

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Bluemont VA - Meeting Notes

Subject: Virtual Vestry Meeting

Date: Sunday, September 24, 2020

Attendees: Lois Tapscott, Tim Hall, Josette Keelor, Richard Purnell, Judy Hall

Judy hosted the meeting on our Good Shepherd Zoom account, beginning at 6:08 p.m.

The first order of business concerned Fr. Ralph's status with Good Shepherd. We had all received an email from him last week containing his "final" sermon and wishing everyone at Good Shepherd well. Mary Thorpe emailed Lois and Tim saying that Bishop Susan had finally spoken with him and he now knows he will no longer be serving at GS, but is welcome to attend, on occasion. Lois had spoken to him earlier and will reach out to him again saying we would like to do a farewell/thank-you get together with Maeva and him. It was decided we should pay him \$150 for both August and September.

Agenda items:

Lawn care for next year: Tim explained the quotes Lois received from Epling... 30 mows in 2021 at \$50 each for a total of \$1,500 payable at \$125/mo. Tim said that we had budgeted \$400 for lawn care in 2021 (because budgeted before lawn care started) and that he had reached out to David Moorcones and found that his minimum is \$50 per visit, too. Richard suggested we may want to halve the visits, bringing the annual total to \$750. We took this under advisement for a later decision. Tim mentioned that we were planning grass for Sept. 25 where the chestnut oak came down.

Current financial position: Tim said that as of the July bank statement we had \$19,645 in our checking account and \$3,538 in our building account. Tim asked if there were major expenses since July. Judy said we spent \$500 for a new refrigerator and \$2,385 on tree work since then. Lois said she just deposited \$1,100 from the last two Sundays.

Cindy was unable to attend but said, via email, that she would provide updated numbers through August as soon as she could.

Stewardship: Lois is preparing this year's mailer. She asked if Mr. Print is open and the answer was a resounding YES. Tim asked about Diocesan-provided materials and Lois said there are some and this year's theme is "One Together." Tim spoke to the 2021 pledge recently made to the diocese. It is based on the previous 3-year average of discretionary income. So based on this, he upped our pledge from the anticipated amount of \$1,651 to \$1,670. Our 2020 pledge (already paid) to the diocese was \$1,800.

Upcoming services and thoughts through end of year: We needed a flyer for our October "Blessing of the Animals" service. Tim said he would develop it and send it out. It was suggested we could post it at the Pine Grove Restaurant, the Pizza Convenience Store, Horseshoe Curve, the Appalachian Trail, and Shenandoah Retreat, and send it electronically to Jen Stone and Charlene for posting to local community sites.

After much discussion, we decided that we should approach Rev. Debbie Rutter about supplying for us twice a month for Holy Eucharist for the remainder of the year, including Christmas, and seeing if she would meet with us a couple more times per month to help with spiritual direction for discerning God's plan for us. Judy said she would look into inviting other supply clergy to guest celebrate with us. All agreed that we would need to start moving towards indoor services as the weather turns cold. Tim said he would start the application for this. He also mentioned that we need to verify our airflow and whether HEPA filters can be used.

Josette mentioned that Christmas is not far away and we need to start thinking about it. We don't know yet whether we'll be able to have it inside.

Tim mentioned that we also have our Community Harvest Dinner the last weekend before Thanksgiving and perhaps we should think about a different way to do it this year. Lois said, "Zoom?" but Tim said more like an outreach project. Josette liked that idea. Tim said perhaps we could bake bread and/or pies and hand them out in the community. Richard said perhaps we could partner with Phyllis at the restaurant to do something.

Richard threw out the idea about a Parking Lot Prayer Service at the AT parking lots as something different to try.

AA: Judy gave an update on where the AA is currently meeting (outside at the restaurant, which they like) and her conversations with Dusty. The downstairs at GS is ready for them if they want to move inside, and Dusty was going to try it out on Saturday, Sept. 26, and get back to her with feedback. Judy said it's a pretty small space. Richard asked if they could use the sanctuary but Judy said the diocese wants churches to keep their worship spaces segregated from their community spaces.

Thoughts on figuring out where we're going (i.e. discerning God's plan for us): We pretty much covered this in other discussions, but the main thing is that we need additional help with our discernment and we're hoping that Debbie can help us with this.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m. with Tim closing us in prayer.