**HOLY FAMILY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**VESTRY MEETING MINUTES – April 20, 2021**

Attending: Tom Clines, Bob Murray, Marcus Dial, Ruth Everett, Tina Vawter, Betty Bogeman, Jolene Johnston, Fr. Bruce Gray, Dan Chillemi, Lorri Batesky, Katie Hamon

The meeting was called to order at 7:04, via remote connection, with prayer led by Fr. Bruce.

**Vestry check-ins with parishioners**

Fr. Bruce asked what we are hearing from parishioners about the return to worship. Bob noted that a lot of people are glad we are back in church, while others are not yet ready to attend in person. Tina and Tom shared that the Live Streamed service is working very well. Fr. Bruce said there has been a microphone issue which Lorri and Ben are working on.

**Little Library**

Marcus was approached by a parishioner about having a Little Free Library (outreach opportunity to share books with the community) or a Blessing Box (for non-perishable food donations). Ruth thinks it is a great idea and could be good near the trail. Marcus said there are also a lot of walkers and runners on the road in front of the church so that could work until the trail is finished. Marcus explained that it costs $39 to get on the registry, and his uncle who does woodworking could build it. Fr. Bruce wondered if we could eventually have two: one by the trail and one by the road. Marcus said we could start with one, and it was agreed upon to move forward.

**Pentecost Picnic: May 23**

Fr. Bruce explained that everyone will be asked to bring their own picnic. The guidelines from the Diocese state that household members do not have to wear masks when outside and six feet apart from other people. Fr. Bruce assumed we would do the service outside after the 10:00 service, but Ben is unsure whether we could get the equipment set up for the Live Stream outside. Betty asked about the possibility of Fr. Bruce or Cathy leading the outdoor service while the other does the indoor service simultaneously. Jolene asked if there would still be an 8:00 service. Betty thought that in the past when we have done something like this, we have had one service at 9:00. She said that the 8:00 attendees likely won’t come back for the picnic, so perhaps having one service would include more people for the picnic. Dan asked what we have done in past years. Betty believes we did one service at 9:00. Bob thought we had done it a variety of ways. Jolene recalled that we have done a Saturday night service at 5:00 with picnic afterwards. Dan stated that we probably shouldn’t disrupt the routine for the Live Stream attendees. Betty wondered about doing a Saturday service at 5:00 and one service on Sunday morning. Jolene said we could potentially Live Stream outdoors from the chapel on Saturday. Stephen remembers doing it on a Saturday some years. Ruth inquired about when we would recognize the graduates. Fr. Bruce said we could do that the week prior. It was decided to have Saturday at 5:00 for an outdoor service and picnic and a regular service on Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

**Sanctuary Lights**

Fr. Bruce reported that the lights in the sanctuary were not working this past Sunday. This is the second time in a few weeks that this has happened. Marcus tried to switch the circuit breaker after the service. When he turned it to “on,” a fan switched on, which is a concern. Lorri has contacted the electrician named Matt.

**Old Business**

Marcus asked Lorri if she had contacted someone about the pipe that was busted in the irrigation system. Lorri stated that it has been repaired.

**Vestry Working Groups for 2021**

Regathering

Fr. Bruce stated that some parishioners are awaiting full vaccination before returning. The Bishop is working on new guidelines for singing (to be discussed at the April 28 meeting).

Evangelism

Bob noted that they have tentatively come up with dates for three sessions open to anyone in the congregation: May 12, May 26, and June 9. A final planning session is scheduled for June 23. Information will be communicated this week. Fr. Bruce said the goal is to revitalize the evangelism program in preparation for the fall.

Building and Grounds

Fr. Bruce shared that Cathy Gray is taking over as Community Garden Coordinator. Thanks to her efforts, the parish now has an accurate map of plot ownership. Marcus reported that Stephen has created a flyer to promote the Community Garden. Marcus is going to print and distribute copies to the apartment and condo complexes in downtown Fishers. Fr. Bruce reported that the for the first time, a non-parishioner gardener came into the church building and expressed a possible interest in visiting. Regarding the trail, Marcus stated that he is supposed to hear about the option of a gravel path or stairs for the trail. There will be a cost involved, but we have to wait for more information. Marcus said he has been contacting the roofing company every two weeks, but they still haven’t been out to repair the damaged shingles. He is going to continue to follow up.

Christian Formation

Jolene reported that we have had hybrid and in-person gatherings since the return to worship and plan to have a Holy Hike at Flat Fork Creek Park this Sunday. This week we had a new person show up for Sunday School because Jolene made contact with them in person at church. Hogwarts is going on this weekend. It is free and space is available if you want to invite others. Ruth shared that she wants to plan some one-day outdoor outreach opportunities for the summer and welcomes any suggestions. Fr. Bruce suggested that St. Albans is still doing their farm and they haven’t had as many volunteers as usual, so that could be a possibility. Jolene mentioned the Fishers Agri-Park or the Humane Society, and Lorri shared the idea of canoeing or tubing on the White River.

Worship

Fr. Bruce stated that Doug and Heather Tannas have agreed to be the permanent accompanists for Sunday worship. Stephen asked about the plan for training Acolytes and bringing new ones in. Fr. Bruce is in charge of this and shared that this week there will be information about how to become an Acolyte as well as training to become a Senior Acolyte.

Racial Reconciliation

Bob reported that we just had a productive meeting about Racial Reconciliation. The Diocese has provided a list of resources to help congregations explore the topic. We plan to refine them and meet before the next Vestry meeting in May so that we can put out a plan for Holy Family.

**Approval of minutes**

Fr. Bruce asked if there were any additions to be made to the March minutes. Tina noted that it was not included that she volunteered for the Stewardship committee. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, which was seconded by Marcus. The motion passed unanimously.

**Flower Sale**

Betty inquired about banners to advertise the sale. Jolene confirmed that there are four banners. Fr. Bruce asked about permission from the city to put up banners. Lorri found the information in the admin manual and will call tomorrow morning. Marcus recommended skipping the one at 116th and Allisonville, and Jolene said 116th and Cumberland should be avoided because of the wind. Marcus stated that he will put one at Holland Park and by Sam’s Club. Betty asked about Del Webb, and Tina agreed to look into it. Betty asked if Marcus can put up the banners this weekend, and he agreed. Betty noted that we are in pretty good shape with volunteers. Whatever we don’t sell on Saturday will be offered in a close-out sale on Sunday. Prices are comparable to the nurseries. We could make a profit of $2000-2500. Betty is hoping to get the flowers delivered directly to the church on Thursday, but if not, she and Lorri will work on renting a truck to pick them up. Bagged mulch is arriving tomorrow (260 bags at $5.00/bag, profit of $2.05/bag). We have four orders for bulk delivery. Betty asked if we have plenty of tables for the plants. Jolene said we have approximately ten tables. Betty shared that Bethany is familiar with collecting payments, and we will use PayPal for those who are interested. She explored other options such as paying through the Diocese or Zelle but they wouldn’t work with Old National Bank. Dan asked why Venmo wouldn’t be possible and offered to look into it and set it up.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Betty reported that contributions are still down, and the PPP loan is keeping us going. Bob wondered if in person worship has improved contributions, but Betty said unfortunately it has not. She is concerned about summer because people will be eager to vacation after staying home last year so there will likely be a decrease in June, July, and August. Tom inquired about pledges from the online worshippers. Betty said the people who have pledged are consistent in their giving. She has seen a couple of new people making contributions for two consecutive months as well as a few families who have not given during the past year begin to give. Things are looking a little better, but she is not overly excited about the progress. Bob expressed that the tradition in the Episcopal Church of taking the summer off is not a good idea financially or spiritually.

Betty noted that the investment account gained almost $1700 last quarter. Dan brought up a concern he had previously discussed with Betty: if things continue to progress as they have been, we will ultimately burn through our savings account at Old National in five-seven months, which leaves us with the Diocesan Investment Account (valued at approximately $50,000). If we think we will need to access that money soon, it would not be prudent to have it in equities or stocks. Dan recommended making the account more conservative with a viewpoint that we may need to tap into the funds in the near future. Betty received information from the Diocesan Investment Manager, who suggested a slightly less aggressive option known as the balanced fund. It would have 10-15% less in stocks than the current growth fund. Dan asked Betty if it is a balanced fund with multiple mutual funds or only one fund. Betty assumed it is multiple but did not receive clarification on that. Fr. Bruce noted that from his past experience, it is likely a portfolio with multiple funds. **Dan made a motion to request through the Diocesan Investment Manager to move to the balanced fund.** Marcus seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Rector’s Report**

Fr. Bruce shared that we have had new people attending each Sunday, about half from online and half invited by parishioners. Returning visitors told him on Sunday how much they have appreciated the welcome they have received. Fr. Bruce reminded Vestry members to say hello and introduce ourselves to visitors.

Fr. Bruce asked if there were any other discussion topics, and none were offered. He led us in the Lord’s Prayer and a closing blessing. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.