

## **Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Bluemont, Virginia – Meeting Notes**

**Subject:** Virtual Vestry Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021

**Attendees:** Judy, Tim, Lois, Josette, Linda, Cindy

**Start time:** 6:35 p.m.

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### **CCM Covenant**

Discussion on a draft covenant included discipleship, spiritual growth, and serving community. Suggestions were:

- Continuing our Bible series, which Cindy recommended to start again in January
- Adding a film study, which was suggested for winter. Tim suggested asking Debbie for ideas.
- A Lenten study
- Maybe an AA speaker
- Bringing in someone from the outside to offer a get-together for serious prayer, like a retreat, potentially for two internal retreats, the first in epiphany
- Wednesday Lenten dinners and possibly trading off on presentations each week.
- Brining in outside preachers to speak on different ways to observe Lent

These programs would help us reach out to others and deepen our lives of faith and spiritual growth, and we anticipate Christians as well as others potentially joining.

To promote vibrancy and sustainability, we suggested ways to use our space for community:

- To advertise for group meetings
- Offer an established place for a spiritual garden or community garden
- A farmers market
- A place for others to use our church
- Enlisting an event coordinator to use indoor/outdoor space

On developing a way for us to be relevant to the community, we suggested:

- A place for retreats and weddings
- A walking group at Cool Spring once a week
- A community garden for involving the community. Cindy was concerned that everyone wants to do that, so diocese isn't offering money for a garden. Judy

wondered about grants from the diocese? Linda said they'll help us design projects but aren't offering grants to support the projects.

- Making the church more available for people in the community to use for their own events, and renting out space. More discussion suggested this would be cost-prohibitive to nonprofit groups. Also, this might require landscaping and fixing the driveway and parking lot, painting, offering video capabilities in the church, and adding in cozy chairs. Cindy suggested setting up workdays to do all that.
- Bigger events like weddings that we could charge for
- Progressive dinner at church members' houses
- Night Without a Bed (to help people learn about the needs of the homeless)
- Participating in Pride Month (June)
- Caroling/luminaries

Linda hasn't heard ideas from other churches on what they're doing but that in the past, the diocese required only one improvement, not three.

Judy suggested we shoot for a goal of 2022 with our ongoing project to initiate a garden space on a slope with erosion control and a spiritual space for forest bathing. (Cindy will coordinate.) We'll also look into Cool Spring Walks (Josette to coordinate), a Lenten series (Cindy), Saturday retreat in Epiphany with Debbie (Judy) and getting the driveway fixed (Tim).

### **Budget**

We have an \$11,000 gift and could spend this on a mic for our priest for services, giving 10% to an outreach cause; or funding landscaping, driveway fund, priest salaries. We also have donated electronic equipment. Linda suggested someone who can help.

### **Advertising**

Tim suggested we get into the Clarke monthly and direct-mail marketing. Josette pointed out The Winchester Star and The Northern Virginia Daily will also run church notes on an occasional basis.

### **Priests of Future**

Tim spoke briefly on our relationships with Rev. Deb and Rev. Melanie.

Close: 8:16 p.m.