

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OCTOBER 18, 2022, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due  
for Review/  
Assigned To

**Date:** October 18, 2022    **Time Started:** 4:30 p.m.    **Time Ended:** 6:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** November 15, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Kathleen Phillips, Senior Warden; Peggy Wilson, Junior Warden; Dick Jordan; Nancy Larkin; Rebecca Sharp; Carol Van Voorhis; Barbara Schauer; Pam McNally

**Absent:** Mark Holland; Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

**Other Attendees:** David McNair, Rector; Bill Sewell, Treasurer; John Graeter, Chair of the Living Gifts Board (LGF)

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## DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

AGENDA ITEM: **Call to Order, Opening Prayer** (*David McNair*)

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

AGENDA ITEM: **Approval of Financial Report** (*Bill Sewell*)

September pledge receipts were lower than desired. However, YTD total income of \$157,294 is only slightly below budget, and treasurer is optimistic that we can reach our full-year budget of \$197,225. Operating expense remains below budget for most line items with total operating expense \$1,324 below budget.

Bill Sewell presented the Proposed 2023 Budget. Discussion centered on the level of increase in the amount proposed. It was agreed that this is a “faith budget” which will be revisited and revised as needed, based on the analysis of pledges received from the Stewardship campaign.

John asked Vestry to approve the following recommendation from the LGF Board:

Community Housing Coalition: \$3000 toward construction of a storage shed on their new property.

The Madison County Arts Council: \$2000 for their building renovation project.

*These grants are confidential until the LGF Committee notifies the recipients.*

Minutes from the September, 2022, meeting were approved.

Vestry approved the “faith budget” as written.

Vestry approved unanimously the two grants for the 2022-2023 cycle.

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

A Fall Parish workday is planned for Saturday, October 29, 9:00am to 12:00noon.

A second workday is scheduled for November 12, 9:00am to 12:00noon.

Efforts to obtain bids for lawn care are ongoing. As with many aspects of other service businesses, lawn care services are struggling with taking on new clients due to the lack of labor force. Rebecca Sharp has given me two more contacts in the lawn care business, and though it's too late for their bids to be considered in the budget process, the information will be useful for future planning.

Bruce Helwig, assessor with Waste Reduction Partners, performed an energy assessment at Holy Spirit in September. The previous assessment was done in 2007. The result from that assessment is expected any time now. It is hoped they provide some affordable suggestions to help implement cost saving measures.

**AGENDA ITEM: Sr. Warden's Report** *(Kathleen Phillips)*

**Stewardship 2023 Campaign** was launched on Sunday, October 9, by committee chair, Jim Haaga. Preparation of packet materials is complete, and Martie is printing and assembling them this week. Committee members will meet on Thursday, October 20, to stuff and address packets. They will be distributed in person on Sunday, the 23rd. Those remaining will be mailed on Monday, the 24th. Ingathering Sunday was scheduled for November 13 but that date may be changed to the 20th. October 13 is the culmination of Diocesan Convention with a special service at Christ School in Arden. All parishioners in the Diocese of WNC are invited to attend. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will preach.

**AGENDA ITEM: Outreach Report** *(Nancy Larkin)*

Deb Carlson has handled shoe gift cards for foster kids. The Shoe Carnival is GREAT!

**Update on Joyful Jars:** Carol Van Voorhis, Deidre Soileau, Nancy Larkin, Susan Sewell

It was a huge success. We need to be aware of the ease (or difficulty) of acquiring the ingredients.

Ideas were discussed for streamlining the project.

**September is Homeward Bound:**

HB requested help with Church of the Advocate (AHope)

David asked us to be aware there is a minimum of six months for obtaining a bed.

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**Update on lunch for Foster Care SS staff:**

Deidre Soileau will explore further.

Final decisions need to be made after getting more information:

Should we have it here or at a restaurant?

Is it possible to do a lunch and a gift card?

What kind of time do they have available for this activity?

What date will work for them?

They have a tremendous turnover of social workers.

**Approved** sending \$600 from Outreach Funds to Housing Development Alliance in Kentucky. Susan has vetted this organization. Deidre reports that Sister's Attic has been gathering clothes for Kentucky.

**Ingle's Cards:** Nicki Toole has offered to take on the entire Ingles Card activity. Our thanks to Crellin for handling this project nearly three years.

**Living Gifts Fund:**

John Graeter (visitor to committee) Chairman of Living Gifts Fund

Working not to overlap the work of LGF with Outreach Funds

Targeting areas needing support: This year it is Capital Funds. Three *[organizations?]* are in the process of applying. A recommendation will be made to the Vestry.

**First Sunday Discussions:**

All are unanimously approved. Below is a list of the applicants and a brief write up for our First Sundays for 2023. If you'd like more information on any of the non-profits, contact Susan Sewell. Complete financials and more info are available. The same nonprofits are listed along with one new one, Madison County Homes.

They will follow this order in 2023, which is similar to past arrangement:

**January: Madison County Group Home (Hot Springs)** serves adults with developmental disabilities. Their Mission is to create an environment in which residents can have experiences, develop skills, and attitudes for independence and group living in order to achieve the highest quality of life possible.

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The home is almost entirely supported by Medicaid/Medicare and Social Security Funds. The funds they are seeking from us with provide excursions for the residents. Covid has restricted them for raising these dollars (usually raised through TrailFest). Overnight excursions are important for the mental health of the residents, especially those who do not have family or the financial means. The Outreach Funds from CHS would be to secure a rental large enough for a beach excursion. Barbara Moloney serves on the board. Bill Sewell also served several years ago and Dick Jordan also served on the board.

**February: Neighbors in Need:** Provides temporary assistance (heating, fuel utilities in crisis situations). These funds will be used to provide that assistance. Board members from church are Claire Gillespie, and David McNair. Ann Toney, Mark Holland, Pam McNally volunteer.

**March: Empowering Madison Youth to Succeed** (Communities in Schools). This organization is an in-school tutoring program at Madison Middle and Madison High School. It provides mentorship, attendance monitoring, and a support system aimed at helping at-risk students stay in school. Each school has a site coordinator. Our funding will be used to add or increase staff time for coordination of this program. Ginny Koranek is a Board member from our church. An issue with IRS reporting will be reported at our meeting.

**April: Community Housing Coalition** – Promote and facilitate healthy, safe, and affordable housing through home repair, rehabilitation, and the creation of new affordable housing. Outreach funds will be used for their Neighbors Helping Neighbors program, providing urgent repairs for the elderly in our community. Susan Sewell is a board member.

**May: La Esperanza Immigration Outreach** – Providing outreach and building a network of community support, the funding will be used to continue programs of La Esperanza. This includes interpreting, translating services for families, fundraising events to assist with the humanitarian fund, and weekly ELS classes at ECHS. The funds assist with payment of the program director (Rebecca Sharp) and assistant director (Paula White). Advisory Committee members from our church are Esther Moriarty and Mary Filiss.

**June: Rectors Discretionary Fund**

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**July: Beacon Of Hope** – Provides food, emergency assistance, low-cost thrift store and advocacy to those in need. Funds from ECHS will be used for their food program. Roger Hartner has been a strong advocate for Beacon of Hope.

**August: Church of the Advocate/Red Door** – Provides a place of worship, fellowship and support for those who are homeless, underemployed, and underserved. On Sundays and Tuesdays they provide a meal to all who need one; also provide necessities like personal care items, shoes, socks, blankets, and tents. Their Good Works Crew provides work experience and counseling in a supportive environment. Funding will be issued to support the Good Works Crew, purchase food for Tuesday meals, and for transportation. No board presence, although we all have been active with providing meals!

**September: Homeward Bound** – Providing temporary and permanent housing as well as support services for those facing homelessness. Our funds will be used to support Homeless Services that are based out of AHOPE Day Center. AHOPE serves as the front door to housing for people at risk of homelessness and those in the community who already experience homelessness. Deals with one hundred people a day for basic needs, while giving coffee, snacks, access to email, telephones, storage, showers, and first aid. Mary Jo Sparrow has been very active with coordinating and providing breakfast for their RITI program on a quarterly basis. Susan Sewell has been working with the Board Chair in board development.

**October: Pisgah Legal Services** – Provides free legal assistance and advocacy to help low income people in Western North Carolina meet their basic needs and improve their lives. Pisgah works to insure the most vulnerable members of our community have access to civil, legal, and just system with due process under the law, enabling them to escape situations of abuse, avoid homelessness, have access to needed medical care, and secure income for food and utilities. They have been providing free legal services to Madison County since 1980. Last year they assisted 468 adults and children in Madison County. Collin Boll is an active volunteer with the organization.

**November: Consider Haiti** – Provides sustainable nutrition, clean water, and medical care. Community Health effort involves using local health agents to enroll malnourished children in a six-month program to rehabilitate their bodies. Sustainable nutrition involves distribution of goats, rabbits, and other agricultural products. Clean water is provided through the use of water filters, which are provided through funding from ECHS. Goats are also provided with this funding. Tom Plaut from Madison County has been an active volunteer with Consider Haiti for many years.

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**December: Outreach funding** – These funds help with additional needs brought to the committee by Outreach Committee members and ECHS church members.

**AGENDA ITEM: Rector's Report** *(David McNair)*

**1. Pastoral issues:**

**Julie Johnson** – She will undergo heart surgery in two or three weeks (date TBA) to replace/repair two heart valves that are leaking.

**Esther Moriarty** continues to receive regular leukemia treatment at Duke University Hospital. She is taking part in a new leukemia trial drug.

**Dora Ramos** – one of our La Esperanza women and her son and teenage daughter were in a car accident several weeks ago. Dora continues to experience neck and back pain. The medical treatment costs are also weighing heavily on her family.

**Shannon Dowler**, who is new to ECHS, will have double mastectomy surgery on October 19 after discovering several weeks ago that she has breast cancer. Recovery is expected to take four to six weeks. At this time tests indicate she will not need to receive chemo or radiation.

**Francis Knisley** is scheduled to return to her home from Madison Health and Rehab (formerly Madison Manor). She is feeling much better and is regaining her strength though she may need some assistance to safely live at home alone for the next few weeks.

**Robert John Gillespie** - On Monday, *[Oct 24]* at a still undetermined time, Robert John will undergo heart surgery for restoring his heartbeat to normal rhythm. The surgical ablation will stop the electrical action on the left side which results in only the right side having function. He will be in the hospital 3-5 days for observation.

**2. Visitors to ECHS in recent weeks:**

**Patty and Marcus King** 330 Country Drive, Mars Hill NC 28754. *134Kings@msn.com*. Phone#828-572-6229. They are cradle Episcopalians who moved to Mars Hill from Glendale, California.

**3. New to ECHS:**

Bryant Smith has decided to join ECHS: 154 Snooks Ave., Mars Hill, NC 28754. Phone#828-747-1432.

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**4. Temporary Committee**

I would like to initiate a new committee which will meet for approximately six to twelve months to devise a strategy and plan for intentional connection, re-connection and welcome of former and prospective members to ECHS.

**5. ECHS Early Years Class** on Sundays, October 23 and 30, 9:00—10:00am.

Susan Sherard, ECHS's founding Rector, will share anecdotes and a timeline for the first five years of the life of ECHS.

**6. Reckoning With Race Group will meet Saturday, November 5.**

The meeting on November 5 will center on Toni Morrison's short story "Recitatif."

The short story is a brilliant and brief chronicle of two girls – one Black, one White. The story unfolds without reference to the racial identity of others. Any effort to figure it out reveals to the reader the commonalities of the human race and our own tendency to see the differences. "Recitatif" can be found on the internet using the link found in the *Weekly Spirit*; or it is available in book form from any number of sellers.

**7. First Wednesday**

Attendance at our First Wednesday potluck and evening prayer has been very low recently. Is this something we should continue to offer?

**8. Delegates to Annual Convention**

Vestry vote is needed in order to elect Kathleen Phillips and Bill Sewell to serve as our ECHS delegates to the Annual Episcopal Diocese of WNC Convention, Nov. 11-12 at Trinity Episcopal, Asheville. It would be helpful also to elect an alternate delegate in the event that either Bill or Kathleen is not able to attend. This is our diocesan centennial anniversary, and in celebration all Episcopalians in our diocese are invited to attend a worship service at Christ School, Fletcher, at which Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will preach and celebrate Holy Eucharist on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 10:00am. Reservations are requested and may be made on the diocesan website.

Kathleen Phillips and Bill Sewell were voted to be delegates to the annual convention, Pam McNally will be the alternate.

**9. Announcement Clarity**

Reminder of Sunday morning announcements being made in such a way that visitors will understand, have clarity about upcoming events, and feel welcome. Please avoid "insider" language when making announcement.

Reminder: the Vestry person for Sunday must check in with me that Sunday morning when he/she arrives at ECHS.

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**10. Vestry Recruitment.**

It is time to begin recruiting persons willing to be nominated for a three-year term on the Vestry. Members rotating off the Vestry this year are asked to work with David and Kathleen in recruiting Vestry nominees. Three current Vestry members will be completing their three-year terms in December.

David, Nancy, Pam, and Dick will meet to discuss possibilities for the two new Vestry members who will be needed next year.

**AGENDA ITEM: New Business** *(David McNair)*

Next month's meeting agenda should include these topics: building use, active shooter plan, and the environmental committee. It may be necessary to have a Saturday brain-storming session for the Vestry on ECHS's need to increase attendance, bring in new members, and increase giving.

It may be possible to have a congregational meeting after church during the stewardship drive to educate the congregation about the changes our church has under gone. This would be in the form of a Q&A session.

**AGENDA ITEM: Next Vestry Meeting** *(David McNair)*

Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 4:30pm

**AGENDA ITEM: Closing Prayer** *(David McNair)*

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk