector of Nativity, and her husband Fred. Their beautiful services were recorded and broadcast online. Services for Ed Entrup and Bob McQueen are postponed until we can meet in person later in the Spring.

Approval of the 2020 Parochial Report:

John moved that the 2020 Parochial Report be approved as amended (adding one baptism). Bill seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Altar Guild leadership change:

A resolution of thanks to Brenda Johnston was proposed by Robert: In thanksgiving for 9 years of faithful service as Head of the Altar Guild, The Vestry of Church of the Nativity commends Brenda Johnston for her work as leader, coordinator, and organizer of the Altar Guild. This vital ministry ensures that our worship is orderly, precise, and beautiful, and we give thanks for Brenda's continual care and faithfulness in that work. The resolution was seconded by Cheryl and the vote of the Vestry was unanimous.

Nativity / Raleigh-Apex NAACP Scholarship Fund: Beth Crow

The Vestry approved a request by the Social Justice Committee to raise \$1000 (or more) for this scholarship fund by reaching out to individuals rather than a full-fledged campaign. The committee has contacted those who have been identified and the money has been coming in.

Vestry change: Stephanie

Viola Baldwin, who joined the Vestry this year, has resigned because she must attend to a family emergency requiring her to be away from Raleigh for an unknown amount of time. Stephanie asked the members to suggest names to replace Viola.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Christensen
Clerk of the Vestry