

**Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
September 16, 2020
In the Church**

Attendance: Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge
Darren Miller, Senior Warden
Kate Berheide, Junior Warden (via Zoom)
Sara Manny, Treasurer
Karen Finkbeiner (via Zoom)
Pam Houde
Field Horne
John Huppuch and Boomer
Marcia MacDonald
Steven Rucker
John Van der Veer
David Wilder
Ann Bullock, Clerk

Absent: none

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at 7:05pm on September 16, 2020, at the Church, by Fr. Wallace

Opening Prayer

Father Wallace offered the Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of August 19, 2020, were unanimously approved as corrected. (D Wilder, movant; M McDonald, second)

Priest-in-Charge Remarks:

RE: Vestry meetings: Please provide agenda items to Fr. Wallace in advance. He would prefer to keep meetings to under ninety minutes. Keep reports brief.

Committee reports: What committees are members serving on? He would like to create a more efficient, accountable committee structure to be sure that projects are completed and reported on briefly. It will make Fr. Wallace's life easier to be sure he knows where members serve. Would like to see Christian Ed more active, for instance, including non-Vestry members.

Christian Education. Meeting this week with Sara and families. 60% of children were represented by three families in attendance. Corinna Stampalia is not willing to come out to run the Sunday School. Fr. Wallace is looking to hire someone three hours a week using the church school funds. Focus through Skidmore College is a possible source of a part-time employee. Church School will begin the first Sunday of October, 2020. Intend to have a

thematic plan for classes, to allow for flexibility whether there are children in attendance. Narthex is a suitable place for classes, as the space has been cleaned out.

Staff: Farrell, Barbara and Fr Wallace meet every two weeks. Barbara will work in the office on Thursday to work on the Sunday bulletin

Fr Wallace is taking Tuesday off: allows him to handle Sunday matters on Mondays.

He is planning for services in Oct and Nov. We have begun singing a little in services: Agnus Dei and Sanctus are probably as much as we will undertake now.

How to observe Christmas without music: Planning with Farrell for music now including a Christmas Carol event the third Sunday of Advent: (Dec 13) to be presented at 10am and repeated at 4pm. Plan to have instrumental music, solos, small groups. The Pageant is possible on Advent 4: the service of the Word (Dec 20) and liturgy.

Christmas Eve: Add another service. May have ticketed services. Will try this in advance of Christmas Eve. Will send a Bethesda Christmas card with the services and request for giving. Christmas Day at 9am—a said service only.

Thanksgiving Day service : will not hold that this year as attendance has been generally low in the past, but will hold the usual noon-day said service likely or Thanksgiving Eve service

Treasurer's Financial Report: S. Manny/J. Van der Veer

S Manny sent reports in advance. D Wilder asked for clarification of miscellaneous entry. Elaine reports that “miscellaneous” includes vestments and costs for LookTV: giving toward these expenses comes from unrestricted donations. Not specifically identified as Pledge and Plate.

Darren Miller, moved: J Huppuch, second. Financial report accepted unanimously.

Churchwardens' Report:

Junior Warden: C. Berheide

Planning Church hikes now

Senior Warden: D. Miller

Planning ahead for a new sign for the front: a similar sign to that at UPH? To be updated by computer? Hope to explore in the next months so that we can have a new sign when Mercy House opens.

Ground breaking for Mercy House: MH is still moving slowly, but we may consider replacing the church roof now. Grant money is likely not going to be available—and would likely require a more expensive roof than we can reasonably afford. Although this is an historic building, there is not a restriction on the building. Recommend that we approach the architects and contractor for MH and ask about their installing a new roof. Use funds on-hand and seek additional funds from donors to cover this expense.

D Wilder asked about the deficit: if we have the funds to repair the roof, can we treat this as a priority—rather than wait until MH is built which may be in the future.

Consensus is to make necessary repairs to the church building. If donors are giving funds, we need to have a project that people can see. D Miller to explore the costs of this and how to proceed. S Rucker asks if the chimney in the back of the church can be capped so that the wall may be painted without immediately peeling again.

Communications: K Finkbeiner

Complete phone calls as people have really enjoyed the communication without the request for funds. K. Finkbeiner and the Boyds will make final calls.

Email message to the parish to come. Recap of programs completed and activities to come.

Communication either by email, service sheets and speaker at service. The weekly emails from the Vestry were not widely read.

Stewardship: Darren Miller (who has been voluntold to Chair this committee)

Needs to meet with K Berheide, K Finkbeiner, S Manny, J VanDer Veer, B Bullock and the Rector to start stewardship drive. Need to cover debt and encourage giving to support the parish needs, (including the cost of a full-time and not-retired Rector needed as the 2021 deficit will be \$50,000.)

Continuing Business:

Dean Vang Farewell: Sunday, Sept. 27: following 10am service with Dean Vang, D. Miller will arrange for a luncheon for those who choose to attend. Email D. Miller with your intention so that he can make reservations.

D Miller will make a presentation at the 10am service: S Boyd is arranging for a plaque for him with a picture of the church. Sand dollars to be distributed at service.

New Business:

P Houde: Meet and Greets with Fr. Wallace have gone well. One with S Manny and one with L. Brenenstuhl. Two more scheduled.

Reminder to all to bring nametags home and return with them on Sundays.

S Rucker: Christmas decorations:

Fr Wallace reports that Peter Brooks has spoken with him and wants to be involved. He owns a Christmas tree farm and maybe he can deliver trees. Fr. Wallace wants some decoration in place as of Advent 3 (set up on Dec 12) and further decorations added as of Advent 4. Fr Wallace prefers to have some decorations in place before Christmas to cheer up the parish on this challenging time.

Need to have a workday in the parish. D Miller noted that there is a broken stone in the front steps to be repaired.

Next meeting: October 21, 2020

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Fr. Wallace

Meeting was adjourned by motion of M Mac Donald; second by S Manny. Passed unanimously at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann C. Bullock, Clerk