

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SEPTEMBER 15, 2020, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due
for Review/
Assigned To

Date: September 15, 2020 **Time Started:** 5:05 pm **Time Ended:** 6:00 pm

Next Meeting: October 20, 2020, 5:00pm.

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

Members Absent: Jim Woodruff, Junior Warden

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

DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

Welcome, Opening Prayer (*David McNair*)

Brief Check In (*Lynda Miller*)

AGENDA ITEM: Vestry Minutes Approval: August 18, 2020 (*Clerk, Lorrie Cooper*)

AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report (*Bill Sewell*)

—Reports to be reviewed at the Vestry meeting are attached. These were reviewed by the Finance Committee at their meeting this morning. [Sept. 10]

—Pledge and Open Offering receipts continue to come in at a very satisfactory rate. Expenses are at or below budget for most line items. Able to pay staff.

—An outstanding item is the forgiveness of the PPP loan. We are still waiting for guidance from the Small Business Administration and First Bank and plan to complete this as soon as we are able. In the interim, there is no expense related to holding the loan and we are confident that it will be fully forgiven when procedures are finalized.

—We are beginning to work on the 2021 operating budget. Obviously this is a bit tricky since 2020 was not a typical year in terms of operations, and we don't really know when we will be back to normal or some variant of normal. I will be sending out emails requesting input from various program areas. If any of you on Vestry has thoughts or items to call to my attention, your input is certainly welcome as well!

Minutes from
August 18
approved.
Minutes from
called meeting of
Sept. 9 approved.

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—Property taxes: Property has been revalued, but will likely stay similar.

Discussion: Cost of church landline (phone). Currently under a contract. May not need the land phone line, but the number needs to be maintained. This matter will be considered when contract is up.

The Capitals Reserve fund is being rebuilt in anticipation of property needs. Fifteen thousand is recommended by Finance Committee for reserve.

AGENDA ITEM: Jr. Warden's Report *(Jin Woodruff) [Unable to attend the meeting]*

1. Larry B., Tom P. and I (along with David McNair) checked the ceiling with an extension ladder in order to find out why there was wood dust on one of the chairs. We could not find a source, but did discover some white haze on the wood ceiling. It likely comes from aging polyurethane or pine sap that is hardly apparent to the eye when looking from the floor. It may need to be addressed in the future. It would be an extensive project.
2. We should have our Annual Fall Cleanup. Maybe Saturday, October 31 or November 7? Considering a safe way to gather outside but particularly inside safety.
3. My vote on the donated chairs is that we not use them visibly in the church, but could consider any possible need minimally: e.g., Kindermusik/Choir practice room for members to sit.
4. Jr. Warden nominee: I looked through our church registry as a beginning. I do not have the list with me.
5. Concerning the subject for continuing congregational outreach/contact: I love the concept. Yet have experienced my personally falling short in commitment.

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

Following the Called Vestry Meeting regarding non-compliance with regathering guidelines by the Mujeres group, there was retraining of the group when it assembled the following day. It was reported that all guidelines were followed at that meeting. The hope is that the group will continue to comply, now that contributing factors (such as complicated sewing machines) have been addressed.

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

1. Pastoral Care issues:

* Taylor Barnhill will undergo surgery to remove cancerous cells in his prostate. Date TBA.

Wants to recommend donating to Homeward Bound, while keeping ten of the chairs for the choir practice room. Vestry voted in favor.

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* Doug Peacock continues to recover from back surgery and will begin PT treatment in the coming weeks. His post-surgery pain level is significantly less, and he is walking and slowly resuming routine daily tasks.

* Paul Sumner – husband of Phyllis Sumner, who is a dear friend of Lorrie Cooper — is now living in a nursing home following bowel surgery. He is currently under Covid quarantine and unable to have visitors. Prayers are requested for God’s healing and peace.

2. The ECHS Re-gathering Team continues to meet and work on the establishment of safety protocols and guidelines for ECHS regarding in-person meetings and gatherings at ECHS. This team is scheduled to meet Monday night, Sept. 14. I will provide an updated report from that meeting to the Vestry on Tuesday.
3. Episcopal deacon Phyllis Manoogian will offer the sermon on Sunday, Sept. 27, and share with us about her work at an Episcopal tutoring center for children in San Andres, Guatemala. The ECHS Outreach Committee has designated this tutoring center in Guatemala as the recipient of a 2021 First Sunday offering.
4. The Rev. Scott Harden Nieri, Director of the Western North Carolina Creation Care Alliance, will be guest preacher at our Zoom service Sunday, Oct. 4, as we observe the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi.
5. The ECHS Black Jesus Book Group is scheduled to meet virtually this Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m. We will watch and then discuss a lecture by Dr. Robin DiAngelo on the question: “*What does it mean to be white in a society that proclaims race meaningless yet is profoundly separated by race.*” At these meetings, we’ll watch the video together, but anyone who would like to preview the video beforehand may do so by clicking the following link: <https://youtu.be/DwIx3KQer54>. Our book for the meetings on Oct. 21 (6:30 p.m.) and Oct. 22 (10 a.m.) is ***White Fragility*** by Robin DiAngelo.
6. Our 2020 Episcopal Diocesan Convention is scheduled for Nov. 13-14, and will be virtual. Dr. Catherine Meeks, Ph.D., the guest speaker at this convention, is the Founding Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. Prior to the Absalom Jones Center's opening, she chaired its precursor, *Beloved Community: Commission for Dismantling Racism for the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta*.
 Our Vestry is required to elect two ECHS members to serve as our convention delegates, and I must submit the names of our delegates before Oct. 18. How would the Vestry like to secure our diocesan convention delegates?
7. The Vestry must secure four nominees to serve a three-year term on the Vestry beginning January, 2021. Adam Reda, Donna Turnbaugh, and Mary Jo Sparrow are scheduled to rotate off the Vestry after serving three years. Jim Woodruff will also rotate off the Vestry in Jan. 2021 after serving two years as Jr. Warden. In the past, Vestry members set to rotate off Vestry have worked with the rector and Sr. Warden as a nomination committee to secure ECHS members willing to be nominated.

Madison County numbers are above the threshold, and so ECHS in-person meetings will not yet happen.

Nominees to attend (virtual) Episcopal Convention:
 Lynda Miller,
 Loraine Hilty

Four Nominees for Vestry are needed. People rotating off should help w/recruitment process. Need names by November.

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Is this how we would like to proceed? If not, how would the Vestry like to proceed in securing Vestry nominees? Please forward any recommendations for new Vestry members to David or Lynda Miller.

8. Financial Committee Update: The ECHS Finance Committee (FC) met last week. FYI: Bob Johnson announced his intent to step down as FC chairperson at the end of 2020, though he will remain on the FC through 2021. The FC is working to secure a new chairperson and to fill a vacancy on the committee beginning 2021.

9. 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.

10. A Vestry decision is needed regarding whether we will keep or donate the chairs gifted to ECHS.

11. FYI: I will be officiating the wedding for Allen Mueller and Lauren Bradford on Sept. 26 at a B-n-B in Hot Springs. The couple, previously unknown to me, live in Durham, North Carolina, and requested that I officiate at their marriage ceremony through a recommendation from Adam and Jennifer Reda.

12. **Our next Vestry Zoom meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m.**

Replacement
chair of
Finance
Committee
needed.

Dealt with under
Jr. Warden’s
report.

AGENDA ITEM: Youth Activities *(Mary Maupin)*

Report from the Aug. 27, 2020, meeting to discuss Youth Activities was attended by David McNair, Mary Jo Sparrow, Rebecca Sharp, and Mary Maupin (as Vestry Liaison). Activities during the past year organized and led by Rebecca Sharp, until Covid:

- Monthly youth retreats
- One overnight with senior kids
- Activities such as making valentines and delivering them to the Mars Hill Retirement Center.

All ECHS kids were invited, but these group events were attended mostly by Latino kids. I’m estimating from what I observed that 10 to 15 (or more) kids attended each event.

Discussion regarding starting/continuing youth activities:

- Consistency is needed.
- Difficult to get ECHS kids together—kids are busy with other activities.
- Desire to do something monthly in-person with youth
- Possibilities: bonfire, outdoors movie, scavenger hunt—welcome other suggestions

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- Possibly start in September?
- Plans contingent on re-gathering

AGENDA ITEM: Children's Sunday School Program *(Mary Jo Sparrow)*

Debra Alexander and Mary Jo Sparrow met mid-August to brainstorm people to approach regarding becoming the coordinator for Children's Sunday school. We're searching for someone to replace Deb Carlson when she resigns in January. We compiled a list of 5-10 individuals and decided to contact Esther Moriarty first. After some thought and conversation with Mary Jo and Deb Carlson regarding what the role would entail, Esther agreed to become our new coordinator. We will put an article in Mountain Spirit to thank Deb and welcome Esther. If in-person church services are happening at that time, we'd also like to honor Deb Carlson with a celebration when she steps down.

AGENDA ITEM: Outreach *(Nancy Larkin)*

One hundred and ten lunches were prepared and delivered to the Church of the Advocate. Genevieve coordinated the backpack project. All were filled and delivered as requested. Deb Carlson will be doing the shoe cards. The list of needy Christmas angels will be compiled. Nancy Larkin, Marnie Wilson, and Carol Van Voorhis are coordinating this project under Lynda Miller's guidance! Donna Turnbaugh will also be available to help.

The Grant sub-committee was unable to meet due to Covid concerns. Susan Sewell is drafting a plan based on the information that has been received. It appears that all recipients who applied are eligible, leaving one Sunday open in case of emergencies.

Funds received for August First Sunday recipient, Homeward Bound, amounted to \$1161.00. Nine carloads of new or almost-new household goods were delivered to Homeward Bound's Welcome Home Center. *Consider Haiti* is our September's First Sunday Offering recipient— to date \$215.00 has been raised.

Susan has made a request to COA for a date in October that ECHS can provide a meal. The date will be shared with the entire church as soon as it is set. Mary Jo is checking with Red Roof Inn on their needs. So many of the homeless organizations are sharing meals (COA and Red Roof Inn) we want to be sure to coordinate donations of food!

The following list of First Sunday recipients for 2021 was approved by the entire committee. Roger Hartner expressed concern that we have no first Sunday offering to assist the black community.

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David shared information about a new grassroots group forming in Madison County engaging in discussion of racial reconciliation. More information will be shared.

First Sunday Recipients for 2021

January – Rector/Deacon Discretionary Funds

February – Neighbors in Need

March – Madison County Friendship Fund

April – Community Housing Coalition (CHC)

May – La Esperanza Immigrant Ministry

June – *Ninos Creadores de Hisortia*, Guatemala Educational and Nutritional Program for Children.

We are thankful to Crellin Byrd for educating all of us about this ministry. Crellin will also reach out to Rebecca Sharp to acquire potential pen pals between the children of La Esperanza and the Guatemala program.

July – Beacon Of Hope

August – Church of the Advocate

September – Homeward Bound

October – Pisgah Legal

November – Consider Haiti

December – Outreach

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

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

David reminds all Vestry members to contact at least one person a week.

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

Tuesday, October 20, 5:00pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk