**HOLY FAMILY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**VESTRY MEETING MINUTES – May 18, 2021**

Attending: Tom Clines, Bob Murray, Marcus Dial, Ruth Everett, Tina Vawter, Betty Bogeman, Jolene Johnston, Fr. Bruce Gray, Cathy French, Carol Bruns, Katie Hamon

The meeting was called to order at 7:03, via remote connection, with prayer led by Fr. Bruce.

**Old and New Business**

Fr. Bruce asked Jolene to share that the Tunison family will be moving. He informed us that Sandra Cline’s support dog has died. The dog was a great help to her with her diabetes. Bob encouraged Vestry members to do check-ins this week to remind people about the outdoor service and picnic on Saturday, May 22. Bruce reported that there will be a Eucharist at 5:00 p.m. in the outdoor chapel followed by a bring your own picnic. Diocesan guidelines allow us to be unmasked since will be outside, but you are welcome to wear a mask if you prefer. On Sunday, there will only be one service at 10:00, and it will be livestreamed. Fr. Bruce also shared that the electrician will be coming on Thursday for the sanctuary lights and will bring his supervisor along. Hopefully the lights will be fixed by this weekend.

**Working Groups Report**

Regathering

Fr. Bruce reported that we had the first post-regathering live choral quartet sing on Sunday. We continue to have people participating in worship via YouTube, with at least 15 attending live each week. Jolene shared that we have 20-30 households throughout week watching on YouTube. Fr. Bruce explained that some parishioners continue to await full vaccination before returning. The Bishop is working on new guidelines regarding masks, etc. and has a diocesan meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 20 to provide updated information.

Stewardship

Tina did not have an update, but she is interested in knowing about good resources for her to use. Fr. Bruce plans to share some with her.

Evangelism

Bob stated that the first meeting was very informative. Last Wednesday’s meeting was not attended by a large group, but it was beneficial to have several newcomers give their feedback about what it’s like being new to Holy Family. They came up with several ideas. Having strong online resources is very important as that is how several people have found the church. Encouraging people to share events on social media makes a difference in amplifying our reach and inviting people to events. The church’s 30th anniversary is coming up, which could be a great opportunity for an event. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26 from 7-8 p.m. on Zoom with the topic of how we can do a better job welcoming newcomers so that they might want to come back. There is a video and checklist you can look at prior to the meeting. Marcus suggested creating a short Facebook ad video about “why I go to church” as a possible way to reach people. Fr. Bruce shared that Wendy and Jodi (newer couple to the church) are inviting their children and grandchildren to the service and picnic.

Building & Grounds

Marcus talked to his uncle about the Little Library and has a design to move forward, but his uncle has a variety of projects he’s involved with, so Marcus will need to check in with him. He plans to make it out of cedar, so it is less likely to rot. It will be unfinished so will need to be painted. Ruth suggested having a red door on it for the Episcopal Church.

Marcus reported that the roofing company came back out, and there is more damage than they had thought. They are working with the adjustor, and things seem to be picking up over the last few weeks. Fr. Bruce said we may get a whole new roof and siding repairs because of the adjustment. The original inspection missed a lot of damage and did not look at the siding. Marcus noted that they are also looking at the hardy board behind the AC unit. It may have been recalled.

Marcus inquired about playground plans. Fr. Bruce explained that renovations were put on hold due to Covid as well as the high price of materials. It is planned at some point in the future.

Fr. Bruce thanked Marcus and his daughters for distributing flyers about the community garden.

Fr. Bruce shared that Cathy Gray reports that the Community Garden has 19 gardeners, five new this year. There are five plots still available out of 60 total plots (two with tree roots that are hard to work so may be planted with wildflowers).

Christian Formation

Ruth stated that they have wrapped up the year. Jolene explained that they have met mostly virtually, but in the spring, they have had some in-person options. Attendance has been good. Zach Clare was a show choir friend of her son, and their family started attending Holy Family when we participated in working with the school board on making language more inclusive.

Zach’s mom reached out recently for prayer for a medical issue. We gave the family gift cards for meals, and Ruth invited him to be honored with the graduates. He accepted the invitation, and his mom has expressed gratitude for the way Holy Family has reached out to them. Ruth noted that we had four graduates who were celebrated.

Worship

Fr. Bruce stated that acolyte training is planned for June 6 after the 10:00 service. We have four kids who plan to be there, but it is open to adults as well. Marcus noted that his daughter Claire wants to sign up.

For the new carpet in the sanctuary, Fr. Bruce informed us that the donors have chosen blue (between royal and navy). He expressed that this is an appropriate color choice for Holy Family because of the Virgin Mary. If anyone would like more details about the carpet, feel free to reach out to Fr. Bruce.

Missional Outreach

Fr. Bruce reported that Lorri will meet with Deacon Cathy Scott to talk about what was done in the past. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew has stepped up in leading the rejuvenation of the weekly food ingathering for the Delaware Township Food Pantry. There is a great need in Fishers right now due to loss in household income.

Racial Reconciliation

Bob shared that Deacon Cathy was our guest presenter at the committee meeting today. She talked about what other congregations are doing and shared resources from the diocese. She helped us discuss and narrow down our ideas for what may work at Holy Family. We will create an outline of a plan for work in the area of Racial Reconciliation for the fall and the 2021-2022 church year to be shared at the June 15 Vestry meeting.

Finance & Budget

Betty stated that finances are looking good right now as a result of the PPP loan, but she expects a downward trend as the loan money has been exhausted. The Flower Sale went very well, with earnings of approximately $1500-1700. Betty proposed the idea that we take the proceeds and give them directly to children’s programs. Bob asked if that should go to the Children’s Ministry fund. Betty responded that it could go there or the “Mulch Fund” account that she added to keep track of mulch money. She can rename the account to Mulch/Children’s Ministry. She shared that some people at the sale gave extra money because it was publicized that it was supporting children’s programs. Marcus made a motion to combine the mulch fund to a children’s ministry/youth fund and they can decide how to allocate the money. Tina seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Betty reported that all PPP money has been put towards salaries. Bob recommends looking at where we will be financially next year. Since Vestry doesn’t meet in July and August, he wondered if perhaps we could have a meeting devoted solely to finances to look ahead to our game plan for 2022. Betty explained that we will see a substantial decrease in the next few months due to low attendance in the summer, and the fact that we will be without PPP money. Bob proposed having a joint Vestry and Finance meeting to look at what can be done. Tom noted that Dan had some great ideas for raising funds as well as Betty’s idea to use the Nickel Plate Trail for events that could raise funds. Tom agreed with Bob that if finances are that dire, we need to concentrate on finding ways to improve and do the best we can with what we have. Fr. Bruce volunteered to survey members to see if July or August would work better for the meeting.

Approval of April Minutes

Fr. Bruce asked if there were any corrections needed, to which there were none. Bob moved to approve the minutes, and Carol seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Rector’s Report

Fr. Bruce reported that we have had newcomers at every 10:00 service since returning to in-person worship. Some have found Holy Family online, and others were invited by a parishioner. All who gave contact information have been contacted.

Additional Staff Reports

Jolene wanted to emphasize the use of social media to make our web presence stronger. Bruce encouraged us to write a review of the church on Google and Yelp. Marketing research has shown that this is a primary source of gathering information about a new community when people move.

Ruth shared that Jolene and Dan have been in contact about Fishers Spark, which is planned for June 26-27. They are looking for ways to get families involved at Holy Family during the festival weekend, with a possible food truck or music event. Another idea is a campout with a campfire and Compline with breakfast in the morning along with worship. The idea is to have multiple activities so people could choose which one(s) to attend. Ruth has investigated church t-shirts and found they were last ordered in 2016. She shared a design with the church logo and emphasis on “Holy Family Welcomes All” and asked for feedback. The response was positive. Marcus thought the campout and food truck both sound like a great idea. Dan seemed positive that the food truck will be able to happen. Jolene noted that the children/youth Holy Hike was well attended, so she is trying to schedule one in July for the whole church.

Marcus asked when we will return to in-person Vestry meetings. Fr. Bruce responded that we are working towards that possibly in June. He could ask individual members if they have been vaccinated, and we could open windows and distance if needed.

Fr. Bruce asked if there were any other topics to discuss. He led us in the Lord’s Prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.