Christ Church Vestry Meeting  
February 23, 2021 – via Zoom

Evening Prayer at 6:40 p.m. was led by the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

Attending  
Clergy: Noelle York-Simmons  
2021: Abas Adenan, Jane Baird, Kevin Metz, Julie Zahn  
2022: Marilyn Bromley, Bob Cady, Carol Donlan, Mary Dixon Hutcheson  
2023: Betsy Hahn, Liz Nelson, Anne Ramsey  
Others: Jilinda Crowley, Jessica Hughes, Ed Mills, Anne Richardson

Call to Order and Opening Prayer  
The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Anne Ramsey offered the Opening Prayer.

Stewardship Report  
Anne Richardson reported that we received 380 pledges totaling $1,320,000, including 38 new pledges. One-third of all pledges were increased from last year. A few pledges are still expected, Anne said, so the total should reach about $1,340,000, just shy of our goal. Noelle called this pandemic-year stewardship canvas a “raving success,” due to the work Anne and the Stewardship Committee.

Abas Adenan wants to make sure the clergy know about those who have been hurt financially or otherwise by the Covid lockdown. Notes from the all-parish calls were shared with Noelle.

Treasurer’s Report  
Jilinda Crowley reported that we ended the year with a $48,000 surplus. Revenue was $23,000 higher than expected due to large offerings. Expenses were down because of lower salary and utility costs.

Jilinda introduced Ed Mills, the new chairperson of the Finance Committee. Stephanie Woodland Kelly has submitted our application for the PPP (Payroll Protection Program) loan forgiveness. Jilinda will ask our auditors about a plan to catch up on audits.

Annual Meeting Planning & Logistics  
Noelle urged everyone to attend the Annual Meeting, which will be conducted live on Zoom. A planning team is working on the logistics. The financial report for 2020 will be reviewed by Jilinda. Jason has produced a video about the new organ. The staff is compiling the Annual Report which will be emailed to the parish before the Annual Meeting.

Vestry Election Nominees & Logistics  
Jessica Hughes presented the slate of vestry nominees: Sean Dalton, Mary Daly, John Grey, Andrea McNicholas, Elizabeth Trigg, Amy Wilzinski, and Libby Witt. Links to their pictures and statements will be in eParish Life. Jessica noted that some potential candidates could not run because they were not able to be confirmed due to Covid restrictions. When the slate is
announced at the Annual Meeting, other nominations may be made. The Nominating Committee consisted of Jessica, Carter Land and outgoing vestry members. Ballot Sunday is Sunday March 7. Parish members who are qualified to vote will receive a personalized email link. Jane Baird moved to accept the slate. Mary Dixon Hutcheson seconded, and the motion passed.

**Fowler House Planning**
Noelle will use parish groups or committees (such as Gift Shop, Outreach, Mission, Ushers) to discern the mission of Christ Church going forward and what to do with the Fowler House, since the Ross lease will end next year. What can we do if we dream differently or shift expectations about what a ground lease can offer us? There will be opportunities for those not in a group to provide their input. Emily Bryan, Angela Mills, Anne Reed and Abas Adenan are leading the effort to create tools to help discover what the parish wants. Noelle would like to begin sessions the week after Easter and decisions about how to proceed made this spring. Noelle will discuss this at annual meeting.

Previous data collected from the parish supported a 99-year ground lease. After two offers fell through, we want to revisit the vision with the congregation. Abas said we also need to consider what our neighbors think. Carol said this is a good time to reconnect parish wide. Jilinda noted that the rent from Ross is one quarter of the budgeted income. Ross’ lease expires on January 1, 2022. Although there are options to renew, we cannot assume that Ross will extend the lease.

**2020 Parochial Report**
As a means of understanding the health of the church, every church submits an annual Parochial Report to their Diocese, which collates the data and submits it to the National Office. (Note that Parochial Reports are kept as archives of the church.) It is due on March 1, and a draft was sent to the vestry just before this meeting. Noelle walked through the draft, taking questions. Noelle said that clergy have been asking to add narratives to the Parochial Reports, so that the “health of the church” is not based on numbers alone.

**Letter of Agreement – Lauren Killelea**
The vestry approved Lauren Killelea’s Letter of Agreement. A draft was included as part of the vestry’s February meeting package.

**Rector’s Report**
Noelle and several vestry members attended the online Mission Possible conference. She was inspired by the ideas: discerning Christ Church’s “why” – what drives us, what excites us, and what we are proud of.

New associate: Thanks to Julie Zahn and Jess Williams our paperwork for Robbie Laughton’s visa is complete. Robbie’s Connecticut church needs to file its paperwork.

Craig Dosher’s internship has ended. Noelle is interviewing for a seminarian for the fall.

Since the number of Covid cases is going down, we can worship in person outside again. Noelle and the Liturgy staff are making plans for some outside services during Holy Week. They must be flexible in case of bad weather. We may meet the Diocese’s new, less stringent metric for
inside worship (after Easter). We will apply to the Diocese with a plan for inside worship in a smart, safe way.

Regarding Christ Church’s 250th anniversary celebration in 2023, Sunny and Barney Nolan will be honorary chairpersons. Noelle has asked someone to be the “actual” chairperson and is awaiting their response. There are plans to invite the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, to attend.

**Offutt Trust Investment Committee**
Abas will forward all comments on the Investment Committee documents to Anne Richardson. The committee has added three non-staff/non-vestry members: Fred Knops, David Fenstermaker, and Charlie Bremers, who is not a member of Christ Church but has long participated in our Outreach work and has a background in finance. The documents will be vetted by Russ Randle.

**Rector’s Housing Agreement**
Noelle stepped out of the meeting while the Rector’s Housing Agreement was discussed. Carol moved that Abas be authorized to sign the housing agreement; Jane seconded. The motion passed.

**Warden’s Report**
During the Senior Warden’s address at the Annual Meeting, Abas will discuss how Christ Church persevered and persisted during the pandemic in caring for both inside and outside the church community, never losing sight of our love for each other and those in need.

Junior Warden Carol Donlan gave an update on the Vestry History project, which will tell the stories of four prominent Alexandrians during the civil rights era: Rev. William Sydnor, Armistead Boothe, T.C. Williams, and Judge Albert Bryan Sr. There will be presentations around questions. There are no plans for print or online publication.

**Consent Agenda**
There were no corrections to the January meeting minutes. Marilyn Bromley moved that the minutes be passed; Mary Dixon seconded. The motion passed.

**Announcements & Upcoming Events**
- Annual Meeting – February 28
- Vestry Meeting – March 23 (outgoing class attends only at the beginning)

**Closing Prayer**
Bob Cady provided the closing prayer.
The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.