

St. Andrew's Vestry Meeting
May 27, 2020

The Zoom meeting was called to order by Anne McCausland, Senior Warden at 7:00 p.m.

Those in attendance: Rev. Reed Loy, Anne McCausland, Senior Warden Clarke Kidder, Junior Warden, Kerrie Diers, Treasurer, Betty Whinn, Chaplain, Tom Burack, Peter Daley, Audrey Knight, Lucy Crichton, Steve Largy, Diane Les Bacquets, Betsy Wilder and Pam Manus, Clerk.
Guest: Jim Whinn

Unable to attend: Brian Tucker.

Opening Prayer and Reflection: Betty Whinn, our incoming Chaplain, opened the meeting with a prayer and thoughts to reflect upon. These are God's moments, these are our moments which indicate our moments together with god. We need time to be quiet and reflect. She used "The Emmaus Song" by Steve Green to give us that time. Betty then thanked Lucy Crichton for her spiritual leadership as our Chaplain this past year. All offered and expressed their heartfelt thanks.

Consent Agenda: Anne McCausland presented the Consent Agenda for consideration: The Financial report for the file, the Worship and Music Committee report, the Mission Outreach Ministry report (Family Promise, Make Your Mark Camp, Friendly Kitchen, Blood Drive) and the Building and Grounds report. The consent agenda was accepted as presented.

Minutes from Previous Meetings: Anne McCausland called for a motion to accept the minutes from the previous 3 Vestry meetings. Lucy Crichton moved that the minutes from the March 18, 2020 meeting and the special April 8, 2020 and April 15, 2020 meetings be accepted as presented. Betty Whinn seconded this and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- **Vestry Retreat:** Anne McCausland stated that the postponed Vestry Retreat is scheduled for October 16 and 17th, 2020. Of course this all depends on what the situation is with COVID 19 regulations.
- **Memorial Garden Committee:** The committee, following it's plans for the garden, shared their application for a \$1,000 grant from the Earth Care

Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of NH, The mission of the Earth Care Commission is to coordinate and lead efforts to care for the Earth, encountering and honoring the face of God in all creation as we follow Jesus in relationship with God, each other, and the whole Earth. The vestry unanimously affirmed their support for this well thought out application.

New Business:

- The Bishop's Guidance for Phased Re-opening: Rev. Reed Loy explained briefly that the Bishop has given guidelines/recommendations for re-opening our buildings for worship and other uses. There are 3 phases offered. After some discussion it is felt that we at St. Andrew's are not comfortable with worshipping in our physical church at this time. Rev. Loy will keep up with the recommendations offered by the government and CDC along with our Diocese and we will revisit this issue at our next meeting.
- "Looking for the Promised Land" - Christian Leadership during our extended desert time: Rev. Reed Loy offered these questions for reflection and sharing:
 - *What is the holy spirit showing us in the wilderness?
 - *Where are we feeding people well?
 - *What key learnings do we have so far?
 - *Zoom specifically , strengths and weaknesses?
 - *What do we want to keep doing even when we "get home"?
 - *Have we learned yet of anything that we might intentionally give up for good, even when we return?
 - *What do we still need to be actively grieving?
 - *What spiritual or worldly needs, or whom, have we neglected to care for?
 - *What are we orienting ourselves toward, somewhere down the road, to know our next step towards the Jordan River and the Land God intends for us?

We took the next 45 minutes to discuss and reflect on thoughts shared and new questions offered as we addressed each question. Our discussions led to some takeaways including technical communications changes (tweaks to Zoom, using the mute button etc), spiritual processing of the desert time (griefs, new resilience, the recognition that we don't need a building to be a church) and some pastoral items like double checking to see who we are missing and keeping the check-in conversations ongoing. The outcome of this time was that these

questions, when we are able to give some answers and reflect upon the needs identified, will help us to plan for the future, immediate and distant.

Continuing Business:

- Renewal Works: Rev. Reed reported that this will be brought forward. The plans for the final reports and recommendations were side tracked with all that changed in the past few months. Renewal Works is still relevant and information will be brought to the next meeting.
- Loose Plate Collection: With the lack of the actual loose plate collection, the non-profit organizations we had identified to receive that money have not received any. After some discussion it was decided to highlight both organizations in our E-Blasts for the next two months. Back in the Saddle Equine Therapy Center (BITS) of Hopkinton and Episcopal Relief & Development will be featured with links to their web pages for donations. It was felt that parishioners could then choose who they wished to give their loose plate money to. Diane Les Bequets will write up the information for BITS and Betty Whinn will write the information for Episcopal Relief and Development.
- Make Your Mark Camp: The committee has a meeting tomorrow and will be making their decision on whether or not to cancel the camp.
- Community Thank you Notes: We would like to thank all those in our community who have continued to keep our town(s) running smoothly, by keeping open and helping us to follow the new and ever changing guidelines and regulations. Audrey Knight will get lists from Liz Carey and Betsy Wilder along with any suggestions from vestry members. She will then set up a SignUp Genius or other method for all of us to accept the opportunity to help write these words of thanks and acknowledgment for their efforts.
- Summer Service Schedule: There will continue to be two services, an 8 a.m and 10 a.m.
- Possible Bylaws Revision to support nimble Vestry response: Citing the recent experience of trying to get a decision on the whether or not to apply for the monies offered nationally through the CARES Act and being restricted by our bylaws regarding meeting notices to the parishioners, Kerrie Diers, Treasurer asked if the ByLaws Committee could look at the wording in our ByLaws. It's hard to have the need for time sensitive decisions or an Emergency Meeting and still give 5 days notice to the parish. Tom Burack and Jim Whinn will bring this to the others on the committee. It would still have to be brought to the whole parish for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

- Small Group Formations: Lucy Crichton asked if there was any information regarding the virtual small group formation that was to be started for social/emotional/spiritual support of our parishioners? Rev. Loy reported that he had asked some parishioners to lead these groups and had received a very positive response. They should be starting soon as the times and weekdays are identified and the people who signed up were “assigned” a group to join.
- Thank you notes: Clarke Kidder reported that the recent support for our SignUp Genius to help paint, clean up and fix up our buildings and grounds was very successful. Thank you notes for the extraordinary help will go to Peter Daley, John and Anne McCausland, George Schell, Eric Riggs, the Trafton Family, Ed and Martha Fairfield, and Betty and Jim Whinn.

Upcoming special celebrations:

- May 31 - Pentecost.

Next Vestry meetings: June 17, no July meeting (unless extraordinary needs are identified), August 19 and September 16, 2020.

The closing prayer was offer by Betty Whinn, Chaplain. The prayer was taken from the book Women’s Uncommon Prayers, Prayer for a Vestry, the author, The Reverend Elizabeth T. Wade.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Pam Manus, Clerk