

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT JANUARY 19, 2021, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due
for Review/
Assigned To

Date: January 19, 2021 **Time Started:** 5:05 pm **Time Ended:** 6:27 pm

Next Meeting: February 16, 2021, 5:00pm.

Members Present: Lynda Miller, Senior Warden; Jim Woodruff, Junior Warden; Adam Reda; Debra Alexander; Loraine Hilty; Nancy Larkin; Donna Turnbaugh; Mary Maupin; Dick Jordan; Mary Jo Sparrow; Pam McNally.

Absent: Ty Jones, Deacon

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

DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

Welcome, Opening Prayer *(David McNair)*

Call to order with a prayer and a reading.

AGENDA ITEM: Vestry Minutes Approval: December 15, 2020 *(Clerk, Lorrie Cooper)*

AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report *(Bill Sewell)*

Bill provided year-end reports for review in this week's Vestry meeting. Due to postal service delays in delivering some 2020 payments, he revised them slightly from the presentation to the Finance Committee last week. Also provided was the 2021 budget recommended by the Finance Committee for approval by the Vestry at this meeting. The approved budget will then be presented to the parish at the annual meeting later this month. The operational changes necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic have added uncertainty to the financial planning process. If necessary, the 2021 Vestry will be asked to revisit the 2021 budget and make mid-year revisions.

From Discussion: Pledges and Offerings from 2020 were 97% of pledged budget and 80% of open offering budget. There were good savings in office supplies, non-salaried staff expenses, and utilities. Overall there was a surplus (operating) of \$1293. Monthly expense for Zoom was put under the Altar Guild line. There were fewer prepaid expenses. We filled propane tanks in December, and there was a month's worth of payment of David's retirement and his insurance.

Minutes from
December 15,
2020, were
approved.

The 2021
Budget was
unanimously
moved to be
accepted as is.

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Discussion was held regarding the PPP loan in 2020, which will mostly be forgiven. Vestry will decide in 2021 how to use the funds. For 2021, there will be savings from not printing Sunday bulletins. ECHS church building will switch to French Broad Electric for phone and internet service when Frontier is no longer used, which may result in savings. There may be a need for a mid-year revision of the budget if pledges and offerings change. David proposes that once ECHS meets again in the building, a parish meeting could be held to explain clearly and honestly the details of the budget. Right now there will be an operating deficit of approximately \$8995 in the 2021 budget.

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

1. The 12'x28' canopy was blown down the hill by strong wind gusts the first week of January. The metal frame was damaged beyond repair. Members of the Property Committee and the Jr. Warden took it apart. It was determined to recycle the metal parts and retire the canopy. The cover has been put aside for a future use.
2. The erosion of the Bone Camp Creek area below the ECHS sign will be addressed by the 2021 Property Committee for a resolution. Additional members have signed up to help.
3. No repairs or service were needed to the building since Vestry's previous meeting.

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

The Finance Committee still has a vacant seat. Vestry is asked to inform David of anyone willing to join that committee. Outreach was amazing this year, in spite of current situation. First Sunday offerings were generous. Grants have helped, too. Nancy reported that Outreach has provided twenty-eight children with shoes and backpacks. The congregation has given good support to Outreach.

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

1. Pastoral Care issues:

- * Rebekah Wilson is receiving steroid treatment for a severe case of *posterior vitreous detachment* in one of her eyes. As a teenager, she had issues with the other eye and had surgery on that eye – but this current difficulty affects her other “good” eye. Her vision in this eye is very limited, and she is not able to work, drive, read, etc., at this time. Her doctor told her the condition may require six months to heal.
- * Suzan Bergland continues to receive radiology and chemotherapy for the tumorous growth in her brain. She and David have continued to attend ECHS Zoom Sunday services, and she has expressed gratitude for the support and prayers of our congregation.

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- * Carol Currie has been receiving a trial chemotherapy treatment for lung cancer and so far is responding very positively. Her last scan did not show any signs of cancer in her body.
- * John Doran has completed a seven-week round of radiation treatment and will travel to Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem this Thursday for a check-up and scan, which will reveal his body's response thus far to the treatment.
- * Dick Jordan continues to recover from his eye surgery in November, 2020. We'll ask Dick to give us an update on his condition at our Vestry meeting.

2. A Big Thank You to our outgoing Vestry members: Adam Reda, Mary Jo Sparrow, Donna Turnbaugh, and Jim Woodruff! We are grateful for the opportunity to work and serve alongside you. Thank you for your diligence, creativity, and faithful service!

3. The ECHS Black Jesus book group is scheduled to meet virtually this Wednesday, January 20, at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, Jan. 21, at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing Ta-Nehisi Coates' novel ***The Water Dancer***.

4. After his visit to EHCS last week, Bishop Jose sent ECHS a thank-you, saying, *"Thanks for the wonderful visit with Holy Spirit. Although it was virtual, I certainly felt the community and love. The service was heartfelt and the music was fantastic!"* Thank you all for joining our meeting with Bishop Jose on Sunday prior to the service.

5. Our ECHS Annual Meeting will be held this Sunday, January 24, following the Morning Prayer service on Zoom. The service will be abbreviated, and the Annual Meeting will aim to be succinct. Our primary business will be to express gratitude to outgoing Vestry members and to vote on new Vestry members. Vestry member nominees are Mark Holland, Kathleen Phillips, and Barbara Schauer.

6. No one has yet agreed serve as Jr. Warden. Since we currently have not secured anyone willing to be nominated to serve as Jr. Warden, the Vestry needs to decide how to cover the responsibilities of Jr. Warden until a new Jr. Warden is in place. Someone might respond when the need for a Jr. Warden is discussed at the Annual Meeting. The role may also be assumed by other Vestry members on a rotating basis. This matter will be discussed in more detail at the next Vestry meeting. There is a simple Jr. Warden job description available. Basically the job is a matter of taking care of the building and grounds by delegating needs. It's not necessarily a hands-on job. The Junior Warden coordinates with the Property Committee.

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Currently Tom Panek heads the Property Committee. Susan Sherard heads the Garden Committee. Routine seasonal tasks are in a list held by the Property committee. Currently the role does require someone who is familiar with the church and the expertise of the members of the parish.

7. Ash Wednesday (and the beginning of the season of Lent) is February 17. Details regarding an Ash Wednesday service and possibly an opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes will be announced in the near future.

8. **Our next Vestry Zoom meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 5:00 p.m.** This will be the first Vestry meeting for incoming Vestry members. We will need to make Vestry liaison assignments at that meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: New Business *(Lynda Miller)*

Status of Living Gifts fund: Peggy Barnes is working on the bylaws of the committee in order to jump-start the committee. Several additional persons have already offered to serve. A Vestry liaison will be decided at next meeting.

Local Covid vaccinations: Jim Haaga suggested that the Vestry could make calls to be sure their “calling” groups are clear about how to get these vaccinations. This was discussed without resolution, as it was felt that first the Vestry would need training before reaching out. Currently many ECHS people are on waiting lists. Possibly the ECHS medical experts could counsel or give current info. No action will be taken at this time.

AGENDA ITEM: Next Vestry Meeting Date *(David McNair)* **Tuesday, February 16, 5:00pm via Zoom**

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

David will prepare a job description for Jr. Warden in writing and send it out to the Vestry.