

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OCTOBER 20, 2020, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due
for Review/
Assigned To

Date: October 20, 2020 **Time Started:** 5:07 pm **Time Ended:** 6:15 pm

Next Meeting: November 17, 2020, 5:00pm.

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

Members Absent: Debra Alexander

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

DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

Welcome, Opening Prayer (*David McNair*)

Call to order with a prayer and a reading.

AGENDA ITEM: Brief Check In

Brief noting of cases of Covid appeared at Madison Manor Nursing Home. Cases are present at the Early College. Another outbreak was traced to a church gathering.

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

AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report (*Bill Sewell*)

Attached are reports through September YTD. These reports were reviewed by the Finance Committee at their meeting last week. Receipts from pledge payments and open offering have continued strong and September YTD expenses were \$7,689 below the budgeted amount. Fourth quarter is usually a strong quarter. Budget will likely be reached. Also attached is a first draft of a 2021 operating budget. Given the substantial uncertainties brought about by the COVID pandemic, this draft budget is largely based on a continuation of the 2020 budgeted amounts.

Minutes from
September 15
approved.

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At present, information is incomplete on several uncontrollable line items including Rector health insurance, property and liability insurance and the government cost-of-living adjustment. No action on the budget is required or expected at this time, but we welcome suggestions or input.

The Diocesan Pledge for 2021 has been included at the suggested minimum level of 10% of 2019 operating receipts. The Diocese has asked that our Vestry approve this number at Tuesday's meeting so that it can be incorporated into the budget presentation to the Diocese Convention.

Savings in office supplies due to not printing the weekly bulletins. Utility costs are down due to limited use of the building. One more payment of Diocesan Pledge for the year. It is three quarters paid.

Discussions:

- Peggy Barnes has agreed to chair the Living Gifts committee, which has a fund that can be used for community needs.
- Possible uses for the capital reserve.
- Internet and Phone Service: A lower level service offered by French Broad Fiber would suit the needs of ECHS. Contract with Frontier expires in mid-March. Can use same phone number. Decision in mid-Feb would allow enough time to get in place.

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

1. Every time I have entered the church over the last month, I have found most everything in good order, including all doors being locked.
2. There is a minor odor in the old robing room, which I am trying to resolve.
 Otherwise, the interior of the church is staying comfortable.
3. I will compile a suggested work and improvement list to submit to the Property Committee for 2020 to determine which items to address. Members of that Committee are Larry Burda, Tom Panek, Teresa Matthews, Susan Sherard, and Harold Toney. As Jr. Warden Vestry member, I am responsible to report their attention to property.
4. A reminder: Saturday, November 7, is the Fall Workday from 9am-12pm.

Motion to approve the 19,080 pledge amount to the Diocese was unanimously approved by Vestry members in attendance.

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

No written report.

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

1. Pastoral Care issues:

- * Taylor Barnhill will undergo surgery to remove cancerous cells in his prostate next Wednesday, Oct. 28, at Wake Medical, Raleigh. He hopes to return home on Friday, Oct. 30.
- * Carol Currie is currently receiving chemotherapy (via pills) for lung cancer which has metastasized to several places in her body. She and Walt are spending most of their time in their home in Georgia. Please keep Carol, Walt and their family in prayer.
- * Paul Sumner – Husband of a good friend of Lorrie Cooper is now living in a Chicago nursing home following after-effects from his brain cancer which, although treated, created additional problems. Prayers requested for God's healing and peace.
- * John Doran was diagnosed with cancer in his vocal chords two weeks ago. His doctors told him that it is a slow growing cancer. He and Martie will travel to Wake Forest University Hospital this Friday and he will undergo a laser procedure to remove scar tissue. This is expected to make the radiation treatment he will receive more effective. John has requested that people treat him the same as always!

2. The ECHS Re-gathering Team continues to meet. We are meeting Monday, Oct. 19, and I will provide an updated report from that meeting

3. The Rev. Dena Whalen, rector at Church of the Advocate (COA), will be our guest preacher this Sunday, Oct. 25. COA meets in the undercroft of Trinity Episcopal, Asheville and is a church primarily of people who are homeless. Dena is relatively new to COA and we welcome her to this shared ministry of our diocese. COA is one of our ECHS First Sunday offering recipients and ECHS will be providing lunch for @ 120 this Sunday afternoon.

4. The ECHS Black Jesus book group is scheduled to meet virtually this Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m. and/or Thursday, Oct. 22 at 10 a.m. We will be discussing the book *"White Fragility, Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism"* by Robin DiAngelo. This group is also scheduled to meet every third Wednesday (at 6:30 p.m.) and third Thursday (at 10 a.m.) of each month. We will alternate every other month between discussing a book and a video on the topic of healing racism and white supremacy.

5. Our 2020 Episcopal Diocesan Convention is scheduled for Nov. 13-14. We are grateful to Lynda Miller and Loraine Hilty who have agreed to serve as our ECHS delegates! Ty Jones and myself will also attend. The convention will be virtual. All are invited to attend any portion of the Diocesan Convention.

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To do so, contact me and I will provide you an App which will enable you to attend virtually. Dr. Catherine Meeks will be the guest speaker at this convention. Dr. Meeks, PhD, is the Founding Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. Prior to the center's opening she chaired its precursor, Beloved Community: Commission for Dismantling Racism for the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

6. Following our Vestry meeting today, Lynda Miller and I would like to meet briefly with those Vestry members who will complete their term of service (Adam Reda, Mary Jo Sparrow, Donna Turnbaugh and Jim Woodruff) to discuss securing new Vestry member nominees..

7. All ECHS members are encouraged to participate in the "Ties That Bind Challenge." The challenge is for all members to make at least one contact per week with other ECHS people via email, phone call, note, etc. In this way, we can continue to stay connected and be encouragers of one another during this time of pandemic separation. I would like to have Vestry member feedback on whether additional congregational outreach/contact is warranted.

8. I have been asked to officiate the wedding of Jeremy Fox and Jan Shahbaz on Feb. 14, 2021, in the ECHS sanctuary. The wedding party will be 8-10 people total. The Vestry will need to decide if it will be permissible for this wedding to happen in our sanctuary on this date..

9. The ECHS Stewardship packets will be mailed on Monday, Oct. 26. It will be requested that the green "Financial Pledge form" and the yellow "Volunteer Ministry form" will be returned to ECHS by Wednesday, Nov. 18. Vestry members are asked to contact those on their Vestry Call List between Nov. 2-6 to simply ask that they have received their ECHS Stewardship packet and a reminder that they need to be returned to ECHS by Nov. 18.

10. Debra Rice, a member of the Celo Friends (Quaker) Meeting from Yancey County, contacted me recently and asked if this Friends Meeting could use our church building for their bi-weekly Friends meetings. Currently they have less than 10 people attending. Their preferred meeting time is Sunday afternoons. They would like to begin meeting ASAP – and assured me that they will practice safety protocols. We did not discuss a fee for building use but I imagine that they would be willing to pay a (small) monthly fee.

11. I am hoping to offer some version of a Christmas Eve service on in our church parking lot. This will need approval of the ECHS Re-gathering Team and the vestry. I will present a plan to do this including safety protocols before our Nov. Vestry meeting.

12. Our next Vestry Zoom meeting, Tuesday, November 17 at 5:00 p.m.

David hesitates to use our building for the Fox wedding. The vestry concurred. David will discuss with Jeremy the need for tight numbers and other requirements if he decides to proceed. Topic to be revisited at next meeting

It was decided that for now the Quaker group may not use our building. This decision can be revisited once COVID is past.

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AGENDA ITEM: Outreach Report *(Nancy Larkin)*

Update: Church Of the Advocate

October First Sunday thus far has been \$1,025

On Sunday, October 25-Dena, the Rector at the Church of the Advocate, will be preaching at our church

On October 25 we will be feeding 140 people lasagna, salad, and brownies.

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

Beacon of Hope is November First Sunday Offering

Angel Tree

Marnie, Nancy and Carol Van Voorhis are getting this set up. It's a little more complicated with Covid, but they will make it work. The discussion revolved about the best way for people to get their angels. Stay tuned to announcements in the Monthly Spirit and Weekly Spirit and special e-mails from Martie. Limit is 25-27 people from DSS and then pick up some Mujeres families. Nancy will contact Rebecca about this. The key is moving this early enough.

Ingle's Cards-

Crellin is interested in talking to Mike about taking this on. Roger is helping Mike at this time and will continue to do so for awhile. The question has been asked if cards can be recycled? David is exploring this and will set up a basket at church to place used ones in. Roger has informed us that this is not possible. More discussion is needed on this.

November Thanksgiving Meal has been cancelled.

Christmas Boxes

Items for families in need will be collected. We will work with First Baptist and coordinate our efforts with them. We will be asked to provide certain items. There will be about 70 boxes. We have some funds that can be used for this.

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AGENDA ITEM: Old Business *(Lynda Miller)*

Discussion of how Mujeres Thursday group is doing. Masks are being worn. Still meeting weekly and working on sewing.

AGENDA ITEM: New Business *(Lynda Miller)*

Most new business was discussed previously in the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Next Vestry Meeting Date *(David McNair)*

Tuesday, November 17, 5:00pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk