

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MARCH, 2020, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due
for Review/
Assigned To

Date: March 24, 2020 **Time Started:** 4:00pm **Time Ended:** 4:50pm

Next Regular Meeting: April 7, 2020, 4:00pm via ZOOM. (Each Vestry person will receive an email invitation to the Zoom meeting on Tuesday morning April 7th.)

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

Members Absent: Jim Woodruff, Junior Warden; Clerk was also not in attendance

Other Attendees: David McNair, Rector; Ty Jones, Deacon

DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

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

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

February minutes
approved via email.

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

1. As planned, Carter Septic from Weaverville pumped the church septic tank on February 25. His report was a favorable one. After many years of use, the system was "digesting as it should."
2. The library wall has a new paint color and trim, which was completed March 15. Susan Sherard, Barbara Schauer, Mark Holland, and Ingrid Diederer volunteered for the work, although this may be a short list. Clean up and the return of books to their shelves will ensue. We still need someone to catalogue and thin the number of volumes, which was not part of the task of the painters. Further plans are for matching four chairs.
3. The wall that displays art will soon be receiving another fresh coat of paint. The nail holes have been spackled/patched. The original paint from 2017 (Sherwin Williams) was used because it has remained in good condition.
4. Kathleen Phillips initiated a new and cleaner way to recycle, which began March 9. Signs were displayed over the recycle area in the kitchen, asking people to rinse plastic and glass and then placing those items in a drain basket. She placed smaller recycle containers in the utility room. It's best to give this effort time to see how well it works.

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5. The proposed mulching and planting gathering for March 21 is unlikely. Ed McNally has been planting some of the native plants. The spring cleaning of the church scheduled for April 4 will proceed, we hope. Any suggestions by Vestry will be appreciated.
6. The Japanese maple has been moved from its temporary "heeling in" to its permanent location outside the sanctuary windows on the Memorial Garden side.
7. The dwarf pine with the broken ceramic pot has been planted along the granite path to the Memorial Garden. An extra positive is that it leads the eyes to the Garden.
8. A walker from the choir room was borrowed by Kent Self to lend out. He will eventually return it.

AGENDA ITEM: Communications Report *(Pam McNally)*

I have been calling some of the single people I know merely to visit, not necessarily the ones on my assigned list. I have been encouraging them to call others in order to stay in touch. That's Communication! In that process, someone made a suggestion he wanted passed on to Vestry. He would like to see the church be ready to help members who may lose their incomes and need help in paying bills. Along that line, I would ask you all to call or write to French Broad Electric Coop and ask them not to send out disconnect notices until this emergency is over. Also, they should extend credit to people who are on flex pay.

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

1. Due to the precautions taken by Holy Spirit to limit gatherings, we have cancelled the in-person Vestry meeting scheduled for March 17, 2020. Reports should be submitted online, and any discussions will be held via email.
2. Last month's minutes were slightly revised and have been approved by a majority via email.
3. All Vestry members are encouraged to take personal safety measures as needed, and to remain in touch with their call list periodically, in order that church members do not feel isolated.

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

1. Pastoral Care issues:

* Our entire church and community (and world!) are a pastoral concern as we all are in the midst of a dire health and economic crisis because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are all facing a great deal of uncertainty, stress and anxiety and I encourage us to extend extra kindness, patience and grace to one another and to be especially mindful of and prayerful for those who are most vulnerable.

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- * Nancy Whitaker is home after receiving several weeks of physical therapy at Elderberry following a fall and a broken ankle.
- * Rebecca George fell and injured her leg on the heels of recovering from an unrelated shoulder injury. She is wearing a leg brace but is able to drive and get around fairly well. In addition to her own injuries, she is very concerned about her only sister, Betsy, who is currently being treated for cancer (lung cancer, I think).
- * After consulting with various doctors, OC Edwards has decided to forego heart valve replacement surgery. He will continue to be treated for congestive heart failure. He and Jane are home at Mars Hill Retirement though they are not able to receive any visitors because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- * Cal Wilson continues to reside at Aston Park Health Care Center in Asheville. He too is quarantined and not able to receive visitors (including Marnie) for the foreseeable future.

2. The following Visitors to ECHS completed a visitor since our last meeting: Jud Meaders, PO Box 1458, Canton, MS 29046 (*rootintootie2mac.com*); Deidre Soileau, 840 Madison Heights Drive, Marshall NC 28753

(*djsoileau2gmail.com*)

3. All ECHS worship service, committee meetings, etc. are suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic until further notice. I am participating in a Zoom meeting tomorrow with Bishop Jose and will report any relevant information, recommendations, and advice.
4. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, questions, suggestions, etc., as we move through these trying days. Beginning next Tuesday, I would like for the Vestry to have virtual meetings via Zoom about every one to two weeks to check-in and share updates, concerns, plans, etc. I will ask Martie to send out a Doodle poll with several meeting time options and we will set the meeting on the day and time that is most convenient for the most of us. My hope is that these meetings will begin next week.
5. I plan to make phone calls to each person/household in our congregation on a weekly basis, simply to check in and see how people are doing, and whether they have any specific needs/concerns. **I also plan to keep office hours at ECHS: Tues. – Thurs. 10am-12pm. I will be at the church at other times as needed.** Please let me know if you have other suggestions or how I can be pastorally present and available to our congregation in the coming days.
6. I would like each Vestry member to contact those on their Vestry call list once every two weeks for the foreseeable future. Please let me know if this proposal seems appropriate and manageable to you.
7. Mark Holland and Barbara Shauer have completed painting our library and it looks terrific! Susan Sherard has also been assisting with the project. Kathleen Phillips has agreed to coordinate culling books in the library and reshelving them.

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- 8. The Outreach Committee had a strategic planning meeting last Friday led by Susan Sewell. One of the outcomes of that meeting is that Susan Sewell agreed to chair the Outreach committee through 2020 to help the committee reestablish structure, leadership, protocol, and a plan going forward.
- 9. I have told Martie Carson that she may work from home for the time being. Martie and I are in daily communication M-Th. I have asked Rebecca Sharp to continue to clean the church on a weekly basis. I have directed her to do deep cleaning of the building. She is also recording her work time on her time sheet for work done from home in support of Las Esperanzas. Currently she is working on several grant applications for Las Esperanzas and she is being intentional in staying in communication with the women who are part of that group. I have communicated with Martie, Rebecca and Teresa that our intent is to continue to pay them normally – and that we will give them adequate notice if, for some reason, we are not able to fulfill this financial obligation to them. I strongly believe that our church has a responsibility to continue to pay them during this pandemic if at all possible.

AGENDA ITEM: New Business *(David McNair)*

Our next scheduled Vestry meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7 at 4 p.m. via Zoom. Each Vestry person will receive an email invitation to the Zoom meeting on Tuesday morning April 7. **Please submit any Vestry reports via email ASAP.** Our meeting agenda will primarily be to check in with one another and to share personal and parish information updates as well as scheduled plans in the future.

Dick will get together with David to compile a list of those willing to run errands for others.
Jim will look into well water testing.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk