

Vestry Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2024

Vestry members present: Senior Warden Gail Kase, Amanda Hilty, Claire Gillespie, Mike Robinson, Carol VanVoorhis

Others in Attendance: Rev. Dr. Dena Whalen, Clerk Deidre Soileau, John Graeter, Kathleen Phillips

Absent: Deb Carlson, Bendik Clark, Junior Warden Peggy Wilson, Sam Shiver, Treasurer

Evening Prayer: Begin in silence

Opening devotions: Carol VanVoorhis

1. **Approval of August 30 minutes**—completed on September 5, 2024, via group emails.
2. **Treasurer’s report:** (submitted by Sam Shiver in writing) The ECHS annual audit report arrived last week. It revealed no problems and confirmed adherence to all financial management requirements and good practices. All praise goes to Katie Douglas for organizing reams of documentation.

We received the first monthly interest payment since transferring a sizeable amount of our checking/operating account funds into our money market account. This should continue to generate new income of \$300-\$350 per month.

3. **Living Gift Fund (LGF):**
Kathleen Phillips and John Graeter request approval of two grants the LGF Board recommends for 2025. These funds are held by the Community Foundation of WNC, which notifies the LGF what the distributable amount is each year. This year, this is \$4000.

Action Item:

The Vestry unanimously approved the request for the following grants:

- Community Housing Coalition.....\$2000 (toward replacement homes)
- Habitat for Humanity of Buncombe/Madison....\$2000 (toward second home in Mars Hill)

4. **Interim Rector’s Report.** See page 3.
5. **Senior Warden’s Report.** See page 3.
6. **Junior Warden’s Report.** No report this month.
7. Committee liaison reports.
 - A. Monthly featured committee article for Mountain Spirit: Vestry agreed Altar Guild will be highlighted.
 - B. Property: No report this month.

- C. Finance: Dena. Ex officio. Vestry reviewed the draft budget provisional (based primarily off last year) budget and encouraged them to move ahead with developing a 2025 budget for Vestry consideration.
- D. Stewardship: Mike. No report.
- E. Celebration: Carol. No meeting this month.
- F. Outreach: Carol. No meeting since the last report.
- G. Church Caring Crew: Bendik. See page 4.
- H. Communication Committee: Amanda. Will meet September 19. Digital Sign concept favorably received.
- I. Welcome Ministry: Claire. No report. They are having some difficulty finding a time when everyone can come to meetings.
- J. Christian Ed: Deb. See her report on page 5.

8. **Discernment Committee Reports:** See page 5 for Amanda's report.

9. **Stewardship 2024**

Ty Jones and Ann Smith have agreed to co-chair the Stewardship Committee.

10. **Ice breaker.** Vestry discussed something they longed for, and something they regret.

11. **Treasurer search:** No news.

Ending prayer: Carol VanVoorhis

Next meeting: October 15

To Dos:

Gail to send email to committee chairs about collaboration and making use of the Communication Team.

Interim Rector's Report

Pastoral Care & Visits:

- Home communions this month – Deidre Soileau, Sam and Ann Shiver
- Hospital visits to Robertjohn and Claire Gillespie
- Monthly visit to Mars Hill Manor for hymn singing and bible reflection.

Formation & Fellowship:

- Would like to co-host a Newcomer Dinner here at Holy Spirit with any vestry members who can join in. Early evening, simple meal, tour of building and grounds, someone to tell short narrative of the parish. Time to hear from newcomers their stories.

Season of Creation has gone well with the Flower Guild decorating the altar and worship area with the colors and symbols of Spring, Summer, Fall. This coming Sunday (9/22) will be Winter. Deacon Ty's first of two rambles on the Woodland Path offered Celtic reflections. The Feast of St. Francis and the Blessings of the Animals will take place on Sunday, September 29 in the Memorial Garden, weather permitting.

Smart TV Digital Signage over Visitor's Table

- After discussions with Ingrid, Deidre, and Gail, I am in support of the purchase and installation of a Smart TV with digital Sign Player and Digital Sign Software/Storage. Deidre has done research on brands and cost.
- Topics that will scroll on TV are Adult Formation offerings, special fellowship events, special worship events, etc.

Upcoming time away:

I'm walking the last 100 miles of the Camino de Santiago! I'll depart on Tuesday, October 2 and return on Saturday, October 12.

October 6 – Dennis Fotinos, supply priest

October 13 – Todd Donatelli, supply priest

Senior Warden's Report

Greetings!

It seems just a couple weeks since our last meeting—largely because it has been! We return to meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. The annual Stewardship Campaign is upon us. The Discernment Committee has been hard at work with the Holy Conversations, planning a third to include new members and for those who could not attend the other two.

Meanwhile, our website continues to develop, our attendance continues to grow, and our vitality is bright!

If you are the liaison to a committee, please remember to submit your reports by Friday, September 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 Friday the 14 th . 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

No report this month.

Finance Committee

No report this month.

Stewardship

Mike Robinson

No report this month.

Celebration Committee

Carol VanVoorhis

No report this month.

Outreach Committee

Carol VanVoorhis

No meeting since the last report.

Church Caring Crew

Bendik Clark

There has not been a meeting, but the committee has been involved with helping Pat Mahon make his medical appointments.

Communication Committee

Amanda Hilty

Next meeting is scheduled for September 19.

Welcome Ministry Report

Claire Gillespie

Two members of the committee (Pam Hayhurst & Nancy Larkin) greeted and handed out candy and a CHS card, developed by Nancy Larkin, to MHU students at the campus crawl in August. The committee has not met recently.

Christian Education

Deb Carlson

Sundays

Near Death Experience: 9/29 after church

Art Depicting Faith: Ty Jones 11/03, 11/10

Wednesdays

Inner Authority Starr O'Hara last offering 9/18

Divine Feminine Pat Mahan 11/06, 11/13, 11/20

Advent Series Dena Whalen TBD

Discernment Committee Report

Submitted by DC Vestry Rep Amanda Hilty

Discernment Committee: The DC held the makeup Holy Conversation on Sept 8 after the service. There were six in attendance and Bill and Amanda facilitated. As we work to sort through the information gathered, we are using it along with other material to begin forming the parish profile. Meanwhile, Deidre has put together a condensed version of the CAT results. This is available online and a short presentation will also be offered on Oct 20th at 9:00. Patty has been working diligently on a historical timeline and is almost finished pulling the information together.

A five and a half hour Anti-Bias Training is scheduled for 1pm, November 17, at Holy Spirit.