

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## JUNE 2, 2020, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due  
for Review/  
Assigned To

**Date:** June 2, 2020    **Time Started:** 4:05pm    **Time Ended:** 5:50pm

**Next Meeting:** June 23, 2020. (Meetings are currently on a three-week schedule.)

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

**Members Absent:** Loraine Hilty, Adam Reda

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

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### DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

**Welcome, Opening Prayer** (*David McNair*)

**Check In** (*David McNair*)

**AGENDA ITEM: Vestry Minutes Approval: May 12, 2020** (*Clerk, Lorrie Cooper*)

**AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report** (*Bill Sewell*)

Review of expenses and income from offerings. Discussion of the loan through the Payroll Protection Plan. Discussion was over whether ECHS receiving the loan was at the expense of other small local businesses. Should the money be returned? The other point of view on the situation was that it's best to hold onto the money for now and return to this discussion before sending the issue on to the Finance Committee.

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

1. Mowing, trimming and general grounds work has been done as needed.
2. The 10' x 10' vegetable garden has been enriched and smooth tilled.

May 12 Vestry Report was approved with one correction.

Discussion of PPP money will be put off until more information is available and David McNair can consult with the Bishop.

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3. Three members of the Property Committee met as planned with Mariah Hughes of Ivy River Partners to seek solutions to the erosion of the creek bank. We will review the detailed attachment she sent via email. It will be a labor intensive, expensive and notable change to the look in this area to which we have been accustomed.
4. Six church members worked two and a half hours on the front bank of the church with cardboard and mulch. It will require a few more hours to complete.
5. The Memorial Garden and stairway planting continues to receive special attention.
6. John Ballard, who previously helped us with a speaker sound system into the Narthex, visited to further determine the effective and attractive method to get amplified sound to the Sanctuary. We still hope this can happen before we return for a gathered service after the long absence.
7. I have turned the dehumidifier back on since autumn in the Sanctuary AC room. I am addressing a minor odor there too.
8. One of the toilet seats in the bathroom may need to be replaced.
9. The metal frames of the Sanctuary chairs have been disinfected.
10. David McNair, our Rector, has painted the art wall. It is a welcome improvement. He and Mark Holland have added a fresh look to entering the church.
11. I will arrange professional cleaning of the carpets in the church. I will meet with a rep this June 3 to discuss and estimate costs.

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

(There was no prepared report from the Sr. Warden.)

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

**1. Pastoral Care issues:**

- \* Cal Wilson was diagnosed with covid-19 about eight days ago. He had a high fever the first 1-2 days but has not had a fever since. Marnie says he is very thin and is often confused. Marnie is able to connect with him via phone on a daily basis.
- \* Katy Singhus, daughter of Lynda Miller, was moved from the ICU unit at Mission Hospital to a step down unit. Lynda reported on 5-30 that Katy is doing much better; her blood pressure under control, more mentally sharp and eating regular food.
- \* We give thanks that David Larkin-Thorsen, son of Nancy Larkin, has nearly recovered from a serious infection on his leg possibly caused by a cat scratch. Nancy reports that he is feeling much better and that he has recently returned to work.
- \* Esther Moriarty's mother, Alice Moriarty, died last Tuesday. She was in her 90's and had suffered from dementia.

Creek bank needs to be looked at by a pro and given knowledgeable advice by that professional.

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\* Nancy Whittaker's cousin, Betty Israel, was diagnosed with covid-19 and is living at Aston Park. She is in her 90's and also suffers from advanced dementia.

**2. There will be a second MANNA Food Bank food distribution** at Northview Trailer Park in Weaverville this Friday. Rebecca Sharp is organizing a team of people to pick up food for twenty families there and transport it to ECHS where this food will be distributed to Latino families in Madison County.

**3. Response to the diocesan "An Initial Approach to Regathering" document.** I propose we reach some decision about the following:

\* Publicize a statement from Vestry stating our decision that ECHS will NOT regather for a full congregation, in-person worship service before a designated date. I propose that this date be **September 6, 2020.**

\* We need to create a document detailing our ECHS Building Use and Disinfectant Protocol. This will be our guiding document once we officially open our building for use. A volunteer is needed to write our "ECHS Building Use Disinfectant Protocol."

\* We need to decide the conditions for allowing ECHS building use for church members and community groups. I propose that ECHS allow groups of fifteen or less to gather in our church building with the stipulation that the group agrees to follow ECHS Building Use Disinfectant Protocol.

\* Consideration of whether we would like to begin regathering in small groups (8-12 people) for OUTSIDE Evening Prayer services some time in July. This would allow us to practice and to be educated regarding our ECHS safety guidelines with one another in small groups before we try to meet in larger groups. Such small groups would have a designated group leader who would be trained in group facilitation and our ECHS Safety Protocols (i.e.: maintain at least six-foot distance between people, required wearing of face masks, everyone bring their own lawn chair, no food sharing etc.). Each group could decide their meeting location. Initially, a maximum of two groups would be allowed to meet on the ECHS property. At some time TBA, we may want to transition to offering small group (8-12 people) outdoor Sunday worship services to allow for in-person gathering. If/when we offer this in-person gathering, we would also need to ensure there is a virtual meeting option available for people who choose to not gather in person.

Helpful if Vestry puts out a statement that it has decided that for the safety and health of the ECHS community, the parish will not gather together before September 6. It would be a statement to put out to the congregation.

David likes the statement used by Trinity and suggests adapting it as a basis for Holy Spirit's statement, only tweaking it slightly. David is willing to use that and get the okay from the Vestry to send it out to the entire Parish. Question discussed: would it be possible to have small groups (eight to ten people) come together for prayer while practicing safety? Possibly using different spaces — maybe as many as ten outside locations.

David will prepare a statement for the Vestry to send out to the Parish.

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People would be required to bring their own masks and portable chairs. No food or singing would be involved. Each group would have a leader in charge of protocol. This event would be a start of coming together along with the option of not participating for those who are not ready.

**4. FYI, I am working making arrangement to take some vacation time.** The week after Christmas was the last time I took vacation time, so it's important (for all of us!) that I take some time for R & R. I will communicate with you when I have decided on vacation dates.

**5. Next Vestry Zoom check-in meeting: Tuesday, June 23 at 4:00 pm.**

**AGENDA ITEM: Old Business** *(Lynda Miller)*

Solar Energy Seminar

ROAR effort update: Debra reported that this weekly food-give-out program happens every Saturday, 12:00noon to 2:00pm. ROAR is the only agency providing food on Saturdays. ECHS donated baked goods.

**AGENDA ITEM: New Business** *(Lynda Miller)*

Guidance for reopening churches in diocese. More discussion at next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM: Next Vestry Meeting Date via Zoom** *(Lynda Miller)*

Tuesday, June 23, 4:00pm

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Respectfully submitted,  
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

David proposes discussing the small group experiment in more detail at the next meeting.