

VESTRY BUSINESS MEETING
Nov. 17, 2020 Minutes

Present on Zoom

Rector: Chad McCabe
Sr. Warden: Deb Heseck
Jr. Warden: Howie Gelles
Treasurer: Janet Wilcox
Clerk: Cathy Terwedow
At-Large: Cindee Morin, Aaron Ting

Absent

At-Large: Sally Kazarian
At-Large: Ted Flanagan

Consent Agenda/Treasurer

The October minutes were approved with a minor correction. The October financials were approved as written. Discussion points were as follows:

- Line 4012: The contingency funds could be put into an interest-bearing account. The rainy-day accrual, Line 4000, should be viewed as an expense and the funds deposited every month for use as a nest egg. The total amount should be moved into a restricted account for facility repairs.
- Line 3300.3: Quiet Day funds should be moved to "Restricted Funds – Other" (Line 3300).
- We have a prepay contract with Northboro Oil so we received a refund credit of \$3754.69 for unused summer oil.
- We received a buyout of \$22,293.35 from Conway, our new copier company. The old copier lease still needs to be paid off so we agreed to move the funds to a restricted account for monthly payouts.
- 2021 budget item: We received a \$5900 quote to fix the controller for the church bell. The controller tells the bell to ring. The bell is really important as a means of communicating hope but we can't afford \$5900. We need to research other means for having a bell.

Vestry Reading Assignments

The vestry is reading "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger. Section leaders will be as follows:

Nov. 17: Part 1 (Chapters 2-3) - Chad
Dec. 1: Part 2 (Chapters 4-6) - Cindee
Dec. 15: Part 3a (Chapters 7-8) - Sally
Jan. 5: Part 3b (Chapters 9-11) - Howie
Jan. 19: Part 4 (Chapters 12-13) - Janet
Feb. 2: Part 5 (Chapters 14-15) - Deb

Rector

- *Stewardship campaign.* The packets didn't go out until today, November 17. Last week's mailing was returned to Nativity for additional postage.
- *Sensory-friendly services.* Liz Nolan, contributing writer for the *Community Advocate*, included the new sensory-friendly service in an article about what churches are doing. She'll help spread the word through her personal connections as well.
- *PhoneLiveStreaming (PLS).* Larry figured out how to record and divide the audio stream for both Facebook and PLS so we're just about ready to go live. Chad has an appointment on Thursday to figure out how to record his personal greeting.

- *Chairs.* Chad's order of sixty new chairs is still on back order. Sabina will take the old chairs (less the rack we've set aside to keep) for her own church. If she can't take the chairs within a reasonable amount of time, Kathy Reilly knows a junk guy who will take them. Deb wrote to Tim Cassidy asking the Levites to set up/tear down the chairs again, starting on Sunday, but Tim is stepping down from the role. Henry Terwedow will set up the chairs for now.
- *Advent & Christmas.*
 - Plan A is for one service in the hall and one in the nave. If we're not allowed to have indoor services, Plan B will be one service outside. We need volunteer readers.
 - Lent and Advent are similar in that they are both penitential times, especially for people who have lost love ones or for whom Christmas is a sad, overwhelming, or traumatic time. To honor those emotions, we'll hold a 'Blue Christmas' service that is quiet, reflective, still, and safe.
 - St. Stephens' has a recording of their 2020 Living Nativity; Chad will get login info so that we can offer parishioners a version of our traditional event.
 - Chad proposed adding more Christmas lights outside so we discussed the logistics of getting power to the trees along the street. Chad offered to put the lights up himself; the vestry tried, unsuccessfully, to discourage him. Eventually, Chad would like to have a creche built for the front lawn. We have some talented parishioners who might be interested in the job.

Sr. Warden

- *Tech Reimbursement Grant.* To help diocesan churches move into the digital era, the diocese is offering grants of up to \$2K for tech enhancements. We will easily max out the amount; Cathy will file Nativity's grant request. In related tech news:
 - Currently, Nativity's new camera is mounted on a table at the back of the hall. It shakes when people walk by so we'd like to mount it above the kitchen door.
 - Howie commented that it would be better if the TV monitors in the hall were at a 20° angle. Unfortunately, the monitors don't swivel but parishioners sit on the sides so it doesn't really matter.
 - Chad bought children's prayer books, "[Pray Daily for Families](#)," with the refund Larry received from leveraging Best Buy's promise of refunding the difference between purchase and sales prices (\$260). Should we also buy gift copies of the "Book of Common Prayer" (BOCP)?
- Would our efforts to reach out to families with kids qualify for any grants? For example, there are grants available for people-focused programs that attempt to reach the underserved and build community. Nativity programs that might qualify are: 1) sending our '[Craft of Faith](#)' boxes and BOCP to preschool families to encourage faith formation at home; 2) upgrades to our stage as a community amphitheater for outside worship; 3) possibly even the purchase and training on AEDs. See 2019 examples of grants that were awarded. Chad is looking for a template for building a business proposal.

Outreach

- *Advent crafts for kids.* Most families have advent wreaths from last year but we could make a special delivery of wreath materials to families that they need them. Chad signed up to a subscription service, "The Craft of Faith," that mails monthly craft boxes to families with kids who attend regularly. Cost: \$20/child; the Christmas box is \$30/child. Chad will make a video showing how to use the box at home and Deb will print Godly Play parent pages for distribution. Deb will also videotape Godly Play lessons and email them to parents and grandparents of young children.
- *YouTube:* Chad will talk to Larry about setting up a Nativity YouTube channel.
- *Toys for Tots.* [Local dropoff sites.](#)
- *Northborough Helping Hands.* Nativity provided \$1000 and the carrots for 59 Thanksgiving baskets. If there are excess funds, winter coats would be purchased as well. Deb and Janet will help pack and distribute the baskets. Nativity members also donated 14 gift cards for local families.
- *Worcester Fellowship.* Yvonne Boutte is stepping down as coordinator.

Jr. Warden

- *Compressor contract update.* Howie's contact has too many projects going on so we don't have any updates; Howie will keep after him. We haven't even received an invoice for his previous work yet. Howie thinks he will hold the price for us until next year.
- *Back 40 update.* The Scouts are coming on Friday to finish the leaves. The Scouts are also interested in working on the stage project. Two weeks ago, Howie provided Scout Master George with detailed instructions for what needs to be done. He is not sure what's been done yet.
- *Vestibule (hall entryway).* The woodwork on two-thirds of the wall is done. Chad decided we should do only one wall so we'll return the excess wood.

Women's Ministry

- *Small groups and Bible studies.* After talking to Norma and Jeannie Bruce about their small groups, the vestry decided not to list them on the Nativity website for now. We will revisit the topic when things open up a bit.
- *Women's retreat.* Laurel Coolbaugh will lead a virtual mini-retreat on Saturday, Jan. 23, from 9:30 - 11:30AM. The theme is "Listening to God, Ourselves, and Each Other." Signups will be in January. There will be no cost. We'll pay Laurel with \$300 from the Women's Ministry restricted account (line 3300.5).

The meeting opened and closed with prayer. We adjourned at 9:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Terwedow, Clerk

UPCOMING DATES:

- Nov. 29: Advent 1
- Dec. 3: Next communion delivery
- Sunday services, mandatory registration at <https://reopen.church/r/HeyolagM>
 - November/December, in-person:
 - 8:30AM in the nave
 - 10:00AM in the hall
- On Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pg/NativityNorthboro/videos/>. Facebook account not required.
 - Every Sunday: online service, 10:00AM
 - Every Tuesday: "Tiny Desk Concert," 7:00PM
 - Every Wednesday: Facebook noonday prayer
- December vestry meetings:
 - Dec. 1: Vision
 - Dec. 8: Executive
 - Dec. 15: Business
- Other weekly events, contact lead person for a link:
 - Wednesdays: Rachel Manley's bible study, 10:00AM
 - Thursday: "Life with God" virtual small group, 7:00PM, contact Deb Hesek or Karen Zacher
 - Sundays: Zoom coffee hour, 11:00AM, hosted by Deb Hesek