



ANNUAL MEETING & REPORT

January 24, 2021

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Appoint a Clerk for the Meeting

**Approval of Minutes of the meeting for
2019**

Treasurer's Report

Vote to Accept 2021 Budget

--Additional Words--

**Election of Nominees for the Bishop's
Committee**

**Election of Alternate Delegates to the 2021
Diocesan Convention**

New Business

Adjourn

Minutes from Annual Meeting for the year of 2019**

Vicar, Laura Murray, commenced the Annual Meeting after the Post-Eucharistic Prayer.

Copies of the Annual Report and the budget for 2020 were passed out.

The minutes for last year's annual meeting were taken by Connie Aurand; these were reviewed and approved by acclamation.

Next, Louise Kernaghan, our treasurer, reported on the state of the church's finances. Louise stated that for the year 2019 Faith's finances were much better than originally forecasted. We have been running a deficit budget for several years, but in 2019 our deficit only came to \$1,752.42. We withdrew funds from the DIF account to cover the shortfall.

Louise also said our pledges are up for 2020. Our expenses have increased as Vicar Laura's time increased from 40% to 50% in July, but Louise was hopeful the parish will continue meet its financial need.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the 2020 budget and the motion passed.

Deb Hurd, outgoing senior warden, shared her thankfulness for the opportunity to be Sr. Warden and for the support she received.

Fred Pomeranz gave a quick summary of the projects undertaken with respect to the church facilities, as documented in his report.

Paul Steinke shared a bit about the work of Godly Play

Vicar Laura thanked Fred Pomeranz and Jean Hart for their service on the Bishop's Committee Gary James and Paulette Waggoner will fulfill the roles of delegates at the 2020 Diocesan Convention, and Bob Kernaghan and Ellen Green will be alternates.

Kay Rawlings and Steven Randolph were unanimously voted in as new members to the Bishop's Committee, pending the approval of Bishop Rickel.

***We neglected to appoint a clerk for this meeting and these minutes are our best recollections based upon the meeting's agenda.*

Treasurer's Report for 2020

I think that the Financial reports give a complete picture of our current standing. Of note are the unexpected donations for the Organ restoration and a gift from the Dick and Ann Mace Trust fund of \$7500 to be used for Christian Education. We also received two months of Paycheck Protection Program which increased our income. On the expense side, our costs were a little lower than budgeted, mostly because of COVID and worship related costs. Utilities were only slightly lower than anticipated.

In 2020 we budgeted for \$60,000 of pledged income, and pledges received were for that amount. We actually received about \$64,000 in plate income. The generosity of our congregation was much appreciated, especially in a year when there was no cash income from visitors.

For 2021 we have budgeted \$63,000 for Pledge Income. However, to date we have only received pledges totaling \$48,000. If those members of the parish who have not yet pledged continue to donate at the same rate as they did in 2020, our plate income might reach \$60,000, if all who have pledged are able to meet their financial expectations.

I am always available to answer any questions that you might have about the Financial reports and the 2021 budget. Thank you for the trust that you have put in me as your Treasurer.

Louise Kernaghan

Vicar's Report

What a long, strange year it's been.

Last year's annual meeting feels like a million years ago, and when I remember back to the first couple months of 2020, I can't help but marvel at how naïve we all were. How easily we functioned in our lives and dealt with all the regular challenges life had to offer without the weight of pandemic upon our shoulders. The pain and deprivation of this last year have affected our small community no less than our world, and once we are finally back doing all the "normal" things, in all the normal places, it will take a while for us to get our feet back under us. At least I hope it will.

I don't want to go back to normal if the return means abandoning all the hard-won lessons offered by 2020. I want to always remember the craving to be touched and fed, to feed and bless; to forget, might mean taking our embodied sacraments for granted, and if nothing else, 2020 has affirmed for me how precious they are to us as a community and to me as your priest. I don't want to go back to normal if doing so means forgetting, even for an instant, the joy of seeing the unmasked faces of our beloved. I don't want to go back to normal, if doing so means forgetting the privilege it is to be invited into another's home, the gift of a small sharing of the Eucharist and the scent of anointing oil. I don't want to return to normal if it means forgetting the joy of singing; robustly, enthusiastically, in community.

These are just a few of the things I've missed this last year. However, what has surprised me are the many, unexpected, ways in which God has blessed us. This last year was an unequivocal reminder to us that the church is not the building, but the people; not the sacred objects, but the holy hearts of all who are drawn together in worship and community. It is true that people who have been through singularly trying experiences share a bond that cannot be manufactured or replicated. We see this played out in people who have been through warfare together, or families that have struggled through lean times, or weathered natural disasters. When folks are able to lean on one another, to cling to the arms of their friends rather than isolate, they are typically much stronger when the storm is past. They not only survive but

thrive by supporting one another through the difficulty. This has certainly been the case at Faith Episcopal Church.

We took Sunday Services, Bible Study, Godly Play, Book Study, Bishop's Committee Meetings, and every other class and offering online in March and, over time, we adjusted. We came to enjoy attending church in comfy clothes in our living rooms and, not surprisingly, we have become a closer-knit community as a result. Each Sunday we enjoy the company of some of our favorite people in our homes, and we are more connected than we ever were. We see one another's faces, we pray for one another, worship God and renew our commitment to Gospel work. We are Faith Church, made stronger through the trials of 2020.

Not everyone is willing to worship in the virtual sphere, and we understand that reluctance as well. For some of us, worship feels most true when done in a building with soaring ceilings, an altar with candles, beautiful music and where the scent of wax and old books lingers in the air. Even those of us who have participated in online worship this year are looking forward to the return to our building. I expect us to return in the next few months, when more people are vaccinated and the numbers of those infected are declining. In the meantime, we will continue to love one another and gather together remotely so as not to lose anyone when we are back in the pews.

So far, although COVID has certainly touched our community tangentially, we haven't lost any members to the virus. The fact we have been spared from loss due to the pandemic, however, doesn't lessen the sting of losing our beloved friends, Bob Hodges and Carl Sandberg this year. It doesn't matter how many years a loved one accrues in this realm, their passing from our midst is always jarring and heartbreaking. When we get to the other side of this sequestering, we will remember these two men and offer up our prayers through the liturgy they both loved. When you read Kay's Sr. Warden report, you will marvel at all that has occurred in this past year. Whether we were in the building or not, whether we were able to be physically present with one another or not, God has been active in and through this church. We have much to be thankful for, my friends. Even through the many turmoils of this last year, and God knows there have been many, this little church on the Kitsap Peninsula has not only survived but

thrived. This is due to the grace of the God in which we live and move and have our being, certainly, and it is due to each and every one of you who commit each day to show up for love.

I am eagerly awaiting the day, soon, when we will gather again at the table, embrace one another in peace, and loudly and joyfully sing praises to our God. In the meantime, know how beloved you are and how proud I am to be your vicar.

Yours in faith,

Vicar Laura+

Outreach Report

At the start of 2020, the Outreach committee consisting of both Faith Episcopal and Unity members was going strong with a monthly community meal and showers. Work was also underway to install a washer dryer for use by the community. As Covid hit we had to cancel the remaining community meals and showers for the year. But the work on the washer dryer installation continued, albeit at a slower rate. The carpentry, electric, and plumbing work was completed in 2020. Diane Walker generously donated the funds to purchase the washer and dryer. Vicar Murray has purchased the brand-new washer and dryer and we are awaiting delivery. Many thanks to Sandvik Builders, B More Electric, and Rathke Mechanical and Plumbing, as well as Diane Foster and Bob Kernaghan for their help.

--Kay Rawlings, member of Outreach

Senior Warden's Report

2020 has certainly been a challenging year for all of us. I have been thoroughly impressed with how we have rallied around each other and have been of service to our community during this time of pandemic. We have continued to meet almost every Sunday on Zoom, we have celebrated holidays, we have baptized souls, met in book group, held bible studies, prayed together, and we have shared joys and sorrows. The grounds have been weeded and planted, buildings have been painted and repaired, and we have lifted each other in prayers and compassion. We are truly blessed to be a part of this community.

Among the things that were accomplished in 2020 include:

The parish directory was completed and distributed just in time for the COVID lockdown, giving all of us the information we needed to stay in touch during lockdown. Many thanks to George Daniels for all his hard work on the directory.

In February, all members of the Bishop Committee were able to attend an overnight retreat at the Seabeck Conference Center. We used that time to get to know each other and discuss our hopes for Faith Episcopal in the coming year.

Deb Hurd completed an inventory, including pictures, of Faith Episcopal's assets.

Our Godly Play volunteers Paul Steinke and Jeffrey Batstone completed Safeguarding training and were able to conduct some Godly Play sessions using Zoom. A wonderful gift for the children and parents in our parish.

We successfully moved Sunday services to Zoom. Our Zoom services and meetings have continued to grow and improve. The book group, bible study and Bishop Committee meetings have all been moved to Zoom since March.

Thanks for Ellen Green for putting together music for us every Sunday and thanks to the singers and readers who lend their voices to our services.

At the beginning of the COVID lockdown we organized the parish into household groups headed up by the Bishop Committee members who contacted everyone in the parish directory to see that their needs were being met and offer assistance to anyone needing help. Groceries were bought, prescriptions were picked up, and prayers were shared.

Faith Episcopal received Federal payroll protection funds through the Diocese of Olympia.

Vicar Murray started offering morning prayers on Facebook three days a week.

Many parishioners volunteered to help with Bishop Rickel's visit in July. The service was held outside with mandatory protocols in place. Four baptisms took place, including Bishop Warner's son. The visit with the Bishop was successful because we all came together as a loving and conscientious community.

Repairs to the church organ were funded and completed in Fall 2020 thanks to a generous donation from an anonymous parishioner.

Through a grant from the Diocese of Olympia to mission churches we were able to pay for the outside painting of the buildings. Many thanks to Diane Foster and Brenda Toth for all their work painting, repairing, and sprucing up of the buildings and grounds this year. And a big thank you to Doreen Valverde, Steven Randolph, and Raymond Benoit for their many hours spent watering, weeding, and planting.

And as if they didn't already do enough for Faith Episcopal, we have beautiful new artwork in the Sanctuary and Memorial garden thanks to Jackson and Diane Foster.

In October Vicar Murray, Gary James, and Ellen Green attended the Diocese of Olympia's first ever virtual convention to great success. And thanks to Bob Kernaghan for showing up and helping repeatedly over the years, too many times to list.

During Advent we were able to offer Godly Play Zoom sessions and hold an outdoor service on Christmas Eve which include Christmas trees with lights, cookies, and children building the creche.

I give thanks for this community and for all that you do. To the members of the Bishop's Committee, to the numerous volunteers that continue to show up, to those of you who are able to contribute financially so that we can continue to offer services and grow, and for all the prayers so freely given.

I know that there are more of you who have given of your time and resources to Faith. I'm so very grateful and look forward to the end of the pandemic so we can be together in

worship and community, to see your smiling faces, share your hugs, and share in the peace of Jesus Christ.

--Kay Rawlings, Sr. Warden