

**Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting  
November 18, 2020  
Bethesda Church, Saratoga Springs**

**Attendance:** Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge  
Darren Miller, Senior Warden  
Kate Berheide, Junior Warden  
Sara Manny, Treasurer  
Karen Finkbeiner  
Pam Houde  
Field Horne  
Steven Rucker  
John Van der Veer  
David Wilder  
Ann Bullock, Clerk

**Absent:** Marcia MacDonald

**In memoriam:** John Huppuch and Boomer

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at 7:05pm on November 18, 2020, at the Church, by Fr. Wallace

**Devotions:**

Fr. Wallace offered devotions.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2020, were unanimously approved as corrected. (D Wilder, movant; K Finkbeiner, second)

**Priest-in-Charge Remarks:**

Quiet Day this Saturday with Mother Miriam. Fr Wallace has invited other parishes to come and she will also preach on Sunday.

Owen Reid will present three organ meditations in December (Lloyd Cast Organ Scholar from the Cathedral)

Working on the schedule and plans for Advent and Christmas.

Thanks offered: Diane Robinson has given great time and effort into planning seating and scheduling for the services, as well as refreshing the website weekly. Also, Diane is coordinating the Christmas pageant. Beth and Tom Mueller are involved in the seating plans, as

well. K Berheide planned the three walks in October and plan to have more in spring. S Rucker and his crew did a great deal of work during the October work day, as did Mark and Kathleen Ansbach (repairing tiles and cleaning pews.) S Manny is now coordinating the Sunday School program, as hiring a coordinator has proved more difficult than expected.

December may be more challenging to plan for as COVID is spiking.

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

S Manny sent report with notes. K Finkbeiner is planning the stewardship campaign based on the annualized reports. December giving is usually about \$10,000 more than other months; need to have that kind of increased giving to meet budget needs. Quarterly reports will go to parish reminding all of the importance of their Christmas/end of year giving. 32 pledge cards received: 6 new pledges. Current pledge total is about \$87000 (last year we had about 65 pledges

Motion to accept financial report (D Miller; D Wilder, Second) passed unanimously.

**Churchwardens' Report:**

**Senior Warden:** D. Miller

Architects could come on Sunday to show the bricks proposed for Mercy House. Will be at church at 9:30.

Chimney in the back wall of church (perhaps causes condensation resulting in peeling paint) will be expensive to remove. More cost effective to cap the chimney. Would need to make sure the capped chimney is flashed to avoid any leaking. K Finkbeiner will advise architects that the rear wall has had to be repainted multiple times

Waiting for quotes for railing and Sano Rubin is installing new stone step at broken step.

Sano Rubin and architects will be visiting the church to inspect the mechanicals.

S Rucker asked if decisions regarding materials are also considering cost effectiveness of chosen material. K Finkbeiner reports that materials are chosen based on budget and appropriateness for the nature of the project.

Stewardship talks have been very effective, Need to establish a deadline for return of pledge cards.

Motion to approve rector's expenses: , Movant; , second; approved unanimously.

**Junior Warden:** C. Berheide

Will be on sabbatical beginning Nov 30 for the duration.

**Commission Reports:**

**Continuing Business:**

Update of COVID guidelines: S Rucker:

When do we close and what determines that? The Diocese has no present guidance on this and there is also no State guidance yet.

Need to keep social distance and masking, etc. In the absence of other guidance: Diocese of Rochester has concluded that their answer must be to close—but they have a 5% positivity rate. Saratoga is at 2% presently. We may be able to stay under 5% in Saratoga County if careful and, if it came to it, there is the possibility that we continue to have services with no more than 10 people.

Lessons and Carols (12/13) and Pageant (12/20) are planned—but Fr Wallace is recommending that the L&C service be a regular Sunday service to keep the attendance to a smaller number (no L&C would attract fewer outside worshipers). The Pageant is intended to serve our parish family and likely would not attract a large outside attendance. Consensus that the L&C will not be held this year.

We will decorate in any case, since, if greater worship is not permitted, we will still have videos. Decorations will be put up on Saturday, December 12 at 9am. Those who wish to come must sign up with the church office to maintain limited numbers.

Musicians for L&C might be able to play throughout Advent, rather than just the one service. P Houde observed how nice the piano postlude was as a different instrumental offering.

P Houde requested that the parish be advised that there are possible changes to schedules and plans that may affect Advent and Christmas services. Fr Wallace will mention that Vestry is watching the positivity rates and want to be proactive to protect safety of the parish.

Christmas Pageant: Diane Robinson and Mark Claverie have run this in the past with Corrina. There are new families who might be involved, so there are enough people to have a pageant. There are about fourteen children in Sunday School if all are present—and the pageant often encourages children's attendance.

**New Business:** none

**Next meeting: December 16, 2020**

### **Blessing and Adjournment**

Blessing by Fr. Wallace

Meeting was adjourned by motion of S Manny ; second D Miller. Passed unanimously at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann C. Bullock, Clerk