

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

Attending: Stephanie Allen, Stephanie Sumner, Rene Garces, Cheryl Waechter, Josh Booth, John Oldham, Bill Sena, Robert Joines, Mike Rhaney, Carrie Mash, Beth Crow, Kathryn Buckley, Phillip Bass, and Gail Christensen

The meeting was convened at 7:02 pm, in person.

The meeting began with discussion of Matthew 17:14-21.

Support for Nativity's Youth

Youth Minister Kathryn Buckley and Intern Phillip Bass came before the Vestry to discuss how the church could support our youth in these stress-filled times, when they have known 20+ months of lockdowns, Zoom school, catching up on what they missed, and broken connections with friends and church. How do we get them back and included without forcing them? As yet, Sunday School has not resumed, and acolyting has just started up again. A paid nursery caregiver is still being sought. Rebuilding will be slow, but we must be persistent in trying ways to help. Kathryn has been meeting one-on-one with some of the youth and offering some smaller group setting opportunities as well as large group events in hopes youth will come. John and Beth will meet with Kathryn to develop ideas for how the Vestry and parishioners can support and encourage our youth.

Approval of the October 2021 Minutes

The minutes of the October Vestry meeting were submitted for approval. Stephanie Sumner moved to accept the minutes as written; Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report

Treasurer Mike Rhaney reported that we have been running a deficit most of the year against the budget, but we had a great October financially, even better than last year's October and much better than September. If November and December do as well, which we have traditionally experienced, we may make up the shortfall to have a balanced budget at the end of the year, or at least be less than \$10K under budget. Pledge payments are actually ahead of schedule, and donations by "regular givers" (who have not pledged) have picked up, although their payments are still below expectations. In short, we are not in serious trouble, as so many churches are. We have been able to fund everything we needed and wanted, but next year could be a challenge. We need to be prudent in budgeting and spending.

We have done significant investing in the campus this year, most visibly in the transformation of the Memorial Garden, work on which concluded this week. We have been able to hold the line on expenses, so far.

Our request for forgiveness of the debt from the PPP loan during the pandemic has been submitted. Should we receive forgiveness, we will have about \$40,000 to add to our P&L statement.

All of our previous renters have returned except the Tai Chi folks, and Rene says they may still be interested. The Communications Team was asked to consider advertising on Facebook to get the word out that Nativity is a safe place to rent.

2022 Stewardship Campaign

To date, we have received pledges of \$347,748 from 104 households, an average of \$3343 per pledge. This is almost as much as we budgeted for the 2021 year (\$389,000) and with so many households still to pledge, we are looking good. A letter will go out this week to these outstanding pledges, asking them to be made before the Annual Meeting on November 21.

Rector's Report

Stephanie listed upcoming events, including:

- Annual Meeting on November 21, which will be livestreamed;
- Advent I on November 28, which will also include a baptism;
- Confirmation and the Bishop's visitation on December 5;
- Day of Giving (in person) on December 5;
- Online Week of Giving from November 28 to December 5;
- Christmas Eve services outside at 2 pm and 6 pm under a tent with rented chairs, and 8pm indoors;
- Lessons and Carols on December 26;
- Farewell for organist/choirmaster Jason Pace on January 2, 2022.

A team has been organized to begin the search for an organist. A substitute organist has been secured for January.

Four Vestry members will be rotating off in December, and four replacements will be elected at the Annual Meeting on November 21. Stephanie asked the Vestry to come up with names of candidates to be asked.

Senior Warden's Report

John Oldham will host a Christmas dinner for the Vestry on December 4 at his home.

Jr. Warden's Report

Rene reported:

- All campus lights are now LED: 6 lights in the parking lots and 1 behind Estill House.
- Still no volunteer yet for the head of security/safety team.
- Fire alarms have been converted from 2 landlines to 2 imbedded cell phone lines. Nativity should save ~\$8K/year since 1 of 3 ATT bills for landlines should be eliminated.
- Lawn service completed for the year after one more cutting, not resumed until late March or April 2022; being done in early mornings now instead of afternoons, every 2 weeks on Thursdays, to be finished before 9 am in the Kinder Garden outdoor areas.
- HVAC unit for Estill House was repaired at a cost expected to be greater than \$2200.
- Two Fall workdays were held in October, and B&G plans to do two more in the Spring.
- Memorial Garden expansion and renovation was completed 11/16/2021.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Christensen
Clerk of the Vestry

The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2021 at 7 pm.