

Vestry Minutes March 18, 2020

Present: Fr. Nik Combs (Priest-in-charge), Roger Coutant (Sr. Warden), Jessica Magda (Jr. Warden), Alison Jeanin, Jean Nadle, Gary Grant (Building Warden), Mark Church, Robin Turpin (Treasurer), Alicia Withnell, Claudia Buick, Beth Steinberg (Clerk)

Guest: Matt Handi, Seminarian

The March 18, 2020 meeting was held via Zoom as we were following health guidelines to practice "Social Distancing" to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

The initial discussion was how we were doing amidst the Covid-19 scare. Some points were: We need to find something good in these trying times and be open to change. There were concerns about our economic future, and the huge impact this virus has on our society. Hopefully, we will learn something in this process.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:11 by Fr. Nik with an opening prayer
2. Timekeeper – Jean
3. **Roger motioned to accept the Minutes from the February meeting. Robin seconded. Voted and passed.**
4. Wardens' Reports:
 1. Discussion of Holy Week – how to address virtual church services?
 2. AA/NA meetings suspended for 8 weeks
 1. Online material is available to those in crisis
 3. Soup Kitchen will provide packaged 'meals to go' starting on Monday, March 23
 4. Operation Overflow is suspended for the season. Last night is Friday, March 20
 1. Alternate housing for our guests – Waterbury
 2. If they choose not to go to the alternate housing, camping gear will be offered
 3. 4-8 people are opting out of alternative housing
 4. Discussion concerning allowing a small group camp out on Trinity Church's property
 1. Need to provide 'port-o-potty'
 2. Torrington Police Department must be on board
 3. Check with the Town of Torrington to follow camping guidelines
 4. Other option would be to camp in the woods
 5. Robin will call Conrad to check with Police Department to allow a small group of Operation Overflow regulars to camp on Trinity property through Easter
5. PIC Report:
 1. Robin made approximately 40 phone calls to our 60+ parishioners to check in on them and to see if they needed help with: Groceries, mediations, or just to talk. Most of the congregants are getting along nicely. They appreciated the call. It's important to work together and go above and beyond during these stressful times. One person was dissatisfied that we had services on Sunday, March 15
 2. The Diocese has recommended suspending services for the next 8 weeks to reduce the impact of Covid-19.
 3. 3. Cameras are set in the church for "Morning Prayer"
 4. Services will be broadcast with a maximum of 5 people
 5. This practice will take place effective immediately
 6. Fr. Nik is drafting a letter of explanation to be posted via: Website, Messenger, Facebook, and USPO

7. Robin suggested that a posting be placed on Trinity's Facebook page to let parishioners know that they can donate towards the purchase of grocery gift cards to give to FISH. Parishioners may also donate on our website.
8. **Robin made a motion to use the money that the Scrip program earned in 2019, \$859.11, to be used towards the purchase of \$1,000 worth of gift cards in \$25 increments to give to FISH. FISH will either distribute the cards to those in need or use the cards to buy food for their pantry. Jessica Seconded. Voted and passed.**
9. Bills still need to be paid. Trinity would appreciate it if people would still send in their pledges even though we are not meeting as a group. The parishioners may donate through the website or mail their pledges to Melanie at the office

Building Warden's Report:

1. Security cameras are being installed
2. Soup kitchen has a new floor and is opening on Monday
3. Sink project:
 1. \$2,400 for sink and installation— George is writing a grant for this

Treasurer's Report

1. Our endowment dropped significantly since the beginning of the year. We are down 5.3%.
2. February – broke even for the month. Utility bills were high, but saved on snow plowing and sanding.
3. Early pledgers helped cash flow. Need to connect with McCall on their rental payment schedule (Feb rent paid on March 3). We haven't lost renters yet, but no one knows what the immediate future will hold.
4. Parochial Report was submitted on time.
5. We are financially ok for now. We will get through this, but we don't know what the future holds.,
6. **Jessica moved to receive the Treasurer's Report. Alicia seconded. Voted and passed.**

8:11PM **Roger moved to adjourn. Alicia seconded.**

Closing prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Steinberg