

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER  
Zoom Vestry Meeting May 19, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

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

OPENING PRAYER:

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

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT - APRIL, 2021

Heather began with pages 1 and 2 of the report (a copy of the April Finance Report and Heather's notes attached), saying that pledge income was a little under budget, by about \$2200, but we did make up some of that difference with plate income from the services, so the net was around \$1700. The music expense was over budget by \$1900 because of the three services that we are having. Most of the other expenses were close to budget. There is an operating loss for the month of \$6694, when we had budgeted for a loss of around \$5000. Turning to pages 3 and 4, pledges and non-pledge donations are about \$13,000 over budget (part of the increase was the receipt of prior year pledges totaling \$7,355.) Church employee expenses are lower than budget while music expense is above budget. There is an operating income for the year to date of \$14,603, well above our budgeted income of \$3,308. Since the summers are typically low income months, the extra \$11,000 will be needed. Page 5 shows non-operating income and expenses. We have now received \$13,000 towards the audio-video equipment through the nail-cross fundraiser, and we have made payments of \$160,960 towards the sanctuary renovations (including the A-V equipment). We receive our investment statements quarterly, so there is no new information regarding those. The Balance Sheet as of April 30<sup>th</sup> is strong and healthy with \$91,000 in cash and \$204,000 in investments. The PPP loan has been forgiven, so we have no liabilities at this point. Les informed Vestry that the Car Program received and \$800 donation in April from the local Knights of Columbus, which is wonderful news. The report was approved as moved by Linda and seconded by Nancy.

BUSINESS

\*Rev. Bill and Vestry discussed the easing of restrictions from the diocese for congregations of fully vaccinated folks. At this point we are not permitted to share the consecrate wine, nor have food and drink at indoor gatherings, but wearing of masks and social distancing is not longer required. For congregations of folks with unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or unknown status, we will abide by the previous protocols. The Vestry discussed and unanimously agreed upon protocols for church life in general with this in mind. (Copy attached). They also decided to continue our services as we did last weekend: Saturday and 9:30AM Services are for vaccinated folks, and the 11AM service will be available for people who are not fully vaccinated or are uncomfortable with the new easing of restrictions. They also discussed options for coffee hour gatherings. Since the diocese did not change any of the restrictions about food, Vestry decided to try offering coffee and beverages outside, weather permitting, after the Saturday service and the 9:30 Sunday service. Beverages will be serviced in individual cups by a gloved and masked person. If there are snacks, they are to be pre-packaged. The Saturday Coffee Hour will be in the covered alcove outside the entrance and on Sunday Coffee Hour will be in the

Remembrance Garden. Over the course of time, as vaccinations increase and the number of COVID-19 cases decrease, we anticipate that we will be able to gradually lift more of the remaining restrictions.

**\*Update on Leasing the Metal Building**

Rev. Bill said that he and John met with Bill Ard, president of Wilhoit Gas Company at the metal building. He said that they are very interested in using it for office space. They would like a 3+ year lease, and they are not concerned about the condition of the parking lot. Jim Hudson said that we could get around \$7-8 dollars per foot for office space. Vestry agreed that providing the HVAC system should be the church's responsibility and improvements to the interior should be up to them. Rev. Bill will talk with the diocese and with Lang Lowery for any recommendations, when we get closer to the actual lease date.

**\*Update on "Ice House" Demolition**

Rev. Bill said that there have been discussions and visits from roofing contractors, but no further update beyond that.

**\*Update on the Capital Campaign**

Rev. Bill spoke with Rob Townes yesterday about the campaign. His recommendation is to go ahead and get the architect to draw up plans. Les asked if we have a scope for the architect and Rev. Bill replied that we do and he will ask John to provide copies for everyone. In light of the fact that several of our church families have moved or are moving, Rob suggested we need to regroup and have "circle back" interviews with people - the visuals would be helpful.

**\*Executive Session**

The meeting closed to any outside observer while Vestry discussed some matters. Rev. Bill said that we have received two anonymous gifts and Vestry discussed possible uses for the money including a columbarium for the Memorial Garden.

**Liaison Check-Ins**

\*Linda said that she had some discussions with Karen Klomp about Sunday School attendance after the pandemic. Our Zoom meetings on Sundays at 11 generally had around 10 people in attendance, and that has decreased to about 6 or 7 since the time was moved to Wednesdays at 7PM. We will probably change back to the late Sunday morning at some point. The Living Gracefully group is a very faithful and includes 9 Redeemer members and 4 others from the community.

\*Ed said that we our Altar Guild group has shrunk from 9 to 5 members and three of those prefer not to serve at the Saturday service. We need more members and he asked Vestry to text him if they have any suggestions. He also said he is concerned that we are working some people too much. Vestry agreed. We can also use more volunteers as readers, greeters, and to help with filming services.

\*Sharon said that Outreach met with Michelle Elliott who is the Mission coordinator at Greensboro United Methodist Church. They divided up names and contact information of 40 clergy in the area between Sharon, Michelle, and Cathy Crosby. They left messages to them about collaborating for outreach initiatives. Sharon heard back from Grace Fellowship and they will put her in touch with someone in their congregation who would be interested. Cathy heard from Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church on Scott Rd. They are getting a new pastor and will pass this information along. There was some interest from the Methodist Church in locating the Soup and Sandwich Saturdays in one place, instead of holding them at each church. Sharon said that Mimi has done a great job of getting a picture and write-up in the Herald Journal every month; we are steadily getting new people. We are reaching our goals of

feeding the hungry and opening our doors to the community so they can get to know us. She feels that the three churches might have combined community dinners at regular intervals instead. After some discussion it was agreed that since the program is so well received at our church now - after two years of effort we are finally serving 35-40 lunches each month; so we should keep our Saturday program at Redeemer. Sharon also said that the Mother's Day project at the Boswell Nursing Home was precious. The director was so excited and there were ladies waiting for them in wheel chairs at the door. They hope to do more for them in the future.

\*Christine said that the picnic has 9 families signed up so far for attendance and she requested that we have something in the bulletin every Wednesday to remind folks, as it is only two weeks away. Rev. Bill said that he would like to begin having meetings one to two times a year at someone's home for newcomers, including a handful of vestry members. Christine will keep that on her radar.

\*Nancy said that Mimi has done an excellent job with communications. She also wanted to give kudos to Katie Price and Cathy Coleman for all their work around the gardens. She met Brinkley and Jim Pound who are new to the area, from Columbus, and they are ready to jump in and help.

#### RECTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Bill said that Cathy Crosby will be received next Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> at 2PM and John will lead the Saturday service in evening prayer that night. He is glad to have her officially part of the church. Martha Cochran's funeral service will be live-screened this Sunday at 9:30. Our other our church members who have been battling cancer are all in remission, so that is a blessing.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Bill closed the meeting at 5:40 and the group joined in The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Fox, Vestry Secretary