

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT NOVEMBER 17, 2020, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due  
for Review/  
Assigned To

**Date:** November 17, 2020    **Time Started:** 5:00 pm    **Time Ended:** 6:30 pm

**Next Meeting:** December 15, 2020, 5:00pm.

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

**Members Absent:** Adam Reda

**Other Attendees:** David McNair, Rector; Ty Jones, Deacon; Bill Sewell, Treasurer ; Lorrie Cooper, Clerk (partial meeting attendance); Linda Tull

\*\*\*\*\*

## DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

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

Call to order with a prayer and a reading.

**AGENDA ITEM: Brief Check In**

Dick Jordan's eye surgery went well.

**AGENDA ITEM: Vestry Minutes Approval: October 20, 2020** *(Clerk, Lorrie Cooper)*

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

Pledge and Open Offering receipts have continued favorable relative to prior years. Fifty families/people have returned their pledge cards. After the deadline for return, Vestry will follow up with those who did not return cards. Responses enable budget planning for 2021.

Expenses have been favorable to budget, primarily due to adjustments required by the COVID pandemic restriction on in-person meetings. Staff continues to be paid, but there are significant savings in areas such as office expenses (printing of bulletins) and building utilities.

Minutes from  
October 20 were  
approved.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOVEMBER 17, 2020**  
**VESTRY MINUTES**  
**DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

Action/Date Due for Review/ Assigned To
---

In November the final payment on ECHS's 2020 pledge to the Diocese will be made. One more quarterly payment of ECHS's commercial insurance policy is due prior to year's end. ECHS, along with other congregations in Madison County, will now be paying the \$180 annual fee for trash disposal. The church treasurer is optimistic that there will be an operating surplus at year's end. The treasurer awaits guidance for applying for forgiveness of the Paycheck Protection Program loan. There's no cost while awaiting the final rules.

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

1. Use of church building for meeting purposes continues to be restricted.
2. Lorraine Hilty and Lynda Miller attended via Zoom the Ninety-Eighth Diocesan Convention on Nov. 13-14, 2020, with David McNair. Along with elections for diocesan officers and other positions, various programs of the diocese were presented with several inspiring videos. The keynote speaker was Catherine Meeks, who delivered a moving plea for racial reconciliation. Following this came small group discussion regarding our "dreams" for a future without racism.

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

**1. Pastoral Care issues:**

- \* Suzan Bergland discovered about two weeks ago that she had a brain tumor, and last Wednesday she underwent surgery to remove the tumor. She will meet with her doctors this week regarding the prognosis and treatment options. She is home in Palm Springs, FL and is receiving home health care.
- \* Kent Self is recovering from COVID-19. He ran a fever for more than a week but thankfully, his fever broke this past Friday. Debra reported that he is weak and fatigued but doing better.
- \* Dick Jordan had eye surgery on Monday, November 16, 2020. Following the surgery, which went well, he reported no experience of pain.
- \* Taylor Barnhill is feeling better by the day following prostate cancer surgery on Oct. 28. He expressed gratitude for those at ECHS who provided meals during his recovery.
- \* Carol Currie continues to receive chemotherapy for lung cancer, which has metastasized to several places in her body.
- \* Paul Sumner, husband of Lorrie Cooper's dear friend, Phyllis, is being cared for at home following bowel surgery. He is declining and is receiving end-of-life care. Prayers requested for God's healing and peace.

Paul Sumner  
died Monday,  
Nov. 16.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOVEMBER 17, 2020**  
**VESTRY MINUTES**  
**DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

Action/Date Due for Review/ Assigned To
---

- \* John Doran is receiving radiation treatment five days a week for the next seven weeks for cancer in his vocal chords. Each treatment lasts about 15 minutes.
  - \* Ann Smith's mother Linda fell down seven stairs this past weekend, resulting in a bleed on her brain. While waiting for a room in the ER, she fell off her gurney and broke her hip. She had hip replacement surgery Saturday. Ann reports that she is standing and taking steps.
  - 2. Thank you to Lynda Miller and Loraine Hilty, who attended the virtual annual diocesan convention last Friday and Saturday!
  - 3. The ECHS Re-Gathering Team will meet this Wednesday, November 18.
  - 4. The ECHS Black Jesus Book Group is scheduled to meet virtually Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m. The group will discuss a 1971 conversation between James Baldwin and Nikki Giovanni, which can be found on YouTube. This group meets each month every third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and third Thursday at 10 a.m. We will alternate every other month between a book discussion and a video on the topic of the healing of racism and white supremacy.
  - 5. Each Sunday of Advent, which begins on Nov. 29, at ECHS will focus on a theme:
    - Advent 1:** Keep awake: watch for glimmers of hope in our daily life
    - Advent 2:** Prepare the way: Engage in practices restoring our faith in God's presence.
    - Advent 3:** Testify to the Light: Look towards those whose lives are shaped by joy.
    - Advent 4:** Do not be afraid: Imagine a peaceful heart and a peaceful world.
- The congregation is invited to prepare an Advent wreath in their home that we will light together during the virtual Sunday morning services. The Altar Guild will provide Advent wreath supplies (greenery and candles) in the hallway at the church for those who will come pick them up. As part of our virtual Sunday morning prayer service in this season of the incarnation, Barbara Schauer will offer a body practice prior to the service prelude. A different person will preach on each of the four Sundays in Advent: David McNair, Linda Brown, Susan Sherard, and Ty Jones.
6. Realizing that many in our church will be unable to visit family and friends this Christmas season, would the Vestry be interested in offering a couple of festive opportunities for virtual fellowship during the twelve days of Christmas. Would anyone be interested in working on planning these virtual gathering opportunities?
  - David and Linda Tull report they have a protocol for a Christmas Eve Service in the parking lot, with clergy above at the patio. A sound system is needed.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOVEMBER 17, 2020**  
**VESTRY MINUTES**  
**DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

Action/Date Due  
for Review/  
Assigned To

Anyone having suggestions about getting a system should call David.

The Re-Gathering Committee will meet Wednesday, Nov. 18, to study the plan and make recommendations to the Vestry. The Vestry will then vote by email.

7. The following persons have agreed to be nominated to serve a three-year term on the ECHS Vestry: Mark Holland, Kathleen Phillips and Barbara Schauer. Currently no one has agreed to serve as Jr. Warden. Another option is having two Jr. Wardens to share the responsibilities of that position.
8. Bishop Jose is scheduled to visit ECHS on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021. I will be discussing with him if/how he plans to join us and I will communicate this to you ASAP.
9. I have been asked to officiate the wedding of Jeremy Fox and Jan Shabaz on Feb. 14, 2021, in the ECHS sanctuary. The wedding party will be ten to fifteen persons total. I will be speaking to the couple being married and inform them of the COVID-19 restrictions that are in place at ECHS.
10. EHCS Stewardship packets should be returned to EHCS by Nov. 18.
11. Rebecca Sharp and Paula White are leading an outdoor youth gathering at the outdoor shelter on the greenway this Friday afternoon as an opportunity for fun and fellowship. Mask wearing and the practice of social distancing will be required.
12. Two weeks of continuing education remain this year for me to take. I hope to take one week during December for reading and retreat. I have not yet decided which week, but I will communicate that decision when it's scheduled.
13. **Our next Vestry Zoom meeting: Tuesday, Dec.15 at 5:00 p.m.**

Vestry members are asked to save Jan. 10, 2021, for a possible Zoom meeting with the Bishop

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

1. 2020 Fall Work Day consisted entirely of outdoor work and was attended by fifteen people.
2. Larry B. has remedied the buzzing fluorescent lighting in David and Martie's offices.
3. The donated chairs have found new homes: Ten chairs will be kept for the Community Room and twenty-two chairs were donated to La Esperanza.
4. The dying Weeping Cherry at the front of the church has been removed.
5. Should the canopy shelter at the back of the church be taken down?
6. The church interior is in good shape.
7. Feedback is needed about the eroded bank near the sign. The Property Committee made a recommendation a few months ago, which will be communicated shortly.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOVEMBER 17, 2020**  
**VESTRY MINUTES**  
**DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

Action/Date Due for Review/ Assigned To
---

**AGENDA ITEM: Outreach Report** *(Nancy Larkin)*

**Update: Church Of the Advocate**

On October 25, 140 people were fed lasagna, salad, and brownies.

A list of items needed throughout the year will be provided by Deana, the COA Rector.

**Beacon of Hope is November First Sunday Offering**

**Angel Tree**

All angels have been picked up! A huge thank you goes to all who participated. Rebecca Sharp has indicated that the Mujeres money may cover their gifts. Waiting to hear more about this but it doesn't seem to be an urgent need. A reminder: all gifts must be turned in by Monday, November 30.

**Ingle's Cards-**

Crellin is taking this on. Roger will continue to distribute. The question has been asked if cards can be recycled? The answer is no, due to Ingle's policy.

**November Thanksgiving Meal** has been cancelled.

**Christmas Boxes**

Items for families in need will be collected. Outreach will work with First Baptist to coordinate efforts. ECHS will be asked to provide certain items for about seventy boxes. Funds are available that can be used.

**Thrivent Grants-** Money is available, and the best use of this money is being explored.

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

Not all Vestry members have a copy of the 2020 directory. Pam McNally offered to hand deliver paper copies which might be requested.

Debra introduced the possibility of using pre-recorded music to take pressure off the musicians who regularly contribute to the Zoom services. For example, could Teresa perhaps record some preludes? David mentioned that piano doesn't record well for Zoom, but perhaps she has a keyboard which could record those preludes.

**AGENDA ITEM: Next Vestry Meeting Date** *(David McNair)* **Tuesday, December 15, 5:00pm via Zoom**

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

David will ask Martie to send a PDF copy of the directory to all Vestry members.

David will discuss this possibility with Teresa.