

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
Zoom Vestry Meeting, March 17, 2021

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

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

The minutes were approved as moved by Ed and seconded by Linda.

TREASURER'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021

Vestry briefly discussed the report (copy of Financial Report and Heather's notes attached). We are in a better position than usual for this time of year, in part because of some of last year's pledges being paid this year, and church employee expenses which are down, since Elaine has not been working as much as was budgeted. Maintenance expense was more than budgeted due to the roof repair of \$1600, and a late bill from last summer for lighting expense. Our cash position is good, at about \$95,000, even after paying off the \$60,000 line of credit. Ed said that he signed papers with Bank South this afternoon to begin the forgiveness process of last year's \$25,868.80 Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program funds. He also re-applied for a new line of credit. The report was approved as moved by Linda and seconded by Mimi.

BUSINESS

*Brief update on "Step-rail" in Sanctuary

Rev. Bill said that Mimi Vickers and Suzie Hudson have a new idea for a small wooden hand rail that would be installed between the Lectern and the acolyte bench. This would be in a more discreet location and could be used by folks at the church between services. During services, the acolyte can help people up and down the altar stair as needed. John will take measurements and photos and then present these to a millwork shop for suggestions and pricing.

*Review and finalize Draft Protocol for Indoor Worship Services

Rev. Bill said that he and the Worship Transition Steering Committee had a good meeting Monday and they developed a draft of the protocols for resuming indoor services, beginning March 21st. These new directives are similar to those that they developed last year and he requests Vestry's approval so that he can begin inviting people to sign up for Sunday. Gina Canavan will be in charge of receiving and organizing attendance at the services. Order of notification will not take priority. If there are too many people wishing to attend, they will use a lottery method to determine attendees. Names would be placed in a pot and chosen until filled. Those unseated will be first on the list for the following Sunday. Vestry discussed the particulars of seating arrangements and diocese requirements. The maximum number who can attend, including participants, is 27. The diocese requires that Rev. Bill should be 10 feet apart from parishioners if distributing bread during the service, so this makes it more difficult to offer communion at Redeemer, unless the attendance is less than 21. The singer will be in the sacristy and Lucy has provided a mike and amplifier for this. Ed will schedule vestry members to count and deposit offerings. Vestry discussed other details and all agreed on having one Saturday service at LOLC at 5PM and two Sunday services at Redeemer at 9:30 and 11:00AM as moved by Ed and seconded by John. The Sunday services will begin on March 21st, and Saturday services will begin on March 27th, Palm Sunday weekend. They also agreed that there will be no more afternoon services going forward. There was some discussion about the restrictions, given that most of our members are vaccinated. Rev. Bill explained that the Bishop's position is that the restrictions be uniform for all churches in the Atlanta diocese, regardless of individual differences. It was agreed that Vestry will write a note to Bishop Wright

that most of our church is fully vaccinated. Rev. Bill said he will take care of composing the communication to the Bishop, and then he will need a signature from Ed. Ed moved that Vestry accept the draft of our protocols, seconded by John, and agreed by all.

*Vestry Minutes online?

All agreed to Les's suggestion that the Vestry minutes will be available online.

LIAISON CHECK-INS

*Sharon said that Lucy was contacted by Greene County High School by a social worker from the Greene County Homeless Coalition. They are seeking representatives at their meeting from churches in our area. Cathy Crosby agreed and sat in during a meeting. There are a lot of families experiencing homelessness in hotel rooms, with friends and family, and even in their cars. Rev. Bill has received calls, the majority of which have been requests for a few nights at a hotel. Mimi said that the Presbyterian Church is joining us in the free food movement and will begin offering free lunches the first Saturday of every month. The Methodist church will begin offering Saturday lunches also. Jenny was in communication with the Presbyterian church, and they will begin distributing each other's flyers, to spread the word.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Bill discussed pastoral issues. He also said that a Memorial Service will be held for Ed Goff on April 17th. It will be a small family gathering in the garden, and will be available through live streaming. He and Vestry thanked Everett for the beautiful crosses.

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Bill closed the meeting at 5:50 and the group joined in The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fox, Vestry Secretary