

St. Thomas Vestry (ZOOM) Meeting

September 21, 2021

Present: The Reverend Canon Lisa Fry, Rector; Deacon Dr. Rosalee Glass; Elizabeth Moran, Senior Warden; Edmond Hartt, Junior Warden; Troy Bickham, Brother Donovan Bowley, William Freeman, Jan Lyle, Dean Jackson, Jen Johanson, Eileen Morelli, Kendra Watkins, Terry Mello, Treasurer; Shirley Fierro, Clerk.

Meeting opened at 5:33 pm with prayer led by the Rector. Approval of Minutes will occur later in the meeting.

Rectors Report:

Mail Chimp will be utilized for a survey requesting answers to the question: How many congregants will be attending once the weather gets colder, and the doors and windows will be closed while the cold, and flu season will be active. Discussion of a new air filtration system and the prohibitive cost of such a system took place.

Any modifications of times of services will not be adjusted until the Rector returns from vacation in October,

There was a discussion in one line of the Rectors report. The Rector decided to delete the one sentence from her report.

Senior Wardens Report:

A blessing of new altar linens will take place on October 3, 2021, in honor of the late Karen Laite at the 10:00 a.m. service. On that date also will include the celebration of the founding of St. Thomas Episcopal Church on October 1, 1855 as well as the life of The Reverend Ralph Hayden. Father Hayden dedicated his ministry to St. Thomas and was a wonderful influence in the architecture of the church.

Junior Warden Report:

AA has offered to refinish the parish hall floors with their financial assistance over the next two years. Currently the refinisher is booked until January 2022. AA people are wonderful.

A locksmith is scheduled to fix the Wood Street door and the door leading to the kitchen/parlor/and parish hall.

A suggestion was made to have the south exposure side (outside wall) of the Church and also the south side exposure (also the outside wall) of the parish office be painted. This was accomplished 4-5 years ago. A suggestion of a reasonably priced qualified painter who meets the requirements of all local ordinances was made.

A crew weeding the gardens will be working on Wednesday morning, September 22, 2021.

The paint on the parsonage shutters is not lead.

The meeting was paused to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2021 Vestry meeting.

A motion was made by Donovan and seconded by Jan when an amendment was suggested to the minutes.

The amendment was to eliminate in paragraph E the first line that read: A donation of \$3,400.00 has been made for capital expenses regarding to H: due to the fact that it would appear we received that amount twice when in actuality it was one donation of \$3,400.00.

The amendment was so moved by Edmund and seconded by Donovan. A vote was taken and unanimously accepted correction to the minutes with the amendment to paragraph E and otherwise acceptance to the minutes as written.

Treasurers Report:

The Financial Outlook is good compared to the beginning of the year. We have had minor losses however the PPP has helped. Pledges are low however; people continue to give at former levels.

There is still a need to help with deposits – 1 hour per week or less. There are two teams at present and two more teams are needed. Current team members are: Jan and Terry; Bill and Lucy. Ask any of the team members if you are interested in assisting.

New Business:

The question was asked if the parish will be celebrating a service at Bishopswood outdoors, again this year. The Rector will check with Bishopswood for scheduling in October and if there might be a suitable date available.

Covid Task Force:

The Task Force met last week and made recommendations regarding mask wearing. Please read the Tidings of last Friday for further information.

Terry will be assisting with Tidings, Bulletins and Mail Chimp. All inquiries, comments should continue to be funneled through the Office Staff.

Stewardship: The slogan this year will be, “Every Perfect Gift,” which is taken from James 1:17. The campaign will be personalized to St. Thomas even though preprinted material will be provided by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), including Pledge Cards, sample letters, and other assorted suggestions. It is free to the parish through the Diocese of Maine membership in TENS. Donovan, Jan and Eileen agreed to be part of the team. Please contact

Terry if you are interested via treasurer@stthomascamdenme.org. if you are interested in getting involved.

A lengthy discussion about the recent survey ensued, noting that there were quite a few responses, some good, some not so good. The rector and Troy Bickham will collaborate on what will be released to the congregation.

The rector shared that Roy Gilley has resigned from vestry for health reasons. Since we are less than 6 months from the next vestry election, we will wait to fill the position until then, as is St. Thomas' custom.

The Vestry meeting was adjourned by Lisa with the unified recitation of the Lord's Prayer at 7:14 pm.

Upcoming activities for the Congregation:

- Online services of Noonday Prayer continue
- Compline takes place on Wednesday and Sunday at 8:00 pm
- Wednesday-Eucharist and Healing 9:30 am
- Bible Study: Wednesdays at 11:00 am led by Brother Donovan
- AA Meetings daily, upstairs for large groups on Monday and Friday
- Next online Service-Sunday, September 26
- Next Diocesan Video Service – November 14
- Loaves and Fishes continuing – take out
- Pastoral visits with Rector continuing
- Tidings published weekly
- Website – linked to all online offerings
- Rector vacation October 7-20
- Clergy supply priests:
 - October 10: The Reverend Bob Hargreaves
 - October 17: The Reverend Paul Tunkle

Next Vestry Meeting: October 18th (Senior Warden leading)

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley F. Fierro