**St. John’s Vestry**

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**In attendance:** Rev. Rob Stevens, Rev. Anne Williamson, Chuck Silva, Gerry Ellie Sanderson, Randy Philbrick, Rebecca Hennessy, Jeff Croteau, Chris Netteton, Barry Heckler, Kelly Boston, Veronique Doherty

**Absent:** Ally Dudas, Karen Barsanti, John Bolduc

**At 7:00 Chuck called the meeting to order**

**Reports:**

**1. Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2021 meeting**

*Motion to approve report was made by Gerry and seconded by Barry.* **Vote:** *All in favor.*

**1. Building update: (Barry)**

* All contracts with framing, electrical, roofing proceeding; masonry is proceeding more slowly — Reggie managing this beautifully as the General Contractor
* The inspections are moving very slowly because of a backlog with the City of Portsmouth
* Budget being managed expertly by Kelly and Building Committee

**2. Regathering: (Jeff/Rob)**

* Scheduled to regather October 24 — cases are up in Rockingham County, but metrics like beds in use at hospitals are down, vaccination rates are high, how schools are performing is positive (schools in-person with kids wearing masks)
* Rob and staff have discussed regathering extensively and having observed the 8:00 services being held in person in the church since June successfully, it seems appropriate to now open to the 10:00 service
* Oct. 24 the church will open to a virtual service, an 8:00, a 10:00, Sunday School at 9:30 — everyone will wear masks, there will be music — limited singing - with masks, mostly we will be sung to by the choir, and limited communion
* There will be a section of pews that will be roped off for people who would like to have distance from others
* There will be no coffee hour, both because of COVID and because of the construction going on at Thaxter
* Committed to making sure people have choices about how to participate in church - in person and virtual
* Family night Oct. 23 at Rob’s house

**3. Finance update: (Kelly)**

* see attached
* Future expenses: the Tebbetts garage renovation, which will be addressed in 2022; the possible hiring of another priest beginning the summer 2022
* People continue to be very generous with donations, and often in unexpected ways

**4. Stewardship update: (Rob)**

* A group gathered to talk about stewardship — a theme of “Lifting Our Spirits” - a letter and a video to follow
* Week of Oct. 25th stewardship appeal to start
* Goal is expanding pledge base to 300 — getting people to participate
* Goal of $550,000

**5. Clergy Updates: (Anne/Rob)**

* 20 people signed up to participate in Sacred Ground
* Reading Between the Lines continuing successfully
* Outside the Box also on-going
* First concert at Church in 18+ months put on by the Atheneum — the Church was full and the performance was beautiful
* Conversations around how to let community groups back into the St. John’s buildings (groups like AA) — having to pace this transition both because of COVID and because of construction work

**Closing prayer: Anne**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:12 np.m.**

**Next meeting Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lizzie Bristow

Clerk (substitute)