

**MINUTES
OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE VESTRY OF
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, APTOS, CALIFORNIA**
a California nonprofit religious corporation

May 18, 2021

A regular meeting of the Vestry of Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, Aptos, California, a California nonprofit religious corporation (the “Parish”), was held via Zoom conference at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, pursuant to notice duly given.

ATTENDANCE

Vestry Members ⁽¹⁾	Present	Absent	Others Present
The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, Rector		X	Nelson Crandall, Treasurer and Clerk of the Vestry
Alliee DeArmond (2022 ²)	X		
Andrew Pudan, Junior Warden (2023)	X		
Bart Coddington, Senior Warden (2021)	X		
Benjamin Davis (2021)	X		
Chris Rowen (2022)	X		
Debra Spencer (2023)	X		
Francis Bayaca (2021)	X		
Joanna Phillips (2022 ²)	X		
Kathy Butler (2023)	X		
Michael Hudson (2021)		X	
Nancy Shephard (2022)	X		
Win Fernald (2023)	X		

The order of presentation of the items below does not necessarily reflect the order of discussion of the items at the meeting.

OPENING

Alliee DeArmond led the opening prayer. Junior Warden Andrew Pudan called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. For a devotional exercise, the vestry performed a Lectio Divina on 1 Samuel 17:39-49.

¹ Term ends in December in the year indicated.

² Eligible for election to complete the balance of the term indicated in December 2021.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL VESTRY MEETING

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the April 20, 2021 meeting of the Vestry are hereby approved as presented.

CLERK UPDATE

Clerk of the Vestry Nelson Crandall reported that a parishioner has expressed a willingness to accept appointment as a new Clerk of the Vestry. The vestry deferred any formal appointment until after Mother Tracy returns from vacation.

Bart Coddington joined the meeting at this point.

PARISH NOTE CARDS

Debra Spencer reported on the desire of the Internal Ministry Support Team to have the Parish purchase printed note cards so that parishioners would not have to spend their own money to support the Parish's note card ministry. In the absence of a specific proposal, no action was taken.

NEIGHBORING HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Bart reported that a neighboring homeowner has mentioned that a root from a tree on parish property has allegedly damaged a concrete garage floor, and that another homeowner has informally inquired about the possibility of renting parking space from the Parish. The consensus of the vestry was that root control is the responsibility of the homeowner regardless of the source of the root. In the absence of a written complaint or specific parking proposal, no actions were taken.

CONVERSATIONS PROJECT AND PENTECOST

Allie summarized the progress of the conversations project to date and referred to her email of April 20, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A, and to the collection of responses she compiled, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit B. Allie has developed and distributed via Realm a novena (i.e., a set of prayers for nine consecutive days) based on the responses. The novena lasts from Friday, May 14 through Saturday, May 22, the day before Pentecost. Allie then discussed the plans for the in-person service on Pentecost.

Nancy Shepard left the meeting at this point.

TEAM REPORTS

Senior Warden Bart Coddington elaborated on his earlier email in which he reported that AFC had decided not to use the Parish campus to shelter the unhoused during the month of June. Bart also reported on other activities of the Administration Team not already covered. Debra reported on the activities of the Internal Ministries Support Team not already covered. Chris Rowen reported on

the activities of the External Ministries Support Team and made reference to his earlier post on Realm, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit C.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Nelson Crandall reported that the Parish's \$38,000 Paycheck Protection Program loan had been forgiven. Nelson also reported that collections of annual pledges continue to lag, although they improved from 53% of the amount budgeted for the first three months to 68% of the amount budgeted for the first four months. Nelson also reported that the cost of gas and electricity was about \$1,000 more than budgeted, and that he plans to review the PG&E bills to determine the extent to which the increase is due to seasonality, increased rates, and/or increased usage.

REPORT OUT

The consensus of the Vestry was that the following items should be reported to the congregation on Realm:

- Senior Warden Bart Coddington announced that the Association of Faith Communities (AFC) has accepted an offer to shelter its unhoused guests at a VFW facility for June through August and therefore will not need the use of the campus for June.
- Treasurer Nelson Crandall announced that the Parish's \$38,000 Paycheck Protection Program loan has been forgiven.
- Treasurer Nelson Crandall advised that although collections of annual pledges continue to lag, they improved from 53% of the amount budgeted for the first three months to 68% of the amount budgeted for the first four months.

EVALUATION

Each participant in the meeting gave a one- or two-word evaluation of the meeting. The phrases used included "continued on" and "off track at times."

ADJOURNMENT

Alliee led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Crandall

Nelson Crandall, Clerk of the Vestry

EXHIBIT A

From: Alliee DeArmond via Vestry <vestry@st-john-aptos.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Vestry
Subject: [Vestry] Report: Conversations on our Common Life

The main effort over the past two weeks has been to identify groups within the Parish and ask leaders to Create Conversations within their groups.

We have received various forms of commitment to furthering the project from people in:

- Pastoral Care Callers - **Brian***
- Playful Prayer - **Sherrie***
- Book Group - **Sherrie***
- Daughters of the King - **Karen***
- 4th Day - **Sherrie***
- Bell Choir - **Andy C***
- Formation Team - **Jane***
- Outreach Committee - **Karen***
- NoonTime Prayer - **Alliee***
- Parents and Children - **Matt***

We have already received Reports Back From

- **Prison Ministry- Bill***
- **Monday Night Book group - Bill***
- **Architecture and Space Use Committee - Jon*, Andy***
- **Friday Women Bkfst - Barb*,**
- **Some Pastoral Callers**
- **Admin Team**

I'm still looking for and/or have sent requests out for leaders of 12 additional groups: Kniitters, Altar Guild, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Friday Men's Breakfast, Coffee Hour, Old Gaffers, Centering Prayer, ECW, Monday Evening Prayer, Compline. Who am I missing?

The list of Things MISSED now includes 16 items.

The list of Things DISCOVERED, VALUED and THANKFUL for has 43 items.

FUTURE PRACTICES and POSSIBILITIES has 10 items.

Toward the end of next week or the beginning of the following week, I will post these MISSINGS, DISCOVERIES, AND POSSIBILITIES on Realm, hoping to catch additional insights from those who have not yet had or reported fruit from Conversations on our Common Life.

Meanwhile, if a group you are in has not yet ben part of a Conversation on our Common Life, Please let me know.

Blessings,
Alliee +

Alliee DeArmond +
W@W

831-688-7502 hm

EXHIBIT B

Conversations on our Common Life *Collected Responses*

Questions:

What have you especially MISSED in this past year?

What have you ENJOYED, VALUED, or DISCOVERED?

What particular PLANS or PRACTICES could be part of our future together?

MISSINGS

- **Being together in person**
 - only seeing others through the computer
 - Not able to see some people at all, even on the computer, especially those with connectivity issues, kids and occasional families and those that don't participate on Zoom
 - We have a big family and church is the one time every week that we all get together
- **Eating together**
 - Coffee Hour, Pot lucks, Parties, Dinners, ECW
 - Eating food prepared by others
- **In Person Services**
 - seeing the totality of our congregation
 - being inside the church
- **Eucharist!**
 - In Communion Circle
 - An 8 o'clocker really misses Rite 1 Eucharist – the beautiful old words
 - giving communion to others,
 - Being a Chalice Bearer
- **Singing together**
 - being in the midst of singing
 - Being in choir
 - seeing all my other chorus members in person
 - singing in harmony
 - hymns & chants
 - Playing instruments together
 - Any opportunity of making music together

- inside rehearsals
- Passing the peace – hugs, smiles, handshakes
- we are really missing the children’s liturgy and our connection to St. Johns!
- Having children among us
- Missing the people who don’t come to zoom
- Altar Guild activities
- Quiet Time in the Sanctuary: together and/or alone
- In-person Taize with candles and singing
- Attending memorials for loved ones
- Back and forth energy of speaking/witnessing to a live in-person gathering
- Having a structure that supports my moral compass and Ethical nature.
- The routine of getting ready for church
- **Personal human connections**
 - Corporal Interaction
 - Casual conversations
 - Meeting people after services
 - Fellowship
 - Divine Appointments
 - Of the moment one-on ones
 - Real conversations instead of taking turns broadcasting
 - The intimacy that builds friendships
 - visiting friends in hospitals, rehab, senior centers
- In-person meetings as it is harder to get motivated for virtual meetings and can easily lose focus or be distracted when working from home
- Special events such as Christmas boutique, Shrove Tuesday, and camping trip
- Helpful Shop Volunteering
- Hosting other groups – Alanon, Assoc Faith Comm. Staff meetings, concerts
- **Visits with family and friends**
 - Hugging my children
 - our 60th high school reunions
 - a family wedding in Mexico (the couple eventually eloped in Nantucket)

- planned trips that were canceled
- kids dance recitals
- Family holiday celebrations and gatherings
 - holidays alone are very hard
- Going out of the house, feeling housebound and pulling away from others, letting things go, especially if living alone, feeling of losing freedoms, to go outside
- walking the beach without masks
- the freedom to just roam around the mall & other stores
- Going out to eat
- attending concerts, theater
 - Our Santa Cruz Symphony
- air travel vacations
- Being myself, less confined, open...happy
- in person visits from priest
- Felt a big disconnect because of reliance on Zoom
- What about those who don't have computer devices? How do we keep them in the fold?
- I don't like ZOOM. Maybe I'm old fashioned but it's hard for me to lip read and pick up on body language. On the other hand its hard to hear someone speaking thru a mask. (this from a hearing impaired person)
- I'm on Zoom all day at work; don't want Zoom Church
- With Zoom all week for work and school, it was off the table for church
- Some times you don't appreciate small things, until they're gone

THANKSGIVINGS • DISCOVERIES • VALUES

- Tracy's prowess
 - “Leadership is revealed when there is a crisis. Tracy has done a good job keeping us together with ZOOM”
 - Strength, Vision Energy and Knowledge of Tracy's leadership
 - Tracy! She has brought so many gifts in this situation.
 - I would like to know Mother Tracy better and I am shy about reaching out
 - I love the way Mother Tracy relates with young children, particularly my grandson
- **Zoom Services**
 - Learning that we can Broadcast Services on-line

- Learning the technology of making digital multi-track musical recordings
- enjoyed the zoom services and want them to continue
- Zoom's accessibility and inclusive nature
 - Increased Service attendance at Dominican Oaks
 - Reaching out Long Distance
 - People from out of town can come to service
 - able to be casual during service and not rushing out the door to make church in time
- Bringing in guest Priests and others
- Adding Family Photos and heirlooms to Maundy Thursday
- Inviting a friend to Maundy Thursday meal
- Gd. Friday Service Witnesses
- Getting Close-up of faces during Gd. Friday Witnesses
- Dave Evan's Gd. Friday Talk
- All God's Creatures Live Zoom Song. Fun and Great for engaging different people.
- Compline at 10:00
 - Compline is so easy on zoom
 - The variety of different texts for Compline
- I like zoom church and am indifferent about returning to inPerson
- **More efficient meetings on Zoom**
 - Enhanced on-line Meetings
 - Less driving to meetings
 - "Since I'm older and now do not drive at night, we can still meet on ZOOM."
 - listening (the technology requires people to talk one at a time)
 - Committee Meetings on Zoom are a hit.
- **Zoom in small group settings**
 - Discovering 9:15
 - Continuity of small groups
 - 4th Day Group was a life saver
 - Playful Prayer. a life saver
- Zoom Rooms were a great way to move from larger gathering to intimate conversations that resulted in more rounded view of others. Better than

offering too intimate questions around a table of a a half dozen participants.

- Participating in National Zoom Workshops w. different groupings of parishioners
 - debriefing with the home bunch
- I'm more adept at it (zoom) than I thought I would be
- I had to overcome resistance to Zoom or I would be isolating myself
- learned how to raise hand in Zoom so can hear from all participating
- Able to be in more things because of Zoom
- **Pastoral Committee's Calls and Cards**
 - I have thrived on more in depth conversations from the Care Team
 - Although I hardly every attend, this Pastoral call makes me feel that I'm part of the family
 - Calls! And cards.
 - getting to know people more in depth
- I have felt that St. John's has been more attentive than they normally are
- Rediscovery of Noontime Prayer Fridays- first in-person service
- New version of Coffee Hour
 - everyone in one conversation - inclusive
- Chime Choir
 - Wonderful way to participate in music and stay in compliance
 - Best thing that has come out of Pandemic
- Morning Celtic prayer podcast
- the blessings of life and routine
- Less tempting food available for dieters w/o pot-lucks & parties
- Less traffic
- More time to relax, being at home, less busy with church activities,
- the ability to stand back and take a longer view of things
- We focused more on our health
- I feel that my faith has sustained me during this time of being away from 'in person' church
- Had a lot of time for developing my personal faith, an opportunity to craft my own personal mission.

- Having been away from 'in person' worship for awhile, I was struck with how 'antique' St. John's liturgy sounded
- Felt more convinced that my purpose is to be active in the world.
- Fewer Demands on Church Facilities
- More effective Stewardship
- Zoom and Facebook contact
- Became closer with neighbors
- "Sundays have been freed up for a drive or a hike but I miss going to church"
- Hearing problems are greatly reduced using Zoom.
- Learned I can work with people w/o faith with Jesus by my side all the time; Christ is an active agency in the world.
- As a family, this experience has confirmed that we're really good at working together and are perfectly capable of getting through some tough times.
- I have discovered that I have much more resilience than I thought. This is true of our community as well and I'm proud of us
- St. John's church is not the building

FUTURE PRACTICES AND POSSIBILITIES

- I'm a little worried about Church in the future since we have had so much time away.
- We're not really invested in getting back to the way things were, as we enjoy and want to keep the positive aspects of what has had to change moving forward.
- Maybe our future will be some improved hybrid of ZOOM/Youtube and being together in-person
- continue to Zoom or Youtube the services
 - the tech equipment for hybrid services is inexpensive
 - to include those who are far away, or participating through YouTube
 - somehow to record and allow others to watch, even if not live
 - Hybrid Services should include views of congregation
 - Have virtual ushers ask newcomers where they are from and why they came to our service
- Zoom coffee hour even when the rest of us are live and in-person
- continue to Zoom meetings
 - especially at night or at bad traffic times

- night time meetings so older, non-driving people can attend
- avoid driving, allows scheduling at a variety of times
- Maybe mix regular zoom meetings with occasional in person meetings.
- Continue to ZOOM de-briefings after a group attends a wider church or civic workshop or event.
- Continue with hand sanitizing
 - wearing masks!
- Bring Family photos or heirlooms to future Maundy Thursday meals
- Dinners together
- Creative Musical, Theater, Pageant -- events that are fun and bring different ages together
- Opening the church for private visitation
- Work Space times at church for those who work at home
- Compline @ 10pm will continue for sure
- Broadcasting services for those remote
- Keep up contacts with those who are not often seen at church – cards, Pastoral calls
 - especially for those who are shut-ins or lonely
- Keep connection with faith communities and homeless
- Occasional services outside, just because it's nice to be outside
- Chime choir will go on!
- Do whatever it takes to create new small groups
 - We all swear by the significance of our small group(s) in our spiritual life, our accountability as followers of Jesus, our sanity, a place to love and be loved, a place to talk crazy and be listened to
 - We talked about past groups growing out of Cursillo, growing out of RCIA, out of other study programs with several weeks curriculum. We talked about bible study. WE all agreed that small groups are the crucial to the nurture of individuals and the life of the parish.`
- Maybe we should have a big welcome back event with food and some live music.

EXHIBIT C

Chris Rowan's May 18 Post on Realm

A quick update on external ministries work in a number of important areas:

The Helpful Shop is up and running smoothly noon until 4 most days, so that Diane S. is looking towards morning openings too! The Shop IS accepting donations.

The Outreach Committee is actively working on mapping out a process for soliciting suggestions for allocation of the Community Outreach Fund and for decision roles for outreach committee, vestry and parishioners.

The Genesis II process for developing community engagement skills and mission is active but still in the early stages of figuring out how best to get in conversation with the broader parish.

And the Aptos Community Youth Program is doing great! Lisa reports that as schools reopen, the program is now accommodating both kids learning from home and kids on a more conventional school schedule. The team got the ACYP Lounge (at Aptos Jr. High) ready for safe reopening and kids are already making art projects happen on Monday afternoons. Youth leadership training with COPA are also getting going on Fridays, with particularly strong participation from the high school students. The podcast project is also going strong with two episodes planned for May. Moreover the "Little Free Food Pantry" effort is accelerating, with a new \$1000 grant from the Capitola-Aptos Rotary Club to fund stocking the pantry, which is now being adorned with student mural.

- Win F, Nancy S, Francis B, Chris R.