

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Congregational Meeting – Feb. 21, 2021

State of the Parish: The past year was focused on the COVID pandemic changing everything about our worship, how we communicate with each other and the community, how we provide outreach, and how we budget our resources.

Clergy Search: We started in earnest in late 2018/early 2019; wrote up a parish profile, discernment report, and self-study questions; and met with Bishop Gulick in March 2019 and Rev. Sarah Brockenbrough in October 2019. COVID has put us on hold, but we met through Zoom with Rev. Canon Mary Thorpe in August 2020 to discuss paths forward. Debbie Rutter joined us in fall 2020 and has committed with us through June 2021.

Diocesan Financial Support is critical to our operations. CCM aid over the last three years was \$35,700. CCM aid for 2021 is \$13,900. We've been writing grant requests and have been awarded \$15K over the last three years. We've got another Scott Foundation grant of \$3,500 coming this year.

Our Service: Good Shepherd was recognized by the diocese for our consistent giving back. We were invited to participate in a Zoom call with diocesan leadership. We participate in online COVID meetings and clergy calls, sometimes using online sermons.

Vestry

- Vestry elections results: Lois Tapscott: Sr. Warden; Tim Hall: Jr. Warden; Cindy Ingram: Treasurer; Josette Keelor: Register
- Judy Hall: Vestry member, Diocesan Lay Delegate; Richard Purnell: Vestry member, Regional Lay Delegate
- Open, non-vestry positions: Outreach Chair, Fellowship Chair, Search Committee Chair, Stewardship Chair
- Judy gave a report from the 226th convention, which was held online. The 227th convention for 2021 is still being scheduled. Giving the parochial report, Tim said membership is down during the pandemic and though finances are good at the moment, we face challenges ahead once returning to in-person worship.

Facility

- Maintenance has been focused on cleaning, insect control, lawn care, gutters, snow removal, and HVAC. We didn't have snow removal this winter because of not meeting at the church, and we didn't have gutter maintenance.
- Facility improvements in 2020 saw the roof painted, exterior repairs completed (rotten wood, broken windows) in preparation for whole exterior painting, interior updates to sanctuary, and the bell rope replaced.

- Future plans include a parish hall facelift – new ceiling and carpet (partially covered by the Scott grant), Internet hot spot, exterior lighting, church sign, and landscaping. We plan to apply as a history property and get landmark status.

Outreach: In 2020, we contributed to the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS), collected for a sock drop at Bluemont Methodist, collected for FISH of Clarke County, hosted AA meetings, and delivered more than 100 Christmas gift tins. We did not contribute to a Good Friday offering for the Diocese of Jerusalem or Operation Christmas Child as in the past. We also didn't do any international outreach as in the past (donating to causes in Liberia or to the Mother Teresa Orphanage in Kabul, Afghanistan.) Going forward, we hope to designate an outreach chair to run the outreach program, soliciting ideas and volunteers. We're interested in environmental justice and seeing more involvement with seniors and in our Pine Grove neighborhood.

Financial Report: In 2020, our balance started at \$11,317 and ended at \$21,855. Our income was \$33,847 and expenses were \$23,311. Our building account started at \$5,209 and ended at \$3,539. Income was \$12,725 and expenses were \$14,395. We saw COVID-related decreases in plate offerings, AA gifts and rental income, as well as not having any fundraisers or outreach. Increases came from a fourth 2019 CCM payment received in the first quarter of 2020 as well as a \$10K Scott Foundation grant for exterior work.

Our 2021 budget anticipates reductions from less staff and cost of utilities. We'll have increases in costs for supply clergy, routine maintenance, equipment, and telecommunications. Another \$10K Scott Grant will offset facility improvement costs. We have a surplus of \$8,652, which helps solve the \$4,391 deficit from less income expected in 2021. We're hoping for summer/fall fundraising efforts.