

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MAY 12, 2020, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due
for Review/
Assigned To

Date: May 12, 2020 **Time Started:** 4:05pm **Time Ended:** 5:30pm

Next Meeting: June 2, 2020. (On three-week schedule)

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

Members Absent: Adam Reda

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

DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

Welcome, Opening Prayer (*David McNair*)

AGENDA ITEM: Vestry Minutes Approval: April 7 and 21, 2020 (*Clerk, Lorrie Cooper*)

Minor changes made to April 21 report and sent to the Vestry shortly before the meeting.

Reports of April 7 and April 21 were approved.

AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report (*Bill Sewell*)

Contributions and pledges continue to come in. Distributions are being made to outreach causes. Very strong pledge support: \$19,208 year to date. Paypal is working well for receiving payments. Working on 2019 audit materials in preparation for outside auditor. Peggy Barnes has been helpful.

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

1. Property Committee has asked for a meeting with a representative from Ivy River Partners in Marshall to help ECHS address the dramatic erosion of the creek bank below our roadside church sign. The meeting will be held Friday, May 14, in the morning.
2. Plastic covering the area on driveway bank has been redone to burn off weeds and grasses before native plants and grasses are planted.
3. The planted area above the Memorial Garden has been mulched. Susan Sherard chose to pay David and Tacoma herself to do the mulching rather than accept the offer that the church would cover the cost.

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4. The last mowing was May 9. I will ask the trimmers what their season schedule will be. Some areas have been trimmed, and others have not.
5. The church was donated a ten-year-old gas mower by Jim and Margie Haaga. It's powered by the rear wheels. A few years ago, John Pfaff and David Dorn donated a gas mower having no powered wheels, which creates exertion for the person pushing it back up to the shed from the Memorial Garden. Now that we have the mower with the powered wheels, it's best to find a new owner for the one from John and David.
6. Tom Panek rotary tilled the 10' x 10' vegetable garden plot on the east side of church as Rebecca Sharp previously requested for La Esperanza outreach.
7. My checks into the condition of the inside of the church have been uneventful. No one has notified me otherwise.
8. The sanctuary chairs have been arranged by Dick Jordan in their regular, neat configuration.
9. Between Mark Holland and myself, we will have the art wall repainted by May 18, and the paint supplies in the library will be returned to owners.

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

The Finance Committee held their regular meeting on May 7, 2020. Bill Sewell reported that pledge giving has been strong the past month, and that funds were disbursed for several First Sunday recipients (details to come at the Vestry meeting). Regarding the PPP funds received, the Vestry ultimately will decide what to do with any excess funds with input from the Finance Committee. The committee also discussed the condition of the physical plant, which is quite aged and will need major repairs at some point in the future (roofing, heating/cooling units, etc.). A possible response to this would be to direct some of the budget excess (if there is any) into the Capital Reserve fund. A minimum amount for the reserve fund was suggested at \$15,000; we currently have \$10,128 and add (per budget) \$200 per month. The vestry was advised to think about adding to this fund, due to the age of various aspects of the physical plant.

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

1. Pastoral Care issues:

- * Mary Smith broke her wrist in an accident involving a fall from her horse last week. She reports that she is recovering and is grateful that the accident was not worse. The accident was caused by a mountain biker riding on the trail designated for horse riders. The biker startled her horse, which led to the accident. Her friend and co-rider's horse were also injured (seriously) in the accident. (But the horse is doing well now.)

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* We continue to remember Cal Wilson who is suffering dementia and living in quarantine at Aston Park Health Care Center. Marnie has been able to visit him (practicing social distancing) once in the past eight weeks.

2. FYI: Deidre Soileau began attending ECHS only a few weeks before the North Carolina “Stay Home, Stay Safe” requirements were issued. It is a difficult time to be new to a church, and so I encourage us to make a special effort to reach out to her and offer her welcome. Dianne Harper is another person new (again) to ECHS, returning to ECHS after having moved away several years.

3. MANNA Food Bank contacted Rebecca Sharp last week and asked her to help coordinate food distribution to Latinos in north Asheville and Madison County. Boxes of fresh vegetables, milk, dry goods, etc., were delivered to approximately sixty Latino families last Friday. Supplies for twenty of those families were distributed from our church parking lot. Thanks go to Rebecca Sharp, Stephanie McCullough, and Vivienne for their help in transporting and distributing these food supplies. Rebecca is hoping that this partnership with MANNA will become a regular practice in the coming weeks. If so, she will recruit volunteers to assist with food transportation and distribution.

4. Currently, churches, synagogues and other faith groups are categorized as part of Phase II of the North Carolina reopening plan. Bishop Jose has assured our diocesan clergy and leaders that he and other state and national Episcopal Church leaders will in the coming days offer specific guidelines and recommendations regarding the opening of churches within our diocese. He has requested that local congregations wait to receive these guidelines before making reopening plans. One consideration to take into account before resuming services at the church building: Singing spreads contagion significantly more than talking.

5. As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns, questions, suggestions, etc., as we move through this time of pandemic. My cell # 828-273-7985.

6. I would like the Vestry to have a check-in Zoom meeting in three weeks. At some point we may decide that meeting every four weeks is adequate, but, for the time being, a meeting every three weeks seems needed and appropriate. **Next Vestry Zoom meeting, Tuesday, June 2 at 4:00pm.**

Everyone in attendance indicated willingness that Vestry meetings be held at three-week intervals.

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AGENDA ITEM: Old Business *(Lynda Miller)*

Discussion was held about what to do with the PPP money. The Vestry will return to this topic in future meetings. Although there are four volunteers to help with errands/driving, per Dick they have not been asked for help by anyone.

AGENDA ITEM: New Business *(Lynda Miller)*

David shared a letter advertising a seminar related to the use of solar energy by churches. Solar energy for ECHS has been considered in the past, but was not acted upon. A Vestry member reported that French Broad will give billing credit for less usage due to the solar help, but will not buy back any power generated by the solar installation. The cost savings benefit will not show up for 9-12 years. Can use it either with or without batteries. Debra and Kent looked into getting solar energy for their home. She gave a report of what they were told when a rep came out to talk to her and about solar energy. If congregation has interest, the possibility might be revisited.

Debra reported that ROAR is giving out food boxes at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension - Madison County Center on Saturday (May 16). ROAR will add baked items to the boxes, provided they are individually wrapped. Donated baked items should be wrapped and brought to the church by 11:00am Saturday.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

Following are two reports submitted via email, one from Mary Maupin and the other from Mary Jo Sparrow. Although not on the agenda, they are included here at the request of the Senior Warden:

From Mary Maupin:

I'm sending this email to Vestry, Outreach members, and La Esperanza members as an update re: the activities and current status of La Esperanza and Mujeres Humanitarian Fund. First of all, a disclaimer — In the Mountain Spirit it was mistakenly reported that Rebecca Sharp *and* Mary Maupin are Coordinators of La Esperanza—that's definitely not the case. Just to clarify, the following is Rebecca's job description:

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Rebecca is THE COORDINATOR par excellence of La Esperanza! Rebecca spends an average of sixty hours a week working for La Esperanza. Her job includes calling members of the immigrant community in Madison and North Buncombe counties (including many who are not involved with our Mujeres group at ECHS) to check on them and assess their needs.

In addition, she's organized a youth group for Latino and Americano kids (who have been visiting and having fun with Mars Hill Retirement Center residents), she contacts other agencies and arranges for activities for Mujeres such as English lessons, health screenings, immigration information, and domestic violence information and assistance. Mars Hill University has been inviting our women to join a Spanish class. Rebecca contacts other churches and takes a major role in organizing fund-and awareness-raising meals at these churches. She's on call to find drivers (with major help from Pam McNally, and sometimes at a moment's notice) for family members to the clinic or other necessary appointments. She's a liaison between us non-Spanish speaking *chicas* and our Mexicana Mujeres. In addition to all these time-consuming jobs, she has to write grants to help fund her position. This [the above], basically is her job description, and also a description of what La Esperanza does.

ECHS Outreach Committee decided to designate four of our chosen agencies as First Sunday recipients to receive First Sunday funds immediately (thus also receiving the \$350 ECHS match) because of the immediate need for these four agencies. La Esperanza is one of these four First Sunday offering recipients this May/summer. Like many other agencies, La Esperanza has a paid coordinator, Rebecca Sharp.

Here's a report on current fundraising for Mujeres Humanitarian Fund—which will not receive First Sunday offering monies. To clarify for those of you who may not know the difference, the MHF was started by the women (both Mexican and North American) in La Esperanza to help anyone in the community who is in dire straights. Currently, this fund is being used to help women whose husbands have lost jobs due to the spread of Covid-19. To date, this fund has received money from forty donors, to the tune of \$5510. In addition, MHF has received several Ingles cards, given by at least two other donors. As of May 3, about \$2600 cash has been distributed to our families, in addition to some of the gift cards (Rebecca has an exact record of this).

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From Mary Jo Sparrow:

I'm going to piggyback on Mary's report with regards to the current status of My Sisters Attic and Place. The store shut down for a couple of months. They just reopened, using staff only with some protocol in place. Only six allowed in store at a time WITH masks, allowing thirty minutes of shopping time, then allow another [group] in from the parking lot. Donations are being wiped down with a Chlorox mix. They're currently trying to spray clothing, but finding that to be expensive, plus having trouble finding spray. I'm not sure how long that will be sustainable. They have seen an increase at the shelter of needy women/children during this time. They would like to resume volunteer assistance beginning in June. I've had about two-thirds of our volunteers not wanting to return yet. I may try an appeal through the church to bridge the gap or welcome other suggestions or ideas. Their first day reopened brought in \$400 in proceeds, a pretty good day for the store.