

St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Flagler County

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

February 14, 2021

The meeting was opened at 10:38 am with prayer by The Rev. Canon Robert P. Goolsby, Rector. The meeting took place within the context of Holy Eucharist on The Last Sunday after the Epiphany. The Senior Warden and Rector reports were given during The Peace.

Senior Warden's Report

The decision was made to “freeze” the Vestry. The remaining terms of all current members have been extended by one year. The Vestry vacancies have been filled and we now have a full Vestry of twelve (12). The Diocese has approved the Vestry. Introduction of the new members - Jodie Bevel, Rick Cabrera, Ben O’Kelley and Pamela Williams – was followed by a round of applause. Names of all Vestry members were stated along with the year their terms expires. A vote of acclamation was taken by applause in person, and by vote stating “Aye” or “Yea” online during the livestreamed service. There was no opposition. The Vestry has been accepted.

Thanks to Don & Marilyn Gingles for serving their last year as delegates to the 2021 Annual Diocesan Convention. Carole MacDonald was the alternate. For 2022, the delegates will be Carole MacDonald and Ralph Yearwood, with Dorothy Thompson serving as the alternate. A vote of acclamation by applause was taken. Delegates for 2022 were elected.

The 2020 Annual Report is on the website and was e-mailed. Printed copies are available.

Rector's Report

For a congregation whose identity is founded upon community and togetherness, the COVID-19 pandemic year has been a most unwelcome plague. For this reason, I was intentional over the past year to achieve at least three objectives during the midst of this unprecedented era:

- Create and sustain an online presence
- Increase communications
- Find opportunities to be present

We offered recorded online worship on Sunday morning, Tuesday Morning Prayer, Wednesday Healing Service and Friday night Compline. We created accounts with Mail Chimp, Zoom, Vimeo and PayPal to expand communications and ministry. We joined with Parkview Church and the City of Palm Coast to do our part in feeding 5,000 local families. We were sponsors for the Prayer Unites event at the Flagler County Courthouse where I was one of the local clergy to speak on God’s authority.

Nothing we are doing is what I like! I want to have three Sunday services, sit and chat with you at Coffee Hour and enjoy a bagel. St. Thomas has not had COVID-19 issues as other congregations have. Thank you for being smart and safe.

We are still going to have online options for communications and ministry after a return to normal.

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
February 14, 2021
Page 2**

Rector's Report (continued)

Thank you for your faithfulness!

We have come together for the needs of others in our community, we have come together in new ways for worship, study and prayer, and we have not lost our vision of who we are as members of St. Thomas. We are and continue to be a community of Christians who gather in new and various ways. **This is Beloved Community.**

Christ calls our hearts to be transformed to be more like his. We have sought creative ways to reach out to others, and we have been challenged to seek innovative ways to do ministry as we move into the future. **This is Transformation.**

In this faith and resilience that Christ has graced up us, we have embraced new ways of worship, study and service opportunities, to freely be the people God creates and calls us to be. **This is Freedom.**

Stewardship is discipleship. Faithful giving to St. Thomas is part of our discipleship as we honor our Lord and is extremely important in sustaining our ministries and mission. When we as members give more, it is only then that St. Thomas can do more.

Thank you for all that you do and all that you are.

The meeting was closed at 10:58 a.m. and the service concluded with Holy Communion.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Snedeker
Vestry Secretary