

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
Zoom Vestry Meeting April 20, 2021

ATTENDANCE

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

OPENING PRAYER

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

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- March, 2021

Heather began by discussing the March operating income and expense shown on pages 1 & 2. The income was about \$700 below budget reflecting the pledge income which was about \$2500 under budget, while church employees' wages were decreased. Next she discussed the year to date operating profit and loss versus the budget. Expenses were below budget, mostly because of church employees' expense, while maintenance costs were above budget because of roof repair and an office lighting bill from last summer. The music expense is above budget and will continue to be so: we had originally budgeted for one service per week until July, with two services per week beginning in August; now we have begun having three in-person church services per week, with organists. The rector's insurance is over budget but will be within budget by the end of the year. There is an operating income for the year to date of \$21,859 when we had budgeted for about \$8,490, so we have a good start for the year. This is good because we are heading towards four-five months of historically lower income at this time of year. Page 5 shows "other income/expense", and we have received \$13,000 so far this year toward the Capital Campaign, bringing the total so far to \$95,000. We also received more donations toward the Audio-Video equipment and the total so far is \$6200. Our investment statements show that we have \$98,000 in cash, and our investment value is \$204,000. Our only real liability is the Payment Protection Program funds of \$25,868.80, for which we have submitted for forgiveness through the Small Business Administration. The report was approved as moved by Linda, and seconded by Christine. (Copy of Treasurer's Report and notes attached)

BUSINESS

*Review In-Person Services

Rev. Bill asked for feedback from Vestry. Ed said that the scheduling process is going smoothly. Nancy and Christine said that registering with Carl and Gina is going very well. John asked if there has been any word from the Bishop about loosening up our restrictions. Rev. Bill said that there was a clergy call-in meeting on April 7th, in which there were some changes, but none that would affect us. And there was no mention of lifting restrictions for vaccinated members, and also no change of requirements for singers during services. Vestry discussed the fact that the organ is louder than the singer on the recordings. John said that they have tried different approaches and he hopes there has been some improvement. Everett said that Katie finds it difficult to keep in step with the organ from another room. Vestry then discussed getting another microphone, which had been decided against in an earlier meeting, because of cost (around \$125 for a microphone, plus \$1100 for amplification because we would need to add two channels). Christine suggested checking with Nicole Chillemi at Festival Hall if we might borrow their microphone. Rev. Bill will look into that. He asked if Vestry feels we should continue with three services. The attendance at Redeemer is close to full at 9:30, lighter at 11:00, and in the mid-

20's on Saturday. Les supports the three services, especially because we are close to our pre-COVID numbers, plus we have those who are watchers of streaming, and all agreed. There was some discussion about Vestry's letter to the Bishop regarding COVID restrictions. Les said that he has drafted a letter that they can use. Rev. Bill asked that Les send the letter out via email so we can take a look.

***Leasing the metal building**

Rev. Bill said that Wilhoit Gas Company is looking for additional space and they are interested in leasing our metal building. John has some cost estimates that he gathered last year for necessary improvements before it could be leased – about \$12,000 in AC units (from ACS and Batchelor Heating and Air), and about \$1500 to replace the carpeting, plus electrical work. Before he gets new quotes he would like to consult Jim Hudson about the going rates, to determine what kind of income we could expect as a return on our investment. It would also be helpful to know how long they would expect to need the space. Everyone felt that this is a great idea. Rev. Bill will go forward with Jim.

***Parish Picnic**

Rev. Bill asked the diocese if we can have an outdoor picnic and the answer was yes, as long as we observe spacing protocols and people bring their own food. Christine said that she would like to have one sometime around the end of May or early part of June. We can use the Lutheran Church parking lot and it's side yard which has lots of green space. She discussed her ideas including BYO chairs, blankets and coolers, along with some games we might play. There will be a mandatory sign-up so that the areas can be set up accordingly. Vestry was supportive, so she will move forward with this.

***Re-approaching the Capital Campaign**

Rev. Bill and vestry talked about the best way to move forward on this. It was agreed that the first step is to speak with Rob Townes. Ed said that there is a lot of pre-work to be done, and that quite a bit of change has occurred within the parish since the interviews were conducted. John said that the architect said he would need 6-8 weeks to draw up a presentation plan. He indicated that he is very busy now, so it might take longer. Rev. Bill will talk with Rob about when it is reasonable to start up again.

LIAISON CHECK-INS

*John has had difficulty getting a price for the demolition of the Ice House. The out of town companies he has contacted have shown little interest. He was hoping to get a quote from a local company, The Lake Boys, but he has not received one yet. He also needs to check on permits, building lines, and set backs. He thinks it will run about \$40-\$50K to take out the building and for the new AC and exterior wall installations. John still needs to meet with Mimi about the handrail in the sacristy.

*Mimi said they've received some publicity for the Soup and Sandwich Saturdays in the Herald Journal. She also said that the final piece of the Jean Reed memorial (an engraved plaque) is on its way. Once it is here and installed, we can have a dedication ceremony. Mimi also noted that since Joel's absence, people have been using Deer Run for flowers. Shirley Steele, owner of Union Point's Rutherford's Florist, had been ill, but is well again and does wonderful arrangements. Rev. Bill will put a note in the bulletin, and Mimi will let Elizabeth Hassell know.

*Sharon was unable to attend this meeting, but she did send out an email with an update on Outreach: Soup and Sandwich Saturday continues to be well-received by the community. This past Saturday, we gave out 33 lunches. Thank you to Mimi for getting this event publicized in the Herald Journal these last few months. I think this publicity was a factor in the Presbyterian Church and Greensboro First United Methodist Church deciding to begin similar lunch programs. It's wonderful when different churches can

come together for a common cause! Cathy Crosby agreed to be Redeemer's representative in a newly formed community organization that is addressing the issue of homelessness in Greene County. They meet monthly on Zoom. Cathy said at the last meeting that our SSS ministry was brought up as an example of how faith-based groups can help with this issue. Hopefully, there will be some Outreach opportunities with this group in the future. Cathy Crosby and I had a meeting on Zoom last week with Michelle Elliott from Greensboro FUMC to talk about the possibility of partnering with other area churches for Outreach projects. We plan to meet again in May. If any of you know of any churches who you think might be interested in this type of thing, please let me know. Volunteers from our Outreach committee will be providing 25 Mother's Day goodie bags to the women who are residents at Boswell Nursing Home. We hope to have more volunteer opportunities there as things begin to open up post-pandemic. We voted at our last committee meeting to sponsor Dere'on so that he can attend Camp Mikell this year.

*Linda said that she and Rev. Bill are looking into other activities that could be part of the Christian Education program.

*Nancy said that she and Katie Price added some new plants around the church, including some box woods, hydrangeas, and lenten roses. They also added some mulch around the beds before the memorial service. Linda said that both gardens look beautiful. Nancy said that they are also trying to add more perennials and less annuals in the gardens. Linda said that we have a new church member who loves gardening. She will send Nancy her contact information.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Bill said that the internment service for Ed Goff last Saturday was absolutely lovely. He also mentioned the passing of Martha Cochran, whose memorial service will be in Florida on May 23rd at 10AM. He will let us know if live-streaming will be available. He also said that we are on track for a confirmation and reception for Cathy Crosby on May 29th or 30th. And, he said that we have had 3-4 new couples attending services since our re-opening.

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Bill closed the meeting at 5:20PM and the group joined in The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fox, Vestry Secretary