

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2020
Approved by the Vestry November 10, 2020

Present: Jack Armistead, Eddie Bennett, Kelly Black, Rhonda Hefner-Packer, Jane Hudson, Marge Massey, Nikki Mathis, Kathryn Musholt, Caley Ross, and Lester House
Excused: Chrissy Moffett and Beth Thornton

Devotion: Kathryn Musholt

Kathryn's devotion centered on friendship. She began by reading an excerpt from *The Daily God Book through the Bible: A Bird's-Eye View of the Bible in a Year*, by Skip Heitzig, followed by readings from John 15, Hebrews 3:13, and 2 Corinthians. Group discussion followed with examples of friendship experienced.

Call to Order and Approval of September Meeting Minutes: Nikki Mathis

Nikki called the meeting to order. The minutes of the September 8 Vestry meeting had been distributed in advance. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion was approved by unanimous show of hands.

Financial Report: Les House

September revenues were \$2,165 under budget, and expenses were \$6,532 under budget. (The YTD revenues are \$12,159 under budget, and expenses are \$28,426 under budget.) Revenues, while under budget, are steady and higher than at this time last year. Barring unforeseen expenses, Les expects that we will meet our budget this year and possibly be in a position to return money to the Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF). He stated that the RDF has been funded generously by the congregation throughout the pandemic, and except initially, without Nikki having to ask for contributions.

Les informed the Vestry that according to *The Episcopal Church Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs, 2012*, the Treasurer (Les) and the bookkeeper (Parish Administrator Kendall Kookogey) should not reconcile the bank and investment accounts, as follows:

Truist main checking, monthly; Truist RFD, monthly; Vanguard, quarterly; and Charles Schwab, annually. An independent third party, a "Reconciler," should be engaged for that. Les has talked with Richard Cooper, past Treasurer, and Richard has agreed to be this year's Reconciler. Les asked the Vestry to approve engaging a Reconciler this year. A motion was made and approved by unanimous show of hands. Les said he will include the need for a Reconciler in the written financial policies he is preparing. In the future the Finance Committee will recommend a Reconciler, and the Vestry will be asked to approve that recommendation.

Les was asked the status of the 2011 issue with the IRS regarding filing errors in the payment of Social Security taxes. Les was asked to proceed with a diocesan auditor within the next month to resolve this issue.

Rector's Report: Nikki Mathis

Nikki reported that we are still averaging 100+ views of the Sunday morning service at 10:30 a.m. and another 50-70 views around 2 p.m. on Sundays. Each month some of those views

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are by people who are not members of St. Gregory's. Nikki described RDF expenditures, as well as her assignment by the Bishop to work temporarily with her former parish, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rome, in the aftermath of the tragic suicide of the associate rector there. Nikki's official role there ends on Sunday, October 18. Nikki reiterated the Bishop's guidelines about congregating during the pandemic, but informed the Vestry that there will be limited nave and parish hall/labyrinth access at St. Gregory's in the near future at specific times for which congregants, individually or as a family, can register. All users must be masked.

Re the petition by a church member on behalf of the East Athens Childcare & Learning Co-op for St. Gregory's to provide space at and volunteers for some Clarke County school children to participate in distance learning while schools are closed during the pandemic (continued from last month's meeting): The Vestry learned that Clarke County schools will reopen for in-person instruction on November 9. It was agreed that the considerable liability risk of having the children use church property is too great for us to assume. Although the petition may be moot with schools reopening, the Vestry agreed it is unable to support the Co-op's petition.

Nikki reported that about a dozen cars came to the drive-through blessing of animals on Sunday, October 11. Nikki, Ethan Mathis, and Catherine Drewry were on hand to greet arrivals, two of whom were not members of St. Gregory.

Stewardship Report: Caley Ross

The Stewardship Committee has decided to use the pledge form previously used. Either there will be a socially distanced event in conjunction with a children's event at the church on Halloween weekend, or a drop box will be set up for members to turn in their pledge cards. Caley reported that the Stewardship Committee had noticed there isn't much operating information available to members on St. Gregory's website, e.g., minutes of Vestry meetings and church budget figures. Nikki reported that Teri Tillman, our Social Media Coordinator, and Peter Rice, Chair of the 2020 Stewardship Committee, have recently created links to that information on our website.

Strategic Planning: Rhonda Hefner-Packer

Member Sarah Gordon has agreed to edit the 39-page report written by the

Nourish, Grow, & Go Committee and to provide feedback to the Committee by the end of October. The report will be presented to the Vestry at the November meeting, after which Vestry members will have two weeks to provide written feedback. The final draft will be presented to the congregation at St. Gregory's Annual Meeting in January, 2021. Following the plan's approval by the congregation, Nourish, Grow, & Go Committee Chairs will be responsible for submitting quarterly accountability reports to the Vestry.

Memorial Garden: Kathryn Musholt

Because the Vestry still needs two additional bids for planting and walkway improvements to the Memorial Garden, discussion of the Memorial Garden was tabled until the November 10 Vestry meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Hudson.