



Grace Episcopal Church Worship Committee Minutes

17 January 2021

Present	
Committee Member	
Stephanie Batterman	X
Jackie Berry	
Greg Caron	X
Mary Caron	X
Glenis Elliott	
Ed Greene	X
Frank Jacob	X
Pam Mott	X
Will Neilson	X
Diane Paterson	X
Liz Prest	
Sharon Steele	X
Frank Strasburger	
Mary Swain	X
Cindy Young	X

The meeting followed the Sunday Diocesan Eucharist on Zoom. The Rev. Ed Greene opened with a prayer.

Past Services

- **Christmas Eve.** All agreed it was a lovely service with excellent music.
- **Christmas Day.** This was a smaller Rite I service without music and was attended mostly by 8 am parishioners.
- **Lessons and Carols.** This was a wonderful service. All agreed that the contemporary readings were meaningful and raised new ideas in our worship. Once again, the music was very well done and very much appreciated.

Upcoming Services

- **Annual Meeting (24 Jan) - 9:00 am service.** Frank Strasburger will preside, including the Annual Meeting (no sermon). This will be a Rite I service.
- **Ash Wednesday (17 Feb) – 10:00 am service replacing our Wed service.**
 - Ed Greene will preside using the prayer book liturgy. We will not do Ashes to Go this year due to pandemic. Much discussion on how to do a symbolic imposition of ashes, perhaps a meditation on the meaning of ashes.
 - Stephanie suggested we send a Grace symbol to the parish prior to the service, possibly the drawing of the cross that Dean made for Grace.
- **Lent**
 - Last month's discussion focused on whether to do Lent Madness this year. It was determined that we can do, but without the books. Online links will be provided on the website and in Grace Notes. Glenis will find those for us.



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- We will not be doing the Lenten meditations this year.
- Sundays in Lent were discussed at length. The overall decision was they should be solemn and simple. The consensus was that the Priests would determine their services, but one possible suggestion was to start each service using a Taize chant and possibly Lenten music during the service. Pam volunteered to lead a forum or discussion after each service, focusing on loss and leading us to the resurrection.
- Holy Week
 - Palm Sunday. It was decided that our Cantors would sing the Passion again this year. Mary will ask for volunteers.
 - Maundy Thursday. Stephanie volunteered to preach on that day.
 - Good Friday, it was discussed that perhaps Frank could take a picture of our stations and do Stations of the Cross on Zoom.
 - Easter Vigil. Stephanie will ask St. Paul's and the Diocese about their plans to see if we can perhaps share in that service. Another suggestion is that we investigate other churches' plans, such as the National Cathedral or St. Thomas in New York City.
 - Easter will be a joyous service, with content to be determined by the Priest who is celebrating.

Continuing Services

- **Wednesday Morning Prayer** is continuing at 10:00 am, but Ed Greene is now doing an abbreviated Morning Prayer followed by informal discussions on the day's readings. This service has been well-received with 12 – 14 attending each week.
- **Sunday Services**
 - Will continue at 10:15 am on Zoom.
 - Priests will continue to try new ways to conduct the service.
 - All services and service bulletins can be found on our website.
<https://gracebath.org/worship/worship-services/>
- **Diocesan Services.** Much discussion on whether to continue to share these services, or whether parishioners should view on their own. We will continue to share the service with the congregation, even though attendance is not as high as other services. It also gives our Supply Priests a well-deserved week off.

Music

- All going well. Each Cantor has the option of using organ music accompaniment if they have the capability. The cantors are very much appreciated.

Technology

- Sharon reported that we are still pursuing options to be able to:
 - Live stream with ability for congregants to participate from home
 - Use audio and video through our current system, if possible
 - Have broad band internet in the sanctuary



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- We already have a quote from Comcast for broadband.
- We have one quote for a software and two digital cameras. It will provide live streamed output, internal recording, and many controls within the software that can even be run remotely. This is for \$8,474.70. However, if we want parishioner participation, will need to use Zoom also.
- We are also working with Danny Eosco to obtain another bid.
- All agreed we needed to continue to pursue this, especially because there is the availability of grants from the Diocese for this purpose. Once we get two bids, will discuss with this committee, then get approval from the Vestry to move forward.

Schedule

The schedule currently goes through February. <https://gracebath.org/worship/worship-leader-schedule/>. The clergy will discuss among themselves on their availability in March and April, then we will prepare the schedule for the rest of the volunteers.

Attendance

- Wednesday services continue with an average attendance of 12 -14 per week
- Sunday Services

Sunday Worship Service (all home Zooms)	Date	Approximate # of Congregants
Fourth Sunday of Advent	20 Dec 2020	57
Christmas Eve	24 Dec 2020	40
Christmas Day	25 Dec 2020	20
Lessons and Carols - Diocesan Service	27 Dec 2020	37
Lessons and Carols	3 Jan 2021	55
First Sunday after Epiphany	10 Jan 2021	52
Second Sunday after Epiphany - Diocesan Service	17 Jan 2021	24

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be 14 February following the Sunday worship (Diocesan service) – will use same Zoom as Sunday worship.

- <https://zoom.us/j/5772630207>, (Password: 798671)
- OR call 646-876-9923 with ID: 577-263-0207

The Rev Pam Mott closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Steele, Chair