

Vestry Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2024

Evening Prayer,
Begin with silence.

Opening devotions Amanda Hilty.

1. **Approval of minutes from March meeting**—completed on March 22, 2024, via group emails.
Gail notes that the email approval has been enormously helpful and expedient and expresses gratitude for the attention to her emails, especially while we fuel the discernment process.
2. **Treasurer's report**
Sam and Katie are working to simplify the chart of accounts to work more easily with Power Church (some accounts are no longer applicable, and Power Church requires that they receive attention anyway).
3. **Interim Rector's Report. See page 5**
Dena reviewed concepts for revisions to the bulletin:
 - Adding color and an inspirational picture.
 - Add variation in font size and/or bolding, to delineate sections of the service more clearly.
 - Use white paper, which is a cost savings and solves a supply issue (beige paper in that size is difficult to find and increasingly expensive)
 - Complete the entire sequence hymn before the Gospel reading, instead of splitting it into ½ before and ½ after. This allows the service to move directly from the Gospel reading into the sermon.

DECISION: The Vestry approved moving ahead with these changes and seeing how it goes. Dena said they would be implemented for the April 28 service.
4. **Senior Warden's Report. See page 6.**
5. **Junior Warden's Report. No report this month.**
6. **Committee liaison reports**
 - a. **Property:** Peggy: Liaison; See page 7.
 - b. **Finance:** Gail: liaison. No meeting this past month.
 - c. **Stewardship:** Mike: liaison. No meeting this past month.
 - d. **Celebration Committee:** Carol: Liaison: No meeting this past month.
 - e. **Outreach:** Carol: Liaison. See page 8.
 - f. **Church Caring Crew:** Bendik: Liaison. No meeting this past month. The CCC has not met for some time, and Gail and Bendik agreed that both of them will

reach out to committee chair Barbara Moloney to see when the next meeting might be.

- g. **Communication Committee:** Amanda: Liaison. March meeting canceled.
- h. **La Esperanza:** Rebecca: Liaison. See page 6.
- i. **Welcome Ministry:** Claire: Liaison. See page 9.
There was some discussion around activities in conjunction with Pentecost. The Vestry wondered whether there is overlap between Welcome Ministry and the Celebration Committee – and this will be considered further.

DECISION: The Vestry would like to hold a picnic similar to last year's for Pentecost.

- j. **Christian Ed:** Deb: Liaison. No meeting this past month.
The Vestry discussed the need to have more participation on the Christian Education Committee/ministry. Amanda suggested something be sent out that gives parameters of what kinds of programming could be included and how our talented and accomplished members could participate. Gail mentioned that she is working on a concept.

Note for reports: *Deidre will provide a template for committee members to submit reports.*

7. Ice breaker.

Questions and answers: What gives you calmness/peace of mind, and what causes anxiety? The Vestry answered in roundtable format.

8. Discernment Committee Report

- a. **National Diocese Program** (*While is not technically part of the Discernment process, the process and results will be tremendously helpful for creating our Parish Profile, so we are seeing it as concurrent and closely affiliated.*)

The Vestry discussed the free assistance offered through the national Episcopal offices, which includes an approximately 10 minute online “Church Vitality Assessment (CVA)” survey of 12-15 people, and monthly sessions for 5-7 people to be “coached” on ways to look our congregation and ministries and learn ways to help us visualize our future. This small group will be charged with spreading what they learn throughout the congregation.

The Vestry decided that, based on the purpose and use of the online CVA survey, possible participants will be selected randomly, until enough people have agreed to take the survey have agreed. The monthly session participants will be selected by Gail, with Vestry input. To allow for more widespread congregational input, Discernment Committee members will not participate in the survey or monthly sessions.

b. Discernment Process

- The Committee held a 10 minute “stand up” meeting after church April 13 to discuss a few committee logistics.
- The ESRI geo-spatial data has been ordered. This will provide detailed demographic data for the region from which we draw members.
- The congregation-wide survey provided through the diocese will likely be open for participation for 2-3 weeks in early June.
- Holy Conversations, which will involve small group discussions, will likely be held on two dates in July or August (we are working to schedule with the diocese, these are estimates).

9. Pastoral concerns or addenda.

- Mountain Spirit
May will be Lorrie Coopers last month as editor of Mountain Spirit.” The continued publication of the monthly newsletter will be overseen by the Communication Committee, who are actively discussing options.
- Wednesday Potlucks
Dena suggested we reinstitute monthly Wednesday potlucks, possibly including board games, movies, or some topic of interest. The Vestry mentioned the evenings at Wolf Laurel, which lead to the suggestion that we could also walk around/hike/explore the church grounds.

DECISION: The Vestry supports restarting monthly Wednesday potlucks.

- Dena introduced *The Work of the People* website, which includes video and resources for worship. The church now has a subscription, and Dena will send the login information so people can explore what is available.
- Dena discussed a proposal to change the timing of Easter services so there would not be such a long gap after the Sunrise Vigil and the regular Sunday Eucharist.

DECISION: Vestry decided to leave the Easter Service as is.

Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving *in silence*

Closing prayer: *Sogether*

To Dos:

Dena will:

- oversee the changes in the bulletin, and Mike will provide the example to Teresa.
- send out the login information for The Work of the People.
- oversee the reintroduction of Wednesday potlucks.
- ask the Celebration Committee organize the Pentecostal picnic

- Work with Mark and the Christian Ed committee to solicit the church membership for programming content.

Deidre will:

- provide Vestry with a template for committee reports.
- Work with Martie to create a randomly selected list of members and oversee the process to get the CVA surveys completed.
- work to create and send out a questionnaire about Mountain Spirit content.

Gail will:

- with input from Vestry and others, finalize the 5-7 people to be part of the monthly one-hour meetings with the “coach” provided by the National Diocese.

Gail and Bendik will:

- talk to Barbara Moloney about Church Caring Crew next meetings.

Next meeting: May 21

Interim Rector's Report

Interim Rector's Report

Vestry Meeting –April 16, 2024

Pastoral Care: I am reaching out to certain people for home visits to get to know them better.

- On the second Sunday of each month I am leading the Vespers service at Mars Hill Manor.
- Visited newcomers Bud and Gail Wiley. They are transferring their membership to Holy Spirit.
- Also, had the joy of visiting Paula and Brian White after the delivery of twins, Matthew and Maya.

Formation and Fellowship:

After asking some folks about summer programming, I'd like the vestry to give feedback on what they think of a monthly Wednesday evening program in May, June, July, August: a potluck dinner plus: movie, game night, popular topic with movie clips to enhance discussion. Thoughts?

Have subscribed to The Work of the People (www.theworkofthepeople.com) for use at ECHS.

Worship:

- The liturgies of Holy Week and Easter Sunday were much like they have been in recent years.
- We added a wooden cross, donated by the Wilsons, which was carried during the Good Friday
- service. The Great Vigil started at 6:30 am with the lighting of the first fire in the Memorial Garden, included six readings and chants. After the setting of the altar and the singing of the Gloria, we paused worship at 7:30 and enjoyed breakfast. At 10:30 we had the full Holy Eucharist.

Question: The three-hour time span between the end of the Vigil at 7:30 and the 10:30 service proved to be too long for those who attended both services. Also, the arrival of breakfast items was very staggered. There was a suggestion that there be a time of quiet contemplation for those who wish to keep watch around the fire in the Memorial Garden before the lighting of the Paschal Candle.

Suggestion: Consider having the fire lit at 6:30 for those who wish to arrive early for quiet prayer. Light the Paschal Candle at 7:00 am. The Vigil would end at 8:00am; breakfast 8:15 – 10:15; Easter service at 10:30 am.

Senior Warden's Report

Greetings!

Since our last Vestry meeting, much has happened! We entered the Discernment process proper with the charging of our DC members on April 14 th , and Deidre Soileau wears two hats now: Vestry Clerk as well as DC Chair. My role returns to that of a "regular" Senior Warden.

Last month our agenda was running over, this month not so much! This is a great opportunity to bring up new ideas, concerns or news that may have been bumping around. Please be considering possibilities for Treasurer as well as ways that we can keep HS running smoothly.

The Discernment Committee will have a retreat with Shepherd Rev. Joslyn Schaefer on May 30th , which will set the stage for the official start of the discernment process. Meanwhile, we'll plan for Pentecost (May 16th) and our annual congregational celebration.

If you are the liaison to a committee, please remember to submit your reports by Friday, April 12th, 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, Deidre and Martie, and please keep them concise. 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

No report this month

La Esperanza

Report provided by Rebecca Sharp

- La Esperanza family went on a field trip to Beaver Lake Bird sanctuary, with 18 youth and 6 adults attending. It was a wonderful day for all!
- Big 3 church food sale fundraiser Sunday April 20 at St John's.
- 4 new people in the Nutrition "one on one" classes.

Property Committee

Provided by liaison Peggy Wilson

- April 14th meeting (minutes coming and will be added)
- 2 workdays are coming up
- NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) will be starting a new meeting which will take place at the church on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6 pm.

Finance Committee

Provided by liaison Gail Kase

No report this month

Stewardship

Provided by liaison Mike Robinson

The stewardship committee will not meet again until September.

Celebration Committee

Provided by liaison Carol VanVoorhis

There has been no meeting since the last Vestry meeting.

Outreach Committee

Provided by liaison Carol VanVoorhis

Homeward Bound Report-On behalf of Mary Jo: we received a mission report on Homeward Bound. Our church has been very responsive to their needs.

May 26-June 5—Collection for Homeward Bound (Mary Jo will put something in the weekly spirit), she will deliver items on the 6th.

May 13-Bendik Clark and Pam McNally are hosting meetings supporting mental health needs.

Craft Fair/Silent Auction/Bake Sale/soup sale

Dec. 7 is the date for the craft fair. Bake Sale, Soup or Chili, Craft Items, Silent Auction to raise funds for Community Housing Coalition and Neighbors in Need.

We need to come up with a name for it.

Carol gave a Craft Update- 10 people came and it was LOTS of fun!! Corks and pinecones need to be saved. Pinecones need to be baked (see Mtn. Spirit).

Next 2 Craft Days are May 3 and June 7.

Nancy Larkin will do the fliers and info to promote the event.

Susan has six items for the silent auction, Pam will check with neighbor about donation of an air bnb. We want no more than 12 (high dollar) items.

Peggy Barnes will be creating a quilt, she will need assistance and support for sewing the quilt, Susan to get additional information.

1st Sunday Update-

\$4,000 in outreach funds

Empowering Madison Youth to Succeed was March's first Sunday, Susan to get amount raised from Peggy B.

April-Community Housing Coalition

May-La Esperanza

Church Caring Crew

Provided by liaison Bendik Clark

The CCC has not met.

Communication Committee

Provided by liaison Amanda Hilty

The Communications Team has not met since the last Vestry meeting.

Welcome Ministry Report

Provided by liaison Claire Gillespie

The Welcome Committee had scheduled a traditional English Tea for May 25th, but after its April 16 planning meeting, this was postponed or cancelled. The committee is discussing their next steps.

Carolyn Homra continues to make elaborate designs on the welcome board each Sunday.

Christian Education

Provided by liaison Deb Carlson

No report.