

ST. THOMAS VIRTUAL (Zoom) VESTRY MEETING
October 19, 2020

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

Prayer led by the Rector.

Acceptance of the minutes of September 28, 2020 Vestry meeting. A motion was made by Elizabeth Moran and seconded by Eileen Morelli to accept the minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of accepting the minutes as amended.

Treasurer's Report

- Pledge income is below projected budgeted. She anticipates our budget deficit to be approximately \$25,000.
- The Treasurer's Report does not include the Payroll Protection Program funds received earlier in the year. Those funds are currently on our Balance Sheet as a liability. We are awaiting word from the Diocese regarding the forgiveness of the loan. It is expected to take a while. Once the loan is forgiven, it will be shown as a grant from the Diocese – it will not be included on our Income Statement or considered Normal Operating Income for Diocesan Assessment purposes.
- Eileen Morelli mentioned that the Donate Button on the website was missing. Terry explained that while working on the website revisions she discovered it was "broken" and took it down. She is working to get it back on the website. The Diocese also has a donate button for St. Thomas on its website and the Diocese will pay the surcharge on any donations passing through their portal.

Rectors Report

Thank you, Terry Mello, for the improved website-it looks great! Please send Terry a message if issues are noticed.

Virtual Sunday School for the children will not happen-after parents and children were surveyed it was decided to forgo Sunday School as the children have many screen hours due to virtual school. The Christmas Program will be virtual as well as Confirmation classes.

A volunteer film crew is being created. Further information will appear in the Tidings.

A volunteer will open the church for two hours a week for those seeking private prayer time in the church. Strict Covid precautions and sanitary procedures will be followed including all entering the church must wear a mask and signing in and out for contact tracing. Accommodations will be made for those not able to use the Chestnut Street entrance. Please see Tidings for specifics.

Stewardship: Forming committee, will be underway soon.

Senior Warden Report

The Covid 19 Task Force continues to meet and discuss ways to continue to bring the parish together both virtually and in person safely.

A survey of the 52 parishes in the Diocese was accomplished: Twenty-four parishes have opted for outdoor services, eighteen parishes are having services indoors. Precautions and restrictions apply for the safety

concerns of all concerned as mandated by the Diocese and following strict CDC guidelines within each of these venues. The Vestry discussed at length the fact that we may not be re-opening for in person Eucharist for a while. Sunday Morning Prayer (lay led) was offered as a compromise for those parishioners who are willing to risk meeting in person. They will be expected to follow COVID protocols. Clergy and Lay Staff are not required to assist, until they feel it is safe to do so.

New Business:

Not every parish has the technical ability to work virtually. Thank you to all those who have taken a leadership role in so many of our Virtual Ministries as listed in the Tidings. We have many parishioners taking part virtually in classes, such as Education for Ministry, Bible Study, Rectors Book study, confirmation, Sacred Ground-Social Injustice, Wayfinders, and Vestry. Sometimes we even attract former parishioners, and those from outside the congregation.

Clarissa, choir director and organist, will be working with a virtual children's choir. She is already working with the adult choir. She is also training to assist with the Sunday videos.

The Rector adjourned the meeting with Prayer at 6:50 pm.

The next meeting will take place on November 3, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Upcoming activities for the congregation:

- Every Sunday: Holy Eucharist Rite 2/sermon/music Open Timing
- October 25: Heritage Sunday – St. Thomas Day. Special additions in Video, Candlelight service in front of church beginning at 7 pm. Bring photos of deceased love ones with you.
- Monday through Thursday Coffee check-in 9:30 am
- Monday and Friday: Noonday Prayer (w/Sarah, Lisa, Donovan, and Shirley)
- Wednesday & Saturday Compline at 8 pm (w/ Jacqueline)
- EFM begins Wednesdays
- Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am (w/Brother Donovan)
- Rector's Class begins Nov.1 at 4pm
- Food pantry open
- Loaves and Fishes continuing
- Phone tree calling parishioners at risk, without internet
- Pastoral care with Rector continuing
- Tidings weekly with new format
- Christmas Pageant (in video!) prep begins
- Coming soon: Confirmation class for students/adults, High School and above,
Sacred Ground, a course provided by The Episcopal Church on Race, Justice and Reconciliation.