**Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church**

**Vestry Meeting Minutes**

**September 15, 2020**

**Vestry present: Vestry absent:**

Burdette Keeland, Senior Warden

Kristie Van Arsdel, Junior Warden

Rita Justice

Barbara Hass

Shannon Westin

Susannah Webb

Randy Byrd

Mike Murphy

David Robinson

Libby Spoede

Rand Key

Kelly Williams

Al Hergenroeder

Gretta Boshara

Steven Killworth

**Clergy present**: **Clergy absent:**

The Rev. Neil Willard The Rev. Liz Parker

The Rev. David Wantland

The meeting started at 5:42 pm by Zoom and ended at 6:30 pm.

**Minutes:** The minutes of August 18, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**Community Sharing:** Barbara Hass shared the joy of helping her grandchildren with virtual learning.

**Committee/Council Updates:**

**Finance:** Pledges are down compared to last year. The contribution fund line listed $135,000 and it was $132,000 last year. The restricted fund for 2020 was $144,000 compared to $168,000 in 2019. The budget had a surplus of ~$79,000 last month and that is down to $28,000 through August.

Neil highlighted three developments of financial significance: 1) the diocese will forgive the last three months of assessments, which comes to approximately $45,000; 2) churches may apply to not make contributions to clergy retirement plans; 3) there will be another grant package, though smaller than the first in response to the COVID pandemic. Neil pointed out that there are no other dioceses in the United States offering these types of financial supports for their churches.

**Communications:** Kristie VanArsdel.

Highlights include:

* Announcement of the Fall formation program
* Stewardship videos, which are in the works
* Brady Knapp’s announcement of plans for the music program
* Social media acitivity – there are 900 subscribers to the Palmer newsletter, which is an all-time high, and Palmer Facebook followers are also at an historic high
* The “I am Palmer” series has been picked up by The Village news and the Diocese Diolog newsletter

**Membership:** The Membership Task Force had its first meeting; it is charged with identifying what attracts people to Palmer Church and then how can we market this to bring more people to the parish.

**Stewardship:** Rand Key and Rita Justice are co-chairs of this year’s campaign, which will run through December. The theme is Take, Break and Share. Stewardship videos are being recorded. Rand and Rita will be in the first video and six of eight other parishioners invited to do so have agreed.

**Worship:** Steven Killworth. There will be an outdoor service this Sunday, September 20 for vestry only with their families. There will be an outdoor service on the south lawn of the church the following Sunday, September 27 for the congregation; registration will be required. The church leadership is following the TMC metrics to see when we will be able to hold in-person, in-church services.

**Outreach:** Kelly Williams and Barbara Hass. Serve Sunday was last Sunday, we don’t know how many people actually participated. There will be an extension of Serve Sunday once a month during which a Palmer outreach ministry will be featured. The Faith and Justice Committee is compiling resources for social justice initiatives, including racism.

**Building and Grounds:** Gretta Boshara and David Robinson. Thank you to Michael Massey and Dick Sylvan for the work they are doing to keep the Nave beautiful. There is no new update on potential expansion of buildings on the church property or adjacent properties.

**Junior Warden:** Kristie Van Arsdel. Archway Academy is back on campus with about 26 students and the academy is paying rent. The German pre-school has met its minimum enrollment and they are paying their rent.

**Senior Warden:** Burdette Keeland. A proposal will be made at some point regarding changes in the format of Vestry elections. Burdette met with the Endowment Committee and he feels encouraged that the endowment will help with some of the expenses for repairs at the Rectory.  He also let the Vestry know that he is attending a coffee hour with other senior wardens around the district to discuss issues during COVID. He also reported that the church is having a soft opening September 20 and that the new committee (Palmer Task Force) met September 10.

**Rector Report:** Neil will ask the Vestry to register for this Sunday’s inaugural outdoor service to try to make sure the process works. The first official outdoor service for the congregation will be the following Sunday, September 27.