

Vestry Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024

Vestry members present: Senior Warden Gail Kase, Junior Warden Peggy Wilson, Amanda Hilty, Claire Gillespie, Mike Robinson, Carol VanVoorhis, Deb Carlson, Bendik Clark

Absent: Rev. Dena Whalen, Clerk Deidre Soileau

Others in Attendance: Discernment Committee Chair Bill Sewell, Treasurer Sam Shiver

Evening Prayer: Begin in silence

Opening devotions: Peggy Wilson

1. **Approval of October 22 minutes**—completed November 9, 2024, via group emails.

2. **Discernment Committee report:** Bill Sewell.

Action item: The Parish Profile and OTM were unanimously approved by Vestry.

Bill reports that after sending the OTM and Parish Profile, the Diocese offered some minor suggestions for improvement. An upcoming meeting consisting of Canon Augusta Rev. Joslyn Schaefer, Bill Sewel, Sam Shiver, Gail Kase (and possibly incoming Treasurer Marcus King) will determine what we can offer as a salary.

After the Profile is released, there is a six-week period of receiving applicants followed by some consolidation by the diocese

3. **Restructuring of Holy Spirit Financial system.** The most recent restructuring proposal was distributed for the Vestry's review. Restructuring is necessary for 2 primary reasons.
- a. Bill Sewell essentially provided 3 jobs as treasurer: Procedural oversight and organization, creating and managing a budget, and bookkeeping.
 - b. Gail accepted Peggy Barnes' resignation; Peggy has served in various financial capacities at Holy Spirit for many years. Katie Douglas has served as our bookkeeper for the past year and has agreed to take over management of receivables. This will require a few more hours of her time and a salary increase of about \$250 per month.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** See Sam's report on page 3 to review. Sam requests creating a line item specifically for "Rector Search Fund" as well as moving the residual money from the 2024 Sabbatical Reserve Fund into the new RSF.

Action items: Vestry unanimously approved the increase in Katie Douglas's salary.

Vestry unanimously approved adding a line item for Rector Search Fund, and to moving the money currently in the SRF into the new RSF.

5. **Interim Rector's Report.** See page 3
 6. **Senior Warden's Report.** See page 4
 7. **Junior Warden's Report.** No report this month (see Property Committee Report)
 8. **Committee liaison reports.**
 - A. Property: See page 4.
 - B. Finance: Dena. Ex officio. No report this month
 - C. Stewardship: See Den's report on page 3
 - D. Celebration: Carol. No meeting this month.
 - E. Outreach: Carol. See page 4
 - F. Church Caring Crew: Bendik. No report.
 - G. Communication Committee: Amanda. No report
 - H. La Esperanza- been working on hurricane relief efforts but there is no report
 - I. Welcome Ministry: Claire. See page 7
 - J. Christian Ed: Deb. See page 7
 9. Ice breaker. None this time.
 10. Vestry Rep responsibilities.

Concerns from congregation. Dogs in Church. A discussion ensued with various opinions. Will continue next month with Dena's input.
 11. Treasurer. Marcus King has agreed to take over as Treasurer in January!!
 12. Pastoral concerns or addenda. Joan Mahon's Celebration of Life to be November 26th.
- Next Vestry Meeting December 17, 5:00.

To Dos:

Treasurer's Report

1) Request that the Vestry approve an additional annual payment of \$3000 to Katie Douglas.

She will be assuming Peggy Barnes' Receivables duties as of 1 January 2025. Due to the time required to accomplish this, we will need to pay her an additional \$250 per month, or \$3000 annually. The total annual cost for her services will be \$8000.

2) Request that the Vestry approve

- a) the establishment of a budget line item for Rector Search funding, and
- b) the move of monies presently in the Rector Sabbatical Reserve (\$6849.88) into Rector Search.

As our rector discernment process continues, a well-defined method of tracking expenditures will be helpful. The sabbatical reserve fund is a remnant of David McNair's tenure and is available to apply to our search.

3) The latest total of Helene Relief donations comes to \$29,671.32. Thanks to Peggy Barnes for keeping track.

Interim Rector's report

All Saints Sunday included a necrology for those who have died in the past year. An Ofrenda table was set up by Rebecca Sharp and friends, which displayed photos and remembrances of loved ones.

I met with Ty Jones and Ann Smith who are heading up Stewardship. The theme this year for Stewardship has been to ask these questions of ourselves in relation to our ministries at Holy Spirit (my paraphrase):

What am I being invited by God to let go of, lay down so that I can be open to new ways of involvement?

What am I being called to say 'yes' to in service to God and our church?

How are we to prepare to receive our new priest and be open to the changes and new opportunities ahead of us?

Ann Smith, Dena Whalen, and Amanda Hilty spoke to these questions at Sunday services.

I visited Susan Singleton, the Harrisons, Harvey and Liz Lewis.

Visited Frances Knisley at Mission Hospital; visited Frances and Joan Mahon at Mars Hill Manor. Said prayers for the end of life for Joan, with anointing. In touch with others who have had pastoral needs.

In celebration of and thanksgiving for Joan's life, The Burial Office and Holy Communion will take place Tuesday, 11/26/24.

Planning an Advent series for Wednesday Potluck & Program on the theme of what it means to be a good neighbor: Judeo-Christian teachings, our cultural expressions, and personal experiences of neighborliness.

Senior Warden's Report

11-19-24

Greetings!

We're in the midst of Stewardship season, recovering from hurricane Helene.

The election.

Our Parish Profile is finished, and the Vestry, Discernment Committee and Canon Augusta and Joslyn Schaefer will meet for a retreat on Sunday November 19th. Soon, potential candidates for our new Priest will be able to see our Parish Profile.

We're living in a time of many changes, in a time of building and reflecting, managing anxiety about the safety of our immigrant friends, and hopeful expectation for the beginning of a new chapter in our Holy Spirit album. I am so grateful to be on this boat with you all, because we need each other's support to help us stand firm on unsteady ground, (or on the deck of a ship in unsteady seas.)

If you are the liaison to a committee, please remember to submit your reports by Friday, November 15th, even if the committee has not met since our last meeting. This gives everyone a chance to read them before the meeting and allows Deidre time to include them in her minutes. Please send them to Vestry members, Dena, Deidre and Martie, and include the name of your committee.

Please send me anything that you would like to add to the agenda by Saturday the 16th.

I trust that the vestry will continue to be a body that guides and supports our Holy Spirit community: helping us all to keep our hearts and minds open to discern what Love asks of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Kase,

Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

No report this month.

Property Committee

The property committee met Sunday, November 11.

Property committee decided a wait-and-see approach pertaining to the sink hole in pavement on the edge of the parking lot. It has been filled and they will keep an eye on it.

A subcommittee will explore some additional seating options above the memorial garden, and on the flat gravel pad for those that aren't able to make it down into the memorial garden area. They will also explore ways to provide an ability to hear the service for anyone seated up in those proposed areas. Parish workday was held on Friday Nov 15. We got the leaves gathered and into front beds, cleaned out the gutters, trimmed back some summer items.

More to come on an additional work day first part of December.
Respectfully submitted
Peggy Wilson.

Finance Committee

No report this month.

Stewardship

Mike Robinson

No Report

Celebration Committee

Carol VanVoorhis

No report this month.

Outreach Committee

Carol VanVoorhis

Attending: Susan Sewell, Carol Van Voorhis , Nancy Larkin, Tamma Moriarity, Mary Jo Sparrow, Pam McNally, Crellin Byrd, Marnie Wilson, Nancy Whitaker, Peggy Wilson

Approved another \$2500-to each -- Beacon of Hope and Community Housing Coalition (unanimous approval)

We have received over 10k through PayPal and our ask on Facebook! Members of the church have encouraged friends and family to give, it's been a great success.

First Sunday Applications-we will approve by the quarter for FY 2025

January-World Central Kitchen

February-La Esperanza

March-Beacon of Hope

Future Potential First Sunday's: Homeward Bound, Church of the Advocate, Pisgah Legal, Rector's Discretionary Fund, Beloved Asheville, Neighbors in Need, Community Housing Coalition, Neighbors in Need is in transition; their space was destroyed in the flood in Marshall (they were housed in Marshall Presbyterian). They are looking for space, may move to providing heating assistance only.

Specific Request (Kiera): Barnardsville Baptist Church was destroyed in the flood; Susan will see if Ann Smith can get us additional information

Social Services Request:

For December-Gift Cards-for foster kids and seniors
Collect through Dec. 8-will announce Nov 8th
\$25 amounts in cards from Amazon, Target, Walmart and Ingels

Holiday Bazaar-December 7-should wear red Holy Spirit Shirts

Pricing-Carol, Peggy
PR-Nancy & Mary Jo
Food---just offer a bowl of soup (not charge---for a donation could take some home)
Pam McNally will help Pam Hayhurst with pricing and set up in kitchen. Lorianne will also help.
Silent Auction-Have pieces ready---Peggy and Susan will organize this
Will have Silent Auction items up by November 29 to allow church members to look and bid
Have paintings, birdhouse, stained glass, pottery etc.
Pat Mahon has donated a box of photography-anyone who buys a one will be entered into a raffle for a framed photo.

Set-up-December 6 - "all hands on deck!"
Need Sign-ups for people to help (Peggy will do this- Nov. 3)

Sign-ups needed:

Make chili, baked goods, clean up, check-out (Bill will handle the square)

Places things will be set up:

Teen Room-Crafts and towels
Community Room-Plants and crafts
Library-silent auction
Signs by road---poster and sign (Peggy)
Posters-Weaverville and Mars Hill and Woodfin
Posters-30
Postcards-200**
Send copy of Poster to Amanda Hilty to develop an event page on Facebook and Crellin

Music in Sanctuary: Keith, Ann, Mark (potential "easy listening" musicians -who would like to take this on to coordinate and ask if they will do?)

Radio: Jim Thorsen will interview Carol and Susan about the event.

Next meeting-Dec 1st

Church Caring Crew

Bendik Clark

There has not been a meeting

Communication Committee

Amanda Hilty

None

Welcome Ministry Report

Claire Gillespie

Started a first Saturday music circle here at CHS for the community which has been changed to second Saturday. Planned a newcomers chili dinner for the first part of December. Monthly birthday cake and song the first Sunday of the month for birthdays each month. (beginning in 2025). Other ideas: talent show, game night, movie night, individuals to invite new folks to Camdens for coffee or to the bakery for muffins.

Christian Education

Deb Carlson

Advent Series Dena Whalen TBD

Discernment Committee Report

As you should have seen, the parish profile and OTM questions have been completed and sent to Canon Augusta and Bishop Jose for review. Much thanks to Deidre for compiling our responses and thanks to the vestry for your input. The next step is anti-bias training, scheduled for 11/17 for all vestry and Discernment Committee members.