

ST. THOMAS VIRTUAL (Zoom) VESTRY MEETING
December 21, 2020

Present: The Rev Canon Lisa Fry, Rector; The Rev Abby Pettee, Deacon; Carlos Mello, Senior Warden; Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden; Br Donovan Bowley, Bill Freeman, Sarah Groman, Dean Jackson, Jen Johanson, Elizabeth Moran, Eileen Morelli, Terry Mello, Treasurer; Shirley Fierro, Clerk.

Meeting opened at 5:35 p.m. with Prayer for St. Thomas' day, led by the Rector.

A motion was made by Edmond and seconded by Elizabeth to accept the minutes as amended via email of the Vestry meeting of November 24, 2020. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurers Report

The deficit for the year is between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00. There will be an additional pay on December 31, 2020-a three pay period month.

The Treasurer was thanked for her work.

Junior Warden

Thanked everyone for their prayers.

Old Business

- A Blue Christmas Service on YouTube and Facebook went live on December 20, 2020.
- A Christmas Eve service video with Pageant will be released on Christmas Eve at 5pm
- In-person Christmas services are scheduled for outdoors at St. Thomas Church - watch your Email in case of inclement weather. Services Christmas Eve will be at 3:30 and 7:00 pm.
- Christmas morning-Morning Prayer Service on Facebook at 10:00 am directly from the Book of Common Prayer which will include the sermon for Christmas by the Rector. It will also be available for viewing at will afterwards.

New Business

- Building and Grounds met with the Architect and drawings were presented with several option, two of which were shared with vestry to let them know the range of what was offered. Going forward it was mentioned that a decision should be made not solely on cost but also on the overall impact for the future. Depending upon the eventual choice of design by the parish, St. Thomas' may preserve the bell tower in its entirety—with the understanding that there will be substantial upkeep required, or they may decide to redesign that part of the building to correct flaws, make it stable, and reduce maintenance for the future. It might be possible at that point to retain a bell or two for Weddings, Funerals, and Sunday services.
- An error was made in the Local Newspaper - our Church will not be ringing the Church Bell's on Christmas Eve when Mount Batty is lit up. However, we will stop during the service and a suitable bell will be rung at the appropriate time.
- The Mid-Coast Interfaith Alliance will be presenting a program live on Zoom on New Year's Eve, 2020. A link is required to attend this service. Some of the themes for this program will be the awareness of our resilience, and courage amid the midst of trials.

- Stewardship – a suggestion of the change in time for Stewardship was discussed. Instead of end of year, it might be more effective to move the giving commitment campaign to early in the year, possibly January and February. Fundraising is more than funding a budget or using a pledge to move agendas—it's Spiritual Development. If we have the Commitment campaign in January and February, there is more focus. End of year campaigns come at a time of many distractions and high levels of activities; Pledges and the budget – annual pledging is to focus on discipleship and the church's mission rather than simply funding the budget; Commitment is people-centric – spiritual growth of the person. Pledging should be a gift for God based on what God is doing for us.
- The Annual Meeting will be on 31 January 2021. At least 4 volunteers are needed to help with the Zoom meeting, and to work behind the scenes to keep the meeting running smoothly.
- The Parochial Report is due by March 1, 2021.
- Deacon Abby Pettee and Br. Donovan Bowley will be available for pastoral emergencies while the Rector is on vacation between Christmas and New Year. The office will be closed.

The next Vestry Meeting will be on 18 January 2021 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned with prayer led by the Rector at 6:45 pm.

Upcoming activities for the congregation:

Every Sunday: Holy Eucharist Rite 2/sermon/music Open timing

Coffee and Check-in M-Th 9:30 am

Monday-Friday: Noonday Prayer (w/Sarah, Lisa, Donovan, and Shirley)

Wednesday and Saturday - Compline at 8 pm (w/ Jacqueline)

EFM Wednesdays (Donovan and Rosalee)

Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am (w/Brother Donovan)

Rector's Class Sundays at 4:00 pm

Food pantry open

Loaves and Fishes – continuing take-out

Phone tree calling parishioners at risk, without internet

Pastoral visits with Rector continuing

Tidings weekly-brand new format-great for phones!

Rector vacation December 25 through Jan 2, 2021

Next meeting January 18, 2021 at 5:30 pm

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