**Vestry Minutes**

**November 18, 2020**

**7:00pm**

**Present:** Jeannette Brown,Jeff Brown, Rev. Denise Cabana, Mitchell Chester, Rich Connell, Bob Dugger, Bea Farlekas, Lisa Gleason, Becky Lee, Joyce Reynolds

**Absent:** Sam Hoyt, Cheryl Turner

**Opening Prayer**

**Book Discussion: –** “How to Be An Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi – 30 minutes

The Vestry was divided into 2 groups to finish the discussion of this book. Rev. Denise asked the Vestry to consider how we can take action on lessons learned from this book.

**Checking In –**

* Jeanette Brown reported that the response from the parish members was very positive regarding the gift drop offs that Vestry did last month.
* Jeff Brown gave a shout out to Clair Gadsen for the successful Youth Event she organized right before Halloween.
* Rev. Denise thanked everyone for their support following her mom’s passing.

**Discussion -**

* **Minutes -** The September minutes will be approved at the December meeting.
* **Treasurer’s Report – Bob Dugger**
  + Cash position is in good shape. There is no other way to keep cash, e.g. there are no short-term investments available to house cash; it will stay in bank account.
  + PPP loan – Jeanne is working on the application for forgiveness. We will save $3,400 (10% of revenue from the loan is paid to the Diocese) if forgiveness is moved to 2021 since the revenue won’t be counted until 2023.
  + The General Fund has $20,600. We need two more months of $14,000 in pledges to be on budget.
  + Pledges in 2020 totaled $222,000. Pledges in 2021 will be less than this. Bob feels the church will be okay next year but he has a concern for financial stability in future years.
  + Budget for 2021 will be discussed at next meeting, when pledges are all in.
  + Jeannette Brown moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Rev. Denise seconded the motion. All Vestry members voted in favor. Motion passed.
* **Pledging Update – Jeannette Brown**
  + Currently have about $171,000 from 70 pledges. This is down from last year’s total pledge amount of $222,000.
  + Jeannette asked everyone to make phone calls to parish members who have not yet returned their pledge cards. She will email everyone with who to call.-
* **Guest Speaker – John Korber from the Reopening Task Force**
  + John reviewed the IT solutions previously presented to Vestry which will give the church improved networking & security for the network, faster internet connectivity, and improved wi-fi coverage. It will also allow streaming of virtual church.
  + The total investment will be approximately $21,000. Ongoing expenses would be limited to phone and internet expenses.
  + The Cox rate for phone and internet is fixed for 3 years. John will find out what happens after 3 years.
  + A decision needs to be made regarding hiring a Chief Info Tech.
  + A volunteer will be needed to oversee the maintaining of “tech stuff”.
  + John recommended “Esy Worship” software as a control panel for writing services.
  + Vestry agreed to move ahead with installation. Jeff Brown made a motion to reaffirm the previous decision to use Joining Jesus funds for technology improvements. Jeanette Brown seconded the motion. All members approved. Motion passed.
* **Other items**
  + After a discussion, the decision was made to move the motion sensor on the front door to the inside door to prevent it from setting off the alarm unnecessarily.
  + The Vestry agreed to Rev. Denise’s request for an additional Sunday off on December 6th.
  + Vestry decided prayer time in church would not be allowed right now; Covid numbers are too high.
  + Rev. Denise’s Sabbatical coverage plans are in place. There will be four leadership teams – Worship/Faith in Action/Education/Administration. Don Hamer will meet with Vestry in December. He will be on board by early March. Fred Faulkner will cover in the interim. She would like to have an event with congregation before leaving.
* **Vestry for 2021:**
  + Debbie O’Donnell (Sr. Warden), Mitchell Chester (Jr. Warden), Bob Dugger (Treasurer), Joyce Reynolds (Assistant Treasurer), Cheryl Turner (Secretary), Rich Connell, Lisa Gleason, Sam Hoyt, Becky Lee.
  + Two more members are needed. Several names were suggested and they will be contacted.
* **Interfaith Coalition**
  + Rev. Denise explained that other congregations in town are giving $500-$1000 per month to this initiative. Saint James has to figure out if they are behind this and if so, should Joining Jesus funds be used to help.
  + Backpack program is expanding into 4 other elementary schools.
* Next meeting is 12/16/20 at 7pm. Bring ideas for our next learning experience.
* Motion to adjourn made by Jeannette Brown at 9:15pm; motion seconded by Jeff Brown. All voted in favor of adjourning.