

Vestry Meeting Minutes **June 18, 2024**

Vestry members present: Senior Warden Gail Kase, Claire Gillespie, Deb Carlson, Mike Robinson, Amanda Hilty

Absent: Peggy Wilson, Bendik Clark, Rebecca Sharp, Carol VanVoorhis, Rev. Dena Whalen, Treasurer Sam Shiver, Clerk Deidre Soileau

Opening devotions: Begin with silence

1. Approval of May minutes—completed on June 10, 2024 via group emails.

2. Treasurer’s report:

Discussion about Sam’s recommendations (see attachment on page 6; this was sent to Vestry prior to the meeting and discussed at the meeting):

1. Realigning subsets of operating account.
2. Dividing operating account into checking account and money market (interest earning) account.

VOTE: These recommendations were approved

3. Interim Rector’s Report. See page 3.

4. Senior Warden’s Report. See Page 3.

5. Junior Warden’s Report. None.

6. Committee liaison reports.

- A. Monthly featured committee article for Mountain Spirit
- B. Property: None.
- C. Finance: Dena. Ex officio. May 30 meeting.
- D. Stewardship: Mike. No meeting this month.
- E. Celebration: Carol. Celebration has not met since the last Vestry Meeting
- F. Outreach: Carol. Outreach has not met since the last Vestry Meeting.
- G. Church Caring Crew: Bendik. No meeting since the last Vestry meeting.
- H. Communication Committee: Amanda. No meeting since the last Vestry meeting.
- I. La Esperanza: Rebecca. None.
- J. Welcome ministry: Claire. See her report on page 5.
Discussion about Vestry assisting Welcome Committee with sending birthday cards to congregation. TBC in August. Claire and Loraine to meet with the leader of Bonner Scholars to plan a dinner at Holy Spirit.
- K. Christian Ed: Deb. None.

7. Discernment Committee Report.

- a. CAT survey to close Wednesday June 19th.
- b. May 30th retreat.
- c. Amanda explained Holy Conversation dinners at MH Baptist Church to be scheduled in August.

8. Ice breaker. Postponed until August meeting

9. Vestry Rep responsibilities.

- a. Concerns from congregation. Report of Call list results.
- b. Vestry Rep duties: Vestry Reps are double-checkers. It's our responsibility to assure that the Sunday service goes smoothly (well, as smoothly as possible) and that the church is safe and secure.

11. Treasurer search:

- a. Meeting to define job descriptions for and relationships between Finance Committee/Chair and Treasurer.
- b. Other prospects?

12. Pastoral concerns or addenda.

Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving (In silence) - Rev. Dena Whalen

Next meeting: August 30 (revised since the meeting due to Holy Conversations)

Interim Rector's Report

Vestry Meeting –June 18, 2024

Office hours are usually Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2 or 3 pm. I've attended Outreach Committee and Finance Committee meetings and have met with the Senior Warden and Treasurer.

Pastoral Care:

Home and hospital visits to Kathleen Phillips and Frances Knisley. Monthly visit to Mars Hill Manor for hymn singing and bible reflection.

Formation and Fellowship:

1st Wednesdays at Holy Spirit this Summer

We had twelve people for movie night on June 5.

Crellin Byrd has reserved the Wolf Laurel Pavilion for July 10 and August 14 at no charge.

Starting at 6pm, we'll enjoy potluck supper and close with Compline. Thanks to Crellin!

Sign-

ups will be in the cubby, or contact the office.

Senior Warden's Report

Greetings!

We are moving along with the Discernment process! The Discernment Committee had their retreat with Joslyn Shaefer on May 30 th , and they have been giving weekly reports at our Sunday services. The CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) has been open for every member of our congregation to complete. The survey closes June 17 th , so I hope you have all been able to reach out to your Call List folks. Needless to say, this is super-important--vital--since it is THE BEST WAY for everyone's opinions to be heard and factored into the process of finding our new Priest.

The monthly coaching sessions with Steve Matthews continue.

More thoughts about transitions within Vestry: As you know, Peggy generously agreed to stay as warden for an extra year (for which I am eternally grateful), but we will need to re-establish our traditional stagger for Jr./Sr. Wardens. Some options:

1. The new Jr. Warden serves for only one year.
2. The new Sr. Warden serves for only one year.
3. One of the wardens could opt to serve for 3 years, but this is against "the rules" (that Peggy broke last year).

Sam will be replaced by a new Treasurer. The yearly turnover of 3 vestry members will happen as usual. Dena will be with us until we have a new Priest. However, it's not too early to consider the new crew members coming in January. Please hold these changes in your mind and heart until the time comes to offer names.

If you are the liaison to a committee, please remember to submit your reports by

Friday, June 14th, 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 the end of the weekend.

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

None provided

La Esperanza

None provided

Property Committee

None provided

Finance Committee

None provided

Stewardship

The stewardship committee will not meet again until September.

Celebration Committee

None provided

Outreach Committee

None provided

Church Caring Crew

None provided

Communication Committee

None provided

Welcome Ministry Report

Welcome Committee report: Loraine and Claire, co-chairs, met at MHU with Caroline Twiggs, Bonner Scholar coordinator on Tuesday, June 11. She provided background on students' yearly activities. From that, brainstorming took place. She gave our names and email addresses to three other supervisors of student activities telling them of our interest in being involved to assist students. She will keep in touch about ways to assist in August with new students. It was a productive meeting. The whole committee will meet after church on June 23.

Christian Education

None provided

June 2024 Financial Recommendations to the Vestry

I request approval of the following two financial management proposals:

1. Realignment of subsets of our operating account

There are 30 separate fund categories of our checking account. Quite a few are currently not active; some examples (but not all) are Youth, Inmate, Financial Assistance Fund, Camp Scholarships, Children's Ministries.

I recommend changing all presently not in use to 'inactive' status. This will simplify accounting processes and monthly reports, while keeping past data available for documentation.

2. Division of our operating account into a checking account and a money market account

Background - ECHS has three accounts at First Bank: our 'normal' checking account through which we do all of our business, a money market account for the Montalvo Fund, and the Rector's Discretionary Fund account. Last month, the Vestry approved transferring the Montalvo Fund monies to an account completely outside ECHS' management and purview.

Our main checking account presently stands at approximately \$165,000, of which we use \$30,000 a month for normal income and payments. It is a standard checking account, therefore, it is earning no interest as a money market account would. Katie Douglas pointed out that we are missing an opportunity.

I recommend moving \$135,000 of that \$165,000 into the money market account once the Montalvo Fund has been transferred out. This would earn 3% interest at the current rate. \$30,000 would remain in the checking account for monthly business. If more is needed, it would be simple and easy to transfer money from the money market account.

Many thanks

Sam Shiver