

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT APRIL 20, 2021, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due
for Review/
Assigned To

Date: April 20, 2021 **Time Started:** 5:34 pm **Time Ended:** 6:45 pm

Next Meeting: May 18, 2021, 5:30pm.

Members Present: Lynda Miller, Senior Warden; Peggy Wilson, Junior Warden; Loraine Hilty; Pam McNally; Mary Maupin; Mark Holland; Dick Jordan; Kathleen Phillips; Barbara Schauer; Debra Alexander

Not present: Nancy Larkin

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

DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

Call to Order, Prayer or Reading *(David McNair)*

AGENDA ITEM: Brief Check-In *(Lynda Miller)*

AGENDA ITEM: Vestry Minutes Approval: March 23, 2021 *(Clerk, Lorrie Cooper)*

AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report *(Bill Sewell)*

Reports will be reviewed in Tuesday's meeting. The designated March First Sunday Open Offering recipient, the Madison Friendship Fund, has a surplus of funding and a decline of COVID-related assistance demand. They have requested that these funds be redirected to another local cause. The Outreach Committee will discuss this at their next meeting and how best to use these funds.

Discussion: March pledge offerings were low, but it likely was due to sporadic giving practices related to Covid restrictions on church services. There have been savings in office expenditures, and savings due to changes in internet and phone provider. Frontier owes ECHS \$140. Overall, expenditures for first quarter have been below budgeted amount. ECHS also received reimbursement for sales tax from North Carolina. We are still running a surplus YTD.

Minutes from
March 23, 2021,
were approved.

Vestry voted to
transfer the funds
from Madison
Friendship Fund to
Outreach.

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AGENDA ITEM: Jr. Warden's Report *(Peggy Wilson)*

Workdays will continue at the ECHS church site. The workday in March tackled the front banks and areas around the building, including those around the entrance to David's office. The workday scheduled for April 25 will finish the back of church around the H/AC units, other doors, and around the shed while also cleaning gutters and washing the outside of windows. A question: can two people be within the sanctuary to wash the inside of windows, provided enough helpers are available? The cleaning crew is aware that a private service in the Memorial Garden at 3:00, so they plan to wrap up at 12:00 noon instead of 1:00. Susan Sherard has reached out to the Memorial Garden folks to spruce up that area the week before Saturday's service.

Two concentrated workdays will be scheduled in May on weekdays, but dates are yet to be set. Under consideration are the dates of Thursday, May 13, and Friday, May 14. The goal is to finish mulching the front bank and move mulch where needed into beds. The growing season is upon us!

AGENDA ITEM: Sr. Warden's Report *(Lynda Miller)*

No formal report. The Finance Committee has not met.

AGENDA ITEM: Outreach Report *(Nancy Larkin)*

An Outreach meeting was held April 20 at 10:00 a.m. Below is the report:

The balance in Outreach account as of April 20, 2021: \$2,446.00

Susan Sewell shared a thank-you from Eric Holguin-L.U.L.A.C.(League of United Latin American Citizens) Five hundred dollars (\$500) was sent to assist with the disaster in Texas. Funds were designated for food and water.

The Madison Friendship Fund did not need the supplied support, so money not used (\$915) will be designated by Vestry for another recipient. [See page 1 under Financial Report.]

First Sunday Designees

April 1 Sunday thus far—Community Housing Coalition-\$900 with the match

May-La Esperanza (Rebecca has written an article for Mountain Spirit and Weekly Spirit.)

June-Las Ninos in Guatemala (School to support the children in this organization)

July-Beacon of Hope

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August-Church of the Advocate
September-Homeward Bound
October-Pisgah Legal
November-Consider Haiti
December-Outreach Fund

—A reminder was made of “In Kind” forms so that the church can capture these donations for purpose of reporting. Donation forms can be found at church, and Susan Sewell will put a reminder in Weekly Spirit. Susan suggests having a meal provided for Church of the Advocate in August. Date: TBD.

—Breakfast items brought to Room in the Inn in April were greatly appreciated, particularly the home cooked and fresh fruit items. Mary Jo was pleased with the response given to items donated; another breakfast “ask” will happen in June.

—Ingles cards continue to be promoted. Crellin Byrd is doing a good job promoting this program.

—Bulletin Boards at church: Outreach Committee will take a section to display the activities we are doing, ministries we are supporting, and photos of our work. Crellin and others will help with the activities of the Outreach Committee.

—Homeward Bound has purchased a motel and is putting much work into it. Perhaps efforts can be made towards supporting it; Mary Maupin suggested having an auction. More discussion will occur in future meetings. Homeward Bound is September’s First Sunday Offering recipient.

—Pisgah Legal is having a virtual 5k walk/run.

— Alex Sewell is now working for Pisgah Legal as a Senior Accountant and would love folks to join his virtual team High Alta. For more info contact Susan or Bill Sewell.

Next Outreach Meeting: May 25 (Tuesday) at 10:00. Meetings will then be moved to Thursdays at 9:00am every six weeks.

AGENDA ITEM: Adult Christian Formation Committee *(Mark Holland)*

The committee, Mark Holland, Chair, met April 13 to discuss future plans for Christian Formation activities.

The committee decided to show films in June, July and August, possibly outdoors, and to begin other activities—presentations, discussions—in September. A proposal was also suggested to hold a decompression meeting for members of the congregation in order to process living through the pandemic during these last many months.

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A number of committee members suggested interesting topics, including resurrection and issues related to climate change, among others, for the fall of this year. Professor Marc Mullinax of Mars Hill University will also be invited to present this fall, perhaps on his new book about the *TaoTe Ching*.

AGENDA ITEM: La Esperanza *(Mary Maupin)*

La Esperanza held a business meeting outside the church this past week. *[Sometime during the second week of April]* Discussed were issues of who would make decisions regarding money La Esperanza has raised: Latinas or non-Latina members. A decision was made regarding sales of food that Las Latinas make: each woman will keep proceeds from her own food sales. The non-Latina finance committee will decide how other monies such as from grants, larger luncheon events, and other fund raising activities will be dispersed, either to the Mujeres Humanitarian Fund or to Operational Fund, whichever fund most needs replenishing. Also discussed were ideas for future activities. Ideas were presented, but no concrete decisions were made.

AGENDA ITEM: Youth Ministry *(Pam McNally)*

The youth gathered to prepare painted pots and flowers for the Mars Hill Retirement Center; there were twelve attendees. Next activity will be a bonfire in May.

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

1. Pastoral Care issues:

John Doran – The check-up appointment last Thursday (April15) with his doctor in Winston Salem indicated that the cancer that had been in his throat is no longer there. Doctors will continue to monitor John to check that he remains cancer free.

OC Edwards – OC continues to receive hospice care while living in his apartment at Mars Hill Retirement. He has managed to resume many of his normal activities.

Suzan Bergland has begun receiving hospice care at her home in Naples, Florida. Although she is weak, Suzan reports that she is not experiencing pain. Her daughter from California has been able to have an extended visit with her.

2. Jo and Mike Ray have requested that their church letter of membership be transferred from ECHS to Trinity Episcopal, Asheville, effective April 2021. I have communicated to them gratitude for their involvement in our ECHS life and ministry.

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3. The ECHS Black Jesus book group is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 12, 4:00 p.m. The group will discuss *"The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration"* by Isabel Wilkerson.

4. I will officiate a Celebration of Life service on Saturday, April 24, at 3:00 p.m. for Peter J. Batchelor in the ECHS Memorial Garden. Ten to twelve people are expected to attend. Peter and his wife Val were not members of ECHS but are friends of Annette Henry and requested this service.

5. In keeping with diocesan policy, my contract with ECHS entitles me to a sabbatical every five to seven years. It has been six years since last I was granted a sabbatical. After six years of service as a parish rector, eleven weeks of sabbatical are granted in addition to regular annual vacation (four weeks).

As of April 1, 2021, the ECHS Priest Sabbatical reserve has \$13,272. This fund will finance a supply priest (or priests) while I am away, in addition to expenses related to my sabbatical. I am hoping and planning for a sabbatical later this year, pending the pandemic limitations continue to be eased. Currently, my plan is to take sabbatical July 19 – October 17, 2021 (thirteen weeks) and spend a portion of the sabbatical walking the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain. I have initiated conversations with Bishop Jose and other priests about securing priest(s) to supply at ECHS while I am absent. Prior to the sabbatical I will complete the diocesan requirements as follows:

- * A summary statement describing the overall character and purpose of the sabbatical,
- * A clearly articulated rationale for engaging in the sabbatical,
- * A thorough narrative description of the priest's activities and timeline during the sabbatical,
- * A statement of the intended benefits to both the clergy and the parish,
- * A description of the congregation's plans for covering the necessary pastoral and liturgical functions during the sabbatical,
- * A plan for how the priest and congregation will communicate and share insights from the sabbatical upon the priest's return.

6. FYI: I have agreed to serve as a Camp Henry chaplain July 4 through July 9 (grades 6-8 camp). I plan to be present to preside at the Sunday services on July 4 and 11.

7. I initiated a conversation with Jessica LeFiles, the new Camp Henry Director, about offering Camp Henry scholarship assistance to children and youth of the women involved in La Esperanza. Jessie is scheduled to come to EHCS on May 6 and meet with the La Esperanza women to talk about Camp Henry and communicate our diocese commitment to make Henry affordable for all children. Jessie assured me that, if need be, Camp Henry will offer full scholarships to our La Esperanza children.

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8. Earth Day Vigil, April 25, is sponsored by the Western North Carolina Creation Care Alliance. This will be a virtual Earth Day Vigil via Zoom. The vigil will focus on the idea of loving people and place and will include readings, prayers, songs, and information about creation care from speakers from throughout Western North Carolina. The vigil time is 6:00-7:15 pm and will include regional breakout rooms that begin directly after the Vigil ends.

AGENDA ITEM: Old Business *(Lynda Miller)*

- a. Outcome of Easter services, lessons learned: Hugging needs to be monitored.
A group setting must have protocols respected and observed: wear masks and keep six foot distance.
- b. Use of church facilities by small groups— some outside, some inside.
- c. New Vestry meeting time - still pending.

Meeting time yet to be discussed.

AGENDA ITEM: New Business *(Lynda Miller)*

A live internet stream will be made during the second service for those who still wish to observe distance and watch from home. The service will probably be streamed via a camera, not a Zoom connection. Vestry will contact people on their contact list, giving details about registration, etc., answering questions.

Services in church building - Planning and potential dates.

The ReGathering Committee recommended May 9 for the start of in-person services, but due to the many arrangements which need to be made, the Vestry voted to reschedule the live service to May 16.

Registration will be required for attendance at meetings, due to space limitations from Covid protocols.

Two services with necessary interval between the two services.

People will need to register each week for a specific service time, and how many will be in their group.

There will be a live online stream during the second service for those who still want to attend remotely.

A crew of people will be needed to operate the technology used to live stream the service

Services will be slightly abbreviated.

Singing will not be allowed inside. A song leader will be able to sing.

The person doing one of the readings will also assist with Prayers of the People.

Vestry voted unanimously to begin live services May 16. Mark Holland will write an explanatory article by the weekend for *Mountain Spirit*.

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Times being discussed: 9:00am and 11:00am. There will be two musicians per Sunday, one for each service.

Discussion of David McNair's housing allowance.

AGENDA ITEM: Next Vestry Meeting Date

Next meeting time: May 18, 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

Vestry voted to confirm the Rector's housing allowance at 20K.
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