

Minutes of the Vestry
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Windham, CT
21 March 2021

Present: Lynne Ide, Fr. Brian Blayer, Marian Brazziel, Rebecca Stearns, Jim Russel, Donovan Reinwald, Pam Abel

Meeting called to order by Lynne Ide at 10:27 AM.

Fr. Brian Blayer Report

Fr. Blayer reported he had contacted several parishioners for pastoral care. His office hours are on Thursday from 9:00-12:00 and he is always available for pastoral care.

Fr. Blayer stated that the Thursday noontime service is well attended and is followed by a discussion related to a question derived from scripture.

Fr. Blayer suggested that vestry members participate in the Policies, Procedures, Best Practices at the Episcopal Church workshop offered during spring training through ECCT. He discussed the possibility of conducting a workshop on end-of-life information which would include a priest, funeral home representative and a lawyer.

Fr. Blayer informed the vestry that he will be on vacation the week after Easter, but is available for pastoral care.

Wardens Report

L. Ide addressed the addition of a new vestry member, Wayne Haeger, Property Co-Chair and made plans to include him in all email invitations to vestry meetings.

D. Reinwald contacted Rev. David Carter to discuss his availability to serve as a supply priest.

D. Reinwald is working on the St. Paul's website and C. Cassidy offered to assist him.

C. Cassidy spoke with R. Stearns about the possibility of conducting short interviews with parishioners to share on the website. C. Cassidy has created a list of questions for the interview and she needs updated email addresses.

Mission and Outreach Report

R. Stearns highlighted the efforts of three agencies working to broaden availability of affordable housing in outlying communities: Interfaith Working Group, Community Health Center, and the No Freeze Shelter.

3/21/2021

R. Stearns discussed the possibility of Hartford Health Care securing the property of the Immaculata Retreat House for drug and alcohol rehabilitation. There will be a public hearing held virtually on April 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM with the Planning and Zoning Commission to deliberate on the application from Hartford Health Care to receive a special permit for drug and alcohol rehabilitation at the Immaculata Retreat House.

R. Stearns reported that the Baptist Church Community meals are still being prepared by St. Paul's on the fourth Sunday of the month. Due to recent housing placements the number of guests requiring meals has gone from 60 people to 40 people.

R. Stearns shared that members from St. Paul's are continuing to meet with members from the Lutheran church to discuss the book, "How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey Toward Racial Justice," by Jemar Tisby. Goals are to be developed by St. Paul's Church for action regarding racial healing, justice, reconciliation and sin of racism.

R. Stearns spoke about a new vaccine health care program being offered to the Latino/Latina population through the Community Health Center and Companions in Missions Abroad.

Property Report

J. Russel reported that the church furnace has recently been cleaned.

J. Russel said the Eversource Power Company will survey usage on lighting.

J. Russel explained that lawn mowing expenses will be forth coming because Sean Green's son now has the job.

J. Russel will seek a quote to have the organ tuned.

H. Nelson via email stated the Memorial Garden needs expenditures for:

- Stone wall repaired
- Add stone dust to the garden path
- Add new mulch to the garden beds

H. Nelson will secure a quote for the above-mentioned items.

Treasurer Report

M. Brazziel reported on the budget from January 2021 through February 2021. Total Income (\$18, 242.86). Pledges continue to be submitted.

Discussion/Working Items

Fr. Brian and the vestry members discussed plans for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. A special notice regarding all of the services was sent via email to parishioners from Senior Warden, Lynne Ide. An announcement regarding plans for a spring re-opening of in-person worship following COVID-related protocols was scheduled for April 18th with Fr. Brian. We will host an outdoor coffee hour in the garden for folks to mingle safely and meet Fr. Brian in person.

The vestry agreed to continue working on the parish survey at the next vestry meeting. Fr. Brian Blayer mentioned that now is a good time to query parishioners about what we want St. Paul's to provide and represent.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela D. Abel
Vestry Clerk