

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
Vestry Meeting, August 18, 2021

ATTENDANCE: Rev. Bill Combs, Ed Coleman, John Fox, Les Reed, Mimi Vickers, Nancy Beckemeyer, Sharon Bryan, Christine Young, Linda Chesbro, Heather Kennerson, and Susan Fox. Absent was Everett Price.

OPENING PRAYER:

Rev. Bill opened the meeting at 4PM and Sharon led the group in prayer.

APPROVAL OF VESTRY MINUTES, JUNE, 2021

The minutes were approved as emended as moved by Les Reed and seconded by Nancy Beckemeyer.

TREASURER'S REPORT – JUNE AND JULY 2021

Heather began with discussion of notable points in the June report. The Pledge income was below budget by about \$4000, and the music costs were above budget. In July, the Pledge income was below budget by about \$6000, and the music costs were again above budget. Beginning in August, our music costs should match the budgeted amount because we had budgeted a resumption of Saturday and Sunday services with music by this August. Outreach costs were above budget mostly because of a contribution to the Pete Nance Boys and Girls Club of \$1000. Overall our losses are more than anticipated, but when we look at pages 3 and 4 of the July Budget, we see that we are still in good shape. Non-pledge donations continue to be above budget, and our expenses year to date remain below budget. We are still in the black with a year to date income of \$1600 (versus an expected loss of almost \$5000). Looking at pages 5 & 6 of the July report, which shows other income and expenses year to date, we see that the church has received \$13,000 in capital campaign funds this year, bringing the over all total to \$95,200. We have also received donations toward the Audio Visual equipment of \$6400, and \$4600 of special gifts for which Vestry can find meaningful use. The investment funds' quarterly report came in June, and the Diocesan Investments increased by a total of around \$3500 for the year, the T. Rowe Price Dividend Mutual Fund increased in value by around \$10,000 for the year, and the Spectrum Mutual Fund increased by about \$1100 for the year. The bottom of page 5 shows that the Payroll Protection Program loan has been forgiven. Looking at pages 7 and 8 of the July report, we still have a very strong standing, with around \$85,000 in cash and \$214,000 in investments, with no real liabilities. (Copy of the June and July Financial Statements and Heather's notes attached.) The reports were approved as moved by John and seconded by Ed.

BUSINESS

*Vestry Nominations for October Annual Meeting

Vestry made a list of nominees to be called before our next meeting.

*Update on the Metal Building

John is getting pricing from two contractors to improve the metal building so that it can be rented by Wilhoit Gas per their interest. He has received one bid so far and it is significant, at \$61,000. He should have the second bid by the end of next week, and he expects it will be lower, around \$45,000-\$50,000. The bids include new air conditioning and heating, new carpet, paneling, new drywall, new ceiling light fixtures, and one handicap accessible bathroom. He wonders if the return in rent will compensate us for the repairs – can we recover the costs in three years of rent? We also need to reconnect with Wilhoit Gas to make sure that they are still committed to a three year lease of the building. If so, then he will share the best estimate with Rev. Bill, Ed, and Jim Hudson for review.

***Update “Ice House” demolition**

John shared a quote for demolition from Lake Boys Renovations (copy attached). The estimate was \$46,850.00. He thinks that it will actually cost more than this. The plan is to leave the slab in place. He has contacted Greensboro City Code Enforcement, who have not been very responsive so far. Les suggested an alternate plan in which the roof is replaced and a storage area is constructed that we could rent out as storage space. After some discussion, Les agreed to provide an estimate to repair and modify the building, versus demolition, by the next meeting. John will ask Lake Brothers if their estimate is good for another month.

***Update on Capital Campaign**

Rev. Bill and John had a meeting with David Matheny, Architect, on August 17th to discuss the scope of work for our capital campaign. He was recommended by Joseph Smith, and is from Athens. Joseph Smith teaches at Georgia State and has had students at the church doing research. He has offered to give a presentation at our Annual Meeting about the historic background of our church.

***Eagle Scout project for Redeemer Garden**

Nancy presented a project for the Memorial Garden that her nephew Liam would like to do for his Eagle Scout award, at no cost to Redeemer. It involves a 4-foot teak bench with two pots, plus perennials in the beds. She is asking for Vestry permission, and Vestry agreed.

***Update Walking Tour Greensboro**

Everyone is excited about this tour as Redeemer is included in the itinerary.

***Cash Calendar**

Rev. Bill sent vestry an email on June 22; Christine presented an Outreach opportunity of partnering with the Lake Oconee Youth Alliance on the Cash Calendar. He forwarded Christine’s email explaining the partnership and asked for a quick vote via email, as to whether or not to go forward. LOYA indicated that they would do all the heavy lifting regarding the calendars – selling the ads, getting gift certificates, calendar formatting and printing, and administration of the prizes. We would equally share the advertising and marketing costs which should be minimal. Most vestry members replied in favor, and Ed offered to track the winners and coordinate notification and payment with Heather if Christine would prepare the spreadsheet. After some discussion, Vestry agreed to move forward, and left it up to Christine to continue discussions regarding the calendar profit disbursements.

***Diocesan Annual Meeting Representatives**

Rev. Bill is seeking two new representatives for Redeemer to accompany him at the Annual Meeting at the Cathedral, November 12th and 13th. He and Vestry agreed on several people to contact; once he has confirmed who will be attending, he will get Vestry approval.

LIAISON MID-YEAR REVIEW

***Administration/Finance – Ed Coleman**

Ed expressed a serious concern about securing volunteers to serve as Acolytes, Greeters, and Readers, and for Coffee Hour sign-ups. There was some discussion about COVID and online viewing that may have effected the attendance/participation in our services. It was decided to wait until after Labor Day to address the issue.

*Buildings and Grounds

John said that the Children's Center looks awful, especially in comparison to the newly repainted and restored church. It needs a fair amount of wood repair and painting. Nancy said that John Villatoro is a good carpenter and painter. John will have him look at it and get a quote. He also said that the air conditioner in the church has been repaired - it was a controller issue on the compressor. He also had two bathrooms repaired, and the kitchen sink leak in the Activity Center fixed.

*Christian Education

Linda met with Rev. Bill, Cathy Crosby, and Karen Klomp to discuss Fall classes. Rev. Bill said the first classes will be based on a Richard Rohr book, *The Cosmic Egg*.

*Communications

Mimi said that she has been diligent about monthly Soup and Sandwich Saturday articles and will be expanding to *The Lake Oconee Breeze* and the *Lake Oconee News*. She will also be submitting an article on the Circle Of Love's new pavilion from the Jean Reed Foundation, which was recently dedicated, with a great photo of Les and the family. She said that a good story about Caroline White's quilting group and donations may follow. Hopefully Connie can provide a screen shot from the quilt display in the church last Sunday. Other events coming up are the Upscale Resale and the Blessing of the Animals in October.

*Congregational Growth and Development

Les discussed a recent brainstorming meeting that included himself, Christine, Heather, Amy Schneider, Connie Karpinsky, and his daughter Debbie. He mentioned that several people in his committee complained that the music was too difficult to sing and that there were too many verses. He suggested using a list of the 50 most popular hymns. They also had some good ideas that they will develop further. He said that their target is to have a full report by the next vestry meeting. He also mentioned the Widower's Group that he started, which includes 8-14 members. There is a great need for this that is not well met. They meet four Wednesdays a month and it is a Redeemer event, and includes experienced and skilled members. Les also shared an article from the Washington Post by John Jay Cabuay titled, "Want millennials back in the pews? Stop trying to make church 'cool.'" (Copy Attached)

*Outreach

Sharon said that things have been busy with a meeting in July to discuss business. She said that Dery'On can't attend Camp Mikell this summer because of a conflict in his schedule. The Borland's and Prices will facilitate the sale of the Cash Calendars. The committee decided to allocate \$50/month toward Soup and Sandwich Saturday expenses; they took the Redeemer collection of school supplies to the Greene County Family Connection Commission; they voted to give a \$1000 donation to the Boys and Girls Club due to COVID'S affect on their ability to serve meals - Jim Borland will use it for a scholarship funds for the new Teen Center; they decided to add peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and to serve pasta salads versus soup in August and September at the Soup and Sandwich Saturdays; and Ripe Things will donate fresh produce each month to Soup and Sandwich Saturdays. During the past month Outreach has helped 10 individuals with shelter, rent, or utilities. Lucy has been invaluable and available personally to help out with this. They are now very low on Outreach funds as they will also be spending around \$500 for the Christmas families, leaving a balance of around \$200 for the rest of the year.

***Worship**

Rev. Bill mentioned that Hu is doing very well as an organist – she is self taught and this is a difficult instrument to master.

***Parish Life**

Christine said that her committee, including herself, Anne Goff, and Amy Schneider, met and brainstormed about activities. They will meet again in September. One planned event is an Advent Wreath-making session the week before Thanksgiving, at the same location as the Aging Gracefully meetings. They will provide materials and people can bring their own glue guns. She asked if anyone could help out with fresh greenery, and Mimi and Nancy both said they could. She also discussed the idea of a singles group, which Ann Goff suggested. Christine also said that Alice Stollenmeyer has agreed to chair the foyers group again.

***Stewardship**

Everett and Ed composed a letter of thanks to parish members that was included with the Giving Statements mailed out to parishioners (copy attached).

RECTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Bill said that we have a new church member, Brie Kelly - her son and his wife will be joining as well. And, Mark and Beth Prosser are going to join the church. He also discussed pastoral issues.

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Bill closed the meeting at 6:30 and the group joined in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fox, Vestry Secretary