

VESTRY BUSINESS MEETING
Oct. 20, 2020 Minutes

Present on Zoom

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

Absent

At-Large: Ted Flanagan

Consent Agenda

The September minutes and financials were approved as written. Financial discussion points were as follows:

- We have a \$1K credit with National Grid and a \$665 credit from the solar company.
- The preschool rent wasn't paid in September.
- The Quiet Day funds will be reallocated to other ministries now that Lisa Phelps has moved and there is no one else to lead them.
- Line 4002.4: Janet will check with Sabina to find out why Larry's computer expense hasn't been paid yet. (Howie has receipts to pass along for the stage too.)
- Janet forwarded the preschool budget to the vestry. They had Covid expenses of \$3K, \$2400 in back rent, and they hired another person. The preschool account has ~\$32K+.

Rector

- *NEDP (Northborough Extended Day Programs)*. The vestry approved NEDP's proposal. Further details to last month's description:
 - The preschool doesn't need the hall and Stacy confirmed that there will be no intermingling of programs.
 - The locked file cabinet with the kids' records and medications, PPE, etc. will be stored in the family room along with the kids' desks and chairs. They still need a bin for arts and crafts and balls. NEDP will need a key for the building.
 - They have 18 children from 13 families, mostly K-2 but up to grade 5. The kids will play in the front yard during their breaks (away from the preschool).
 - In case of illness, children will stay in the family room.
 - Hours are 7:45 – 3:30; remote learning for opposite days. Kids arrive at 8, before the preschool arrives. They'll enter through the blue doors so the entry area will be cleaned prior to the preschool arriving at 9:00. Parents will not enter the building.
 - Insurance and certification still need to be received.
- *Stewardship campaign*. Jeannie Hebert is talking to Tony Rea. Mailings will begin soon.
- *2021 budget*. Sabina emailed the ministry leaders today.
- *Communicating the rebrand*. We'll do it during stewardship.
- *Additional hall updates*.
 - Two banners have been purchased for the windows behind the altar.
 - The new chairs are on back order until Nov. 17. So as not to tax the Levites, we could continue to bring our own chairs until then.

- We have another dumpster coming in. We'll throw out most of the chairs (20 years old and badly stained), along with the old carpeting and stuff behind the shed.
- Chad is painting the entryway and bathrooms.
- Howie will grout and install a few tiles in the bathroom.
- We need to move the pianos and clear out all the miscellaneous stuff currently in the kitchen.
- *Music.* The stage that Howie made is fabulous! Rachel will talk to the musicians to see who will come back. Chad is talking to Rachel about changing the music. Glen could bring his portable organ to worship.
- *"Canoeing the Mountains."* Each vestry member will lead a chapter (summarize reading; review study questions; discuss how it applies to our church and our individual ministries). Read part one by November 10 (pages 11-46). Further reading: "Undaunted Courage" by Stephen Ambrose.
- *Status of "PhoneLiveStreaming" (PLS).* We're getting close. Chad will set up his introduction. Larry will investigate how to record/divide audio for both Facebook and PLS.
- *Passwords.* Going forward, as a matter of policy, the Church Administrator should ensure the Sr. Warden always has the most up-to-date password list.
- *Advent small group?* Chad will talk to Sally about the possibility of an advent small group to spiritually prepare for winter closings.

Sr. Warden

- *November services.* We will be moving to indoor services as long as it is allowed by the Diocese and state. We expect attendance to be very low due to increasing Covid numbers.
 - We have spruced up so many things to be more welcoming (vis a vis all the flaws that were revealed during last year's 'Welcoming' assessments).
 - It's really important for people to register in advance. This is important both for contact tracing and in case we have to turn people away due to Covid capacity limits, which are 15/40 (Nave/Hall), including the musicians, servers, and Chad. (Religious and political events have different restrictions than other venues.) The numbers are approved by the diocese.
 - The windows will be open at all services, even during the winter. Ceiling fans must remain off.
- *Sensory-friendly service.* These new, quieter services will be held on the 1st & 3rd Sundays. They will be more contemplative, without loud noises or even the organ. Chad will reach out to Liz Nolan, contributing editor for the 'Community Advocate,' for promotion to families who have kids with special needs.
- *"Life with God" virtual small groups.* Twelve people signed up, including the two leaders. The numbers might be small because the group is only available at 7pm.
 - Jean Bruce's and Janet's/Norma's small groups should be listed on the website. There is always a danger for small groups to become affinity groups. Healthy small groups are open, connected to the church, and always offer an empty chair. Sally will reach out to the groups; Cathy will forward her past email threads to Sally.

Outreach

- Janet reported on fun things that we could send kids in the next communion packet. She found three kids' crafts along with bookmarks for the adults. She will do something similar for Advent. We'll create individual packets for the kids so that each would each get a personalized packet. It's special getting mail!
- Outreach will purchase carrots for the Thanksgiving baskets being distributed by Northborough Helping Hands. Nativity is also helping two families financially. This year's "giving tree" will be virtual, with donated gift cards distributed to families via the Thanksgiving baskets.
- Parishioners' disappointment in not being able to do something personally (e.g., beyond the church giving money on behalf of the parishioners) was discussed. This is also important on the receiving end as things are closing down. Worcester Fellowship isn't running now so could we do something on a limited basis? Maybe Toys for Tots via the Northborough Fire Department or new coats?

Jr. Warden

- *Status of compressor and AC.* Howie hasn't heard back from the contractor on either the compressor contract or the availability of AC rebates but he will continue to reach out.
- *Wasps in the preschool* continue to be a problem. Nativity's current provider couldn't find the problem so Henry will send Sabina the contact info for the PCO he uses.
- *The hall platform and carpeting* look great! The outlets work and the Oriental rugs are in good shape. Huge kudos to Howie! We discussed where to place the rugs, keyboards, and drums.
- *Moving the stage.* Howie secured a flatbed truck for the week of 11/15 but he needs a work crew. We'll also need sand to level out the footings.

Women's Ministry

- *Women's retreat.* Originally scheduled for the beginning of November but cancelled due to Covid-19, the team is thinking about alternative ways to keep women in touch with each other and God during the shutdown. The idea is to do something virtually, perhaps an online retreat via Zoom (or a limited in-person meeting for those who don't have online access), with the original speaker. They're looking January 23, from 9-12, the same weekend as Nativity's annual meeting. Money is already set aside.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Terwedow, Clerk

UPCOMING DATES:

- Sunday services, mandatory registration at <https://reopen.church/r/HeyolagM>
 - October – Online and in-person in the parking lot @ 10:00AM
 - November – Online and in-person:
 - 8:30AM in the nave
 - 10:00AM in the hall
- Oct. 22: "Life with God" virtual small group begins, 7:00PM
- Nov. 7: Diocesan Convention (virtual), <https://www.conventionwma.com/>
- November vestry meetings:
 - Nov. 10: Vision
 - Nov. 17: Business
 - No executive meeting
- First two weeks of November: Stewardship Campaign
- The following weekly events can be viewed on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pg/NativityNorthboro/videos/>. Facebook account not required.
 - Every Sunday: Facebook online service, 10:00AM
 - Every Tuesday: Facebook "Tiny Desk Concert," 7:00PM
 - Every Wednesday: Facebook noonday prayer
- Other weekly events, contact lead person for a link:
 - Wednesdays: Rachel Manley's prayer group, 10:00AM
 - Thursdays: "Life with God" virtual small group, 7:00PM, contact Deb Hesek or Karen Zacher
 - Sundays: Zoom coffee hour, 11:00AM, hosted by Deb Hesek