

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## FEBRUARY 20, 2024, VESTRY MINUTES

**Date:** February 20, 2024    **Time Started:** 5:00 p.m.    **Time Ended:** 6:25 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** March 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Gail Kase, Senior Warden; Peggy Wilson, Junior Warden; Deb Carlson; Bendik Clark; Claire Gillespie; Amanda Hilty; Mike Robinson; Rebecca Sharp; Carol Van Voorhis

**Other Attendees:** Rev. Dena Whalen, Interim Rector; Sam Shiver, Treasurer; Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

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### DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

**AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order, Opening Prayer** (*Mike Robinson*)

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Vestry Minutes** (*Clerk, Lorrie Cooper*)

Minutes from the January meeting had been approved online on January 30.

**AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report** (*Sam Shiver*)

Welcome to the new Vestry members! I have brought the January fiscal status reports as examples of the information which Katie Douglas, our financial administrator, provides every month. I will make these available at Vestry meetings in case there are any questions. I will also bring up any money matters requiring Vestry approval.

**AGENDA ITEM: Sr. Warden's Report** (*Gail Kase*)

Our meeting schedule has been a bit disorganized lately, partly due to the Annual Meeting and partly due to the cold snap. Be assured, we will return to our routine: third Tuesday of the month at 5:00pm. I'm happy to have Deb Carlson, Claire Gillespie, and Bendik Clark on board as we venture forward.

Please take a moment to think back over the past year as Vestry. I plan a review of our past year together: what worked well, and what wasn't as satisfying. We'll take a few moments to take stock of where we could have better moved forward. Since the new members have all served on Vestry previously, please think over what worked and what could have been improved. One of the advantages of being a mature congregation is our golden abundance of experience!

We had a long-awaited meeting with Canon Augusta and are now officially on the road to gaining our permanent priest. Let's share impressions of our meeting with Augusta and Joslyn. I am quite invested, and I assume you are, too, in getting our transition process moving! Please review the written material she gave us, so we can talk about it.

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

**FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
VESTRY MINUTES, FEBRUARY 20, 2024  
DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM: Interim Rector's Report** (*Dena Whalen*)

The Annual Parish Meeting on February 4 was truly a celebration of the people and ministries at Holy Spirit. God is accomplishing much good among us! Also on February 4, Dick and Ronnie Jordan renewed their marriage vows during the 10:30 worship service.

In the past month I have had pastoral appointments at the church and have visited Frances Knisley, Joan Mahon and Marnie Wilson. I have also phoned several people on the prayer chain. I will visit Martie and John at Baptist Health in Wake Forest on Saturday, February 24.

I met with Sisters in Spirit and plan to attend some of their Saturday gatherings, and I will make the presentation at one of those gatherings.

On the second Sunday of each month I lead the Vespers service at Mars Hill Manor. On Wednesday mornings I also take part in the Centering Prayer group at ECHS.

We had our Ash Wednesday service on February 14 with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion at 5:30 pm. Mars Hill University hosted an Ash Wednesday service. I joined with seven local clergy in leading that service. ECHS provided the ashes.

Time off has included the week of January 22, including Sunday, January 28.

**I will be away for a family gathering from February 21 through Sunday, February 25.**

The theme for the Lenten program following the Wednesday Soup Suppers will be the exploration of three foundations of our faith: Holy Baptism, Eucharistic worship, and interpretation of Scripture. My thanks to Ty Jones for leading the program on February 21.

The clergy of the Asheville Deanery met on February 13. One announcement:

**General Convention Deputation Lunch and Learn**

Wednesday, March 6, Noon, Trinity Episcopal Church, 60 Church St, Asheville, NC 28801

Come and meet our Diocesan deputies to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The General Convention will meet June 23-28 in Louisville, Kentucky. We will introduce our Diocesan deputation, explore the workings of the General Convention, and consider topics that may come before the Convention. Parking is free. Suggested donation for lunch is \$6.00. A brief service of Eucharist led by Bishop José will take place just before the Convention at 11:30am.

**AGENDA ITEM: La Esperanza** (*Rebecca Sharp*)

La Esperanza luncheon fundraiser held at Mars Hill Baptist on February 15 brought in \$1964.00, which will be used for operating funds in order to continue with the regular programming.

La Esperanza youth group met February 10 at ECHS. Seventeen youths attended and made over sixty cupcakes and Valentine cards for the residents at Mars Hill Manor. We then personally delivered the gifts to the Mars Hill Manor residents at their dining hall. It was a beautiful day.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
VESTRY MINUTES, FEBRUARY 20, 2024  
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Due to sickness, the class in Preventing and Controlling Chronic Disease was postponed from January until this Sunday (February 18). We hope to experience a good turn out!

ESL classes continue throughout the community. We have two new volunteers from ECHS who have started with four new students. There are still three students without teachers.

We donated \$2500.00 this month to needy Latina families to assist them with rental and medical costs.

The Advisory Council voted to move Ana's hours from ten hours a week up to fifteen hours a week. This change is contingent on the continuance of funding. Her position has become that of co-director instead of assistant. She is very much equal to me in every way and deserves the title: she often is keeps me organized and on task. The program has significantly expanded due to her commitment and ideas.

**AGENDA ITEM: Outreach Committee** *(Carol Van Voorhis)*

The suggestion was offered that this committee support Pisgah Legal with a donation, due to Pisgah's loss of a Federal Grant for one million dollars. Group consensus at the meeting was to donate \$1,000.

First Sunday donation in November for Consider Haiti: \$1,118.00

December's First Sunday donation for Outreach Fund: \$1,035.00

First Sunday for January: Madison Home

First Sunday for February: Neighbors in Need

Available funding in Outreach: \$3200.00

Available funding in Villager Initiative: \$1275.00

**New Business: Christmas Craft Bazaar Brainstorm**

Discussion on replacing the Heritage Festival with a craft/art/silent auction: It would include lunch for sale (soup, breads, desserts). The date of December 7 will be presented to Vestry for its approval. The silent auction would feature a few high-dollar items, such as art, pottery, services, etc. More discussion on this topic will happen at the next meeting.

**After discussion, the Vestry voted its approval of December 7 as an event hosted at ECHS and advertised to the community as well as to the parish.**

Mary Jo is gathering breakfast items for AHOPE at the end of February and will deliver them the first of March.

**AGENDA ITEM: Celebration Committee** *(Carol Van Voorhis)*

There's been no formal meeting due to the lack of need for having one. Pamela Hayhurst was welcomed to the committee. The committee voted verbally as well as via email to donate \$75.00 from its budget to the Men's Breakfast Group in order to help lighten the financial load of the Pancake Supper.

**AGENDA ITEM: Jr. Warden's Report** *(Peggy Wilson)*

The liaison for the Property Committee met Sunday, February 11, following the service.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
VESTRY MINUTES, FEBRUARY 20, 2024  
DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

1. The proposal for simple Memorial Garden signage prepared by Susan Sherard and Ty Jones was approved by Property Committee. It will match the current style of the signage at the road. The cost of the signage will be donated by Ty Jones in honor of Carol, his deceased wife. The sign will be placed at the start of the footpath to the Memorial Garden at the southeast end of the church parking lot.
2. An appeal from Pam McNally and Bendik Clark for possible use of some church space for a nonprofit mental health support group, NAMI, has been brought to the property committee for consideration. More information about church insurance and NAMI Insurance coverage is pending.
3. Additional details from Pam McNally:

Bendick and I wish to use the church building for Family-to-Family classes and for Family and Peer support groups. He and I will receive training on facilitating these groups. More information about NAMI can be obtained by Googling its website. NAMI holds classes for families and support groups for both peers (people who are living with mental illness) and their loved ones (either families or friends). While living in Minnesota, I participated in these groups when one of my sons became ill at age seventeen. (He is now forty-seven years old.). After taking Bendick's class recently (Mental Illness First Aid). which was sponsored by Madison County, I wanted to look into having a NAMI group in this county. Bendick contacted the Asheville NAMI office to arrange a Zoom Meeting. I can take the Family class and support group training in March. The Asheville NAMI people will provide all advertising and other support to us for running the classes and support groups. We hope also to be able to provide the Peer Support Groups. We would need two rooms to use at the same time since peers are often transported to meetings by family or friends. I believe that we would meet twice a month. Ed McNally and Teresa Matthews have agreed to stay on as co-chairs of the Property Committee for which I am very grateful as well as all the support from the entire Property Committee in 2023.

**AGENDA ITEM: Communications** *(Amanda Hilty)*

The communications committee met Thursday, Feb 15. Points of discussion included the following:

- To whom or what should our focus and efforts be prioritized upon during the upcoming year?
- The delegation of tasks
- Consideration of whether the Communications Committee will be involved (or to what extent) during the transition discernment process.

**AGENDA ITEM: Stewardship Ministry** *(Mike Robinson)*

The stewardship committee will not meet again until this fall.

**AGENDA ITEM: Past Year in Vestry** *(Gail Kase)*

Reviewed, with suggestions to continue some activities. Vestry approved the general organization and content of meetings.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
VESTRY MINUTES, FEBRUARY 20, 2024  
DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM: Meeting With Augusta and Joslyn** *(Gail Kase)*

The Vestry opinion is that the trajectory for obtaining the new rector is long, and possibly we can shorten the time frame. We are thankful that Dena will stay with us for the duration of the process.

**AGENDA ITEM: Vestry Call List** *(Gail Kase)*

Assigned congregants were distributed, and the procedure was explained. This is an important way for reaching out and connecting with the ECHS community.

**AGENDA ITEM: Sunday Procedure** *(Gail Kase)*

The request for more home communion volunteers was fruitful. Announcement protocol was reviewed.

**AGENDA ITEM: Next Vestry Meeting** *(Gail Kase)*

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 5:00pm.

**AGENDA ITEM: Closing Prayer** *(Rev. Dena Whalen)*

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk