

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT APRIL, 2019, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due
for Review/
Assigned To

Date: April 23, 2019 **Time Started:** 5:30pm **Time Ended:** 8:30pm

Next Regular Meeting: 5:30pm, Tuesday, **May 21**, 2019. Vestry reports due by **Saturday, May 18**, 2019.
[There will be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, May 7 at 5:00pm devoted solely to one topic. See page 6.]

Members Present: Barbara Moloney, Senior Warden; Jim Woodruff, Junior Warden; Debra Alexander; Cristi Johnson; Mary Maupin; Adam Reda; Michael Smith; Mary Jo Sparrow; Donna Turnbaugh

Members Absent: Loraine Hilty

Other Attendees: David McNair, Rector; Bill Sewell, Treasurer; Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

AGENDA ITEM: **Welcome, Opening Prayer** *(David McNair)*

AGENDA ITEM: **Approval of March Minutes** *(Clerk, Lorrie Cooper)*

AGENDA ITEM: **Review of Financial Reports** *(Bill Sewell)*

Office supplies may run over budget because of an unexpected ending to a Frontier telephone discount. Bill and Martie are looking for a better alternative. French Broad fiber optic is a possibility. If internet connection is good enough, there will be no need for a landline. Martie has gotten bids and will report to the finance committee. Also running over budget is propane, but at least the winter season is over. Printing and copying are the biggest expenses. Martie researched the new printer, got it free with coupons, but cartridges are expensive. In the end, expenses will be 300 dollars over budget, which not a major deal. Now that tax season is over, the audit process needs to begin.

AGENDA ITEM: **Vestry Call List Reminder** *(David McNair)*

It's important for Vestry members to make contact with all the people on their call lists. It cannot be assumed everyone knows it's acceptable to contact any person on the Vestry.

Minutes from the
March meeting
approved with no
further additions.

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Although a printout of the minutes from each meeting is always posted on the bulletin board in the hall, people may not be aware of that posting nor find it a convenient location. This can be mentioned in Mountain Spirit. Another option is to post the minutes on the ECHS website and link to them through the digital version of Mountain Spirit. The ECHS webmaster agreed to do this. *[Note: following the conclusion of the meeting, one Vestry member expressed dissatisfaction about having the Vestry meeting minutes posted on the website and felt the matter had not been sufficiently discussed. The webmaster will delay following through on this temporarily.]*

The webmaster will begin the practice of posting Vestry minutes to the ECHS website.

AGENDA ITEM: Donated Piano Report *(Debra Alexander)*

Kevin Jeter was consulted about the condition of the old piano that had been donated to the church. It's been placed in the former Kindermusik room for the use of the choir when activities in the sanctuary do not allow practicing with the good piano. Complete tuning and bringing the piano to proper pitch is important. Additional work should also be done. Kevin says in his assessment that two tunings, cleaning, and pitch raise are needed at \$250-\$300. The tunings thereafter will be \$100 per tuning. Debra believes that simply tuning the piano would be sufficient and the other repairs are not necessary for the use of this piano. Nevertheless, there is no money in the current budget for tuning this piano. Possibly a special offering could bring in the needed money. An additional complication is the effect of summer heat and winter cold on this piano, since the Kindermusik room is not heated or air conditioned. Could the piano be stored elsewhere in the summer? Debra offered to contact the piano tuner for his perspective and will report back at the next regular meeting.

Debra Alexander will contact the piano tuner and report back.

AGENDA ITEM: Jr. Warden's Report *(Jim Woodruff)*

Plans were made by Ed McNally and students to place cardboard on a portion of the bank right of the entrance stairs. Weather impeded and they realized it was best not to disturb the grounds leading up to Easter Sunday. The Memorial Garden folks have been eagerly weeding, thinning brush and using cardboard and mulch in an experimental section at the lower edge of the garden. Mulch on the slope did not shift with the heavy rains of April 19. Listed here are the members of two very important landscape-related committees. These are the go-to folks for 2019:

Gardener Committee: Amanda Hilty, Martie Carson, Rachel Aughtny, Tom Panek. I have not been informed about the contact person and will inquire.

Property Committee: Tom Panek, Harold Toney, Teresa Matthews. The same applies to this group.

I changed out the batteries for the hallway Nest smoke detector on March 20.

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As someone with a smart phone, I am trying to be included with David and Barbara for phone notification if there is a breach in security or smoke detection. Obviously I need to learn more about the system.

The icemaker does not seem to be missed. I will look into getting it to resume ice making. If it remains fickle, I will talk to a few people (any suggestions?) about at least turning off the ventilating fan, which would reduce some sound pollution.

I intend to locate the septic tank and record its exact location and access lid in case it needs cleaning. We should investigate the need. It seems to have a balanced decomposition system, which I hope continues. We have regularly flushed packets of bacteria and enzymes down the toilet to keep the system balanced. It appears to work.

The Piano Emporium was moved carefully from my Big Pine home in April, which I arranged and paid for. As discussed in a previous Vestry meeting, it has been donated to our church and placed in the former Kindermusik classroom (the proposed Sanctuary space). Debra Alexander, choir director, is aware that it will be used in that location until, and if, it must be moved to a new room in the church. Currently this is a better location than the youth room.

The church's Spring Annual Cleanup was successful in interior and exterior of the building, as well as the grounds/landscape.

AGENDA ITEM: Sr. Warden's Report *(Barbara Moloney)*

The current Sanctuary Committee has facilitated two of the three planned congregational meetings. On April 24, 2019 forty-nine people attended, and at the April 14 meeting 41 people were in attendance. Some people have attended both meetings. The only change made in the original plans for presenting this information to the congregation is an invitation to all ECHS members to attend more than one meeting so the discussion can continue about this issue. This change was announced in the *Weekly Spirit* after the meeting on April 6, and I announced it after the service on April 14 during announcement time. The remaining congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2019. The Sanctuary Committee plans to meet after the third congregational meeting to prepare a summary for the Vestry. This summary will be available before the May Vestry meeting.

[The May 5 meeting will not happen; see New Business.]

During this report, Donna T. asked about last year's intention to look into congregational safety during Sunday morning services. Barbara had all the locks changed on the outside doors. One suggestion is to train people to stand guard during Sunday service, although all the doors are locked at that time, with two exceptions.

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Other churches in the area were asked about their Sunday morning safety practice. Brookstone, which is a very large church, has people standing outside and restricts people from coming and going during the service. The WNC Diocese is looking into developing a policy.

ECCHS is not at a high risk of having violence occur. But what are reasonable precautions for the situation at ECCHS? A possible protocol would involve ushers checking to make sure the back doors are locked and monitoring latecomers. Safety protocol could be part of the ushers' training.

AGENDA ITEM: Rector's Report *(David McNair)*

1. Pastoral Care issues:

- * Cal Wilson is receiving PT at Ashton Park Health Care Center in Asheville. Cal has periods of clarity amid periods of confusion and agitation. Marnie continues to visit with him on a nearly daily basis. The CCC has been faithful in visiting Cal, and other visitors are welcomed and encouraged.
- * Kathryn Graeter continues to receive palliative care. Visits are welcome, but it is important that they be prearranged. Kathryn has a Caring Bridge account where she is posting updates and anyone can access this account online. A new update was made this past Saturday.
- * Heather Moloney —Tom Moloney's daughter, Barbara's step-daughter — is battling stage 4 small cell lung cancer which has metastasized to her brain and liver. She has two children: daughter Meaghan and son Roger. She is continuing with chemotherapy and immunotherapy – and her health is steadily declining.
- * Fred Burnham's ashes will be interred on May 18 as part of a private service at Asheville Cemetery.
- * Bob Magnus will have cataract surgery on one of his eyes this Tuesday, April 23.

2. Visitors to ECCHS since our last Vestry meeting:

- Jess Handy, 5335 East Fork Road, Marshall NC 28753.
- Ann Shamlan (sp?) 415 Bluebird Lane, Marshall NC 28753.
- Terry Hopkins, 2365 Lower Gabriel's Creek Road, Mars Hill NC 28754.
- Carl and Dorothy and children (Taylor, Bentley, Layla, Jackson, Bailey) Worley, 53 Fox Lane, Mars Hill, NC 28754
- Callis Chambliss, 454 Bone Camp Road, Marshall NC 28753.

David will talk to other clergy about what they are doing re security. Ushers also must discuss this matter. Adam will report on the ushers' discussion. Donna will check the diocesan site for info.

Four visitors were assigned to Vestry members who volunteered to send brief notes.

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- 3. UPDATED** – Black Jesus Book Group change of date and location: Originally our group was scheduled to meet on Thursday, May 2 at ECHS but we discovered that we have an opportunity to join WITH other faith communities who are reading the same book, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone for a shared discussion and potluck. In order to take advantage of this unique opportunity, we have changed our plans to the following: **Black Jesus Book Group, Friday, May 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Land of the Sky United Church of Christ**, 15 Overbrook Place, Asheville 28805. Tyrone Greenlee from Christians for a United Community will be our guest facilitator. Carpooling is encouraged.
- 4. La Esperanza** hosted a wonderful “Lunch with the Law” with county police officers, the Madison County Superintendent of Schools, MHU representatives, local clergy and community members attending. A story with photos about this event was featured in the ACT last Sunday on the front page. Zumba classes have begun as part of the weekly meeting as an effort to promote physical health. A Zumba instructor who is a native of Chile is teaching the class and is being paid to teach from grant monies.
- 5. Second Breath** will begin on May 1 and meet every Wednesday through June 12. We have a large number who are planning to participate. Second Breath is an outgrowth of the Servant Leadership School of Greensboro. Its mission is “to open our hearts to God’s love and calling in an increasingly challenging world.” ECHS is participating in a pilot satellite program of Second Breath, which involves people committing to an introductory eight-session course, “The Inward Journey of Faith,” using CD’s and facilitator guidance provided by Second Breath. Anyone interested may contact Susan Sherard for more info.
- 6. Our youth** are planning to lead a service at ECHS on May 19.
- 7. Our ECHS Pentecost service** and picnic will be held on June 9. More details TBA.
- 8. FYI:** I will be leading a service at Glory Ridge for the Diocesan Middle School Retreat at Glory Ridge on Saturday, May 4.
- 9. Faith Communities Organizing for Sanctuary** meeting at Land of the Sky UCC, 6 pm on May 14. Currently we are in need of someone from ECHS to join me in representing our church in this effort.
- 10. Feedback** and discussion regarding the new ECHS Announcement Guidelines.
- 11. The Diocesan Cold Mountain Music Festival** will be held at Lake Logan Episcopal Conference Center, May 31-June 2. Attendance is encouraged.
- 12. Safeguarding God’s Children** Training by will be offered at ECHS on Sunday, June 23, following the 10:30 service. This training is REQUIRED by the diocese of all Vestry members, clergy, nursery workers and volunteers who work regularly with youth and children. Retraining must happen every five years. Martie has the records and dates of everyone who has taken the training **Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.**

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AGENDA ITEM: New Business

The two after-service meetings about the issue of ECHS becoming a host sanctuary church were discussed. On the basis of congregational response to the first two meetings, the Vestry recommends that the third meeting should not happen at this point in time. Instead, the Vestry should communicate that it has heard the pros and cons and has decided not to continue with the discernment process.

The following statement was created by the Vestry for the clerk to send out via Mailchimp:

“The ECHS Vestry has decided NOT to continue with the discernment process regarding ECHS becoming a Sanctuary Host Congregation. The Vestry has scheduled a special meeting on May 7 to consider further the lessons learned from the two congregational meetings and the feedback received thus far. We are committed to fostering healing, trust, and reconciliation.”

The Vestry clerk will communicate this statement immediately via Mailchimp.

There will be a **special Vestry Meeting** at 5:00pm on Tuesday, May 7, to discuss in more detail the results of the two congregational meetings. (See above)

Next regular Vestry Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 21, 2018, beginning at 5:30pm.**
Reports are due by midnight **Saturday, May 18, 2019.**

The Clerk asks that Vestry members submit their reports no later than Saturday midnight before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk