

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

JUNE 20, 2023, VESTRY MINUTES

Date: June 20, 2023 **Time Started:** 5:00 p.m. **Time Ended:** 5:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Gail Kase, Senior Warden; Peggy Wilson, Junior Warden; Mike Robinson; Amanda Hilty; Mark Holland; Kathleen Phillips; Carol VanVoorhis; Rebecca Sharp

Members Not Present: Barbara Schauer

Other Attendees: David McNair, Rector; Bill Sewell, Treasurer; Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

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

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

Minutes from the May, 2023, meeting were unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report (*Bill Sewell*)

Receipts are on schedule. Expenses are okay. Bill and the bookkeeper (Katie Douglas) are slowly getting First Bank tools working. The local branch of First Bank is not a good business bank, but good alternatives are not available.

The Vestry was introduced to Katie Douglas in person. She is scheduled to be present at the church every two weeks and will assist the ECHS Treasurer. She is able to print checks from the church printer, but if an urgent need arises for a check between her visits, she is also able to print them at her home. Her email address will be provided to Vestry members to use in the event such a need necessitates contact with her.

Bill sent the contact email address for Katie to the Vestry, David, and Vestry Clerk shortly after the meeting was concluded.

David reminded Vestry that a Treasurer from the parish is still needed. It is the responsibility of David and the Vestry to find that person. Bill will be stepping down from that role at the end of August.

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

As Sr. Warden, I will continue to support a healthy and smoothly functioning Vestry, since the Vestry forms the active center of our cherished church. We have been working to respect the boundaries for our meetings, and our last two meetings ended on time! So, let's continue to submit our reports ahead of time, and if a concern or additional announcement is to be shared *in* the meeting, please let David know earlier how much time you will need (and try to keep it concise).

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

Message Board: The new ECHS Community Message Board is on the wall! This is for messages to/for our congregation. Please remember to initial or sign your message to personalize it. The other bulletin boards have been reorganized into “Vestry and Diocesan News” and “Outreach News.”

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

Update: As reported in May, the property committee has met with the DOT pertaining to the culvert erosion located at the bottom of the driveway. After receiving ideas and input from the DOT representative, members of the committee then met with a contractor. The committee now has an affordable plan in place to stem, if not halt, the erosion near the culvert on both upstream and downstream ends. The upstream work has already been accomplished because no large equipment was needed for that repair. Thank you, Jim Woodruff and helpers.

The downstream side, however, requires large equipment for moving and placing the existing boulder and some rocks into the problem area. The property committee has a verbal bid of \$400 from the contractor but is waiting for the written proposal from him and terms of payment before the project date can be set.

Update on the water pressure and kitchen sinks: I could use some plumber suggestions. I can call the “big guys” but if any of you know someone reliable, please share the contact info.

Info from David: The roof is leaking and needs work. Roof may need to be replaced in five years.

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

1. Pastoral issues:

Carol Jablonski – died peacefully on June 19 at Care Partners Solace Center after being diagnosed with a brain tumor less than three weeks ago. Plans for a Celebration of Life Service are TBA but may not happen until Bishop Jose returns from sabbatical in September.

Jan Mallindine – had knee replacement surgery several weeks ago. She spent about two weeks in a treatment center receiving physical therapy and was released to go home last week. She reports that she is doing much better.

Linda Ballard – is home and doing better after being hospitalized with sepsis and other illness several times over the past six months.

Sam Bingham – has responded incredibly well to the trial radiation treatment for metastasized melanoma in his lungs. His last tests reveal that there are no longer any signs of the cancer in his lungs.

Esther Moriarty – continues to receive regular leukemia treatment. She has recovered from pneumonia but is being very cautious about being in public because her immune system is very compromised.

Jade McWilliams – moved to a new apartment in Woodfin this past week. She is excited about her new home and being located closer to Asheville and public transportation.

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2. Visitors to ECHS since our February Vestry meeting:
Jean Dwyer, 101 Painted Ridge Lane, Mars Hill, NC 28754; jeandwyerp@gmail.com
Patti Smith, 427 Mother-in-Law Lane, Burnsville, NC 28724; pattismith52@gmail.com
3. Bill Sewell will conclude his fourteen-plus-year-tenure as ECHS Treasurer on August 31, 2023. Bill has been a wonderful Treasurer and a tremendous gift to ECHS! Currently, no one has agreed to assume the role of Treasurer. Katie Douglas is doing many of the financial bookkeeping and reporting tasks; and Peggy Barnes and Nicki Toole are filling in some necessary financial responsibilities until a new Treasurer is secured.
4. The sixth meeting of **Sacred Ground** will be Saturday, July 8, at 9:30–11:00am at Mars Hill Methodist Church. Newcomers are welcome but please contact me before the meeting for reading/viewing assignments.
5. As is our usual practice, the Vestry will not meet in July unless urgent business arises.
6. The Vestry planning retreat is scheduled for Monday, August 28 – from 10:00am to 2:00pm. But first we will meet for dinner on Sunday, August 27, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the church. Please hold these dates. The Rev. Gary Butterworth will be our retreat leader. Gary is a retired priest in our diocese with extensive training and expertise in Congregational Life and Vitality.
7. I will be offering training for Lay Eucharistic Ministers on Sunday, July 9, following the 10:30 service in the community room. This ministry enables us to share Holy Communion and the love and fellowship of our congregation with those who are homebound. All are welcome to attend.
8. Dr. Dwight Mullen, professor of Political Science at UNCA, will offer a presentation on Reparations on Wednesday, June 21, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. at ECHS sponsored by the Madison County Racial Justice Coalition. Following the presentation, there will be a meal provided by La Esperanza. Reservations are required, and the link to make a reservation can be found in last Friday's Weekly Spirit.
9. ECHS will observe the Feast Day of Mary Magdalene on Sunday, July 23. Please contact Barbara Schauer or David McNair if you are interested in helping to prepare the liturgy and festivities for this feast day.
10. I will be serving as Camp Chaplain at Camp Henry for youth grades 6-8 on Sunday, July 16, (following our 10:30 service) – July 21.
11. I plan to take two weeks of vacation August 7-20. I have not yet secured a supply priest but will announce who that is when it is known. Request to move our next Vestry meeting to Tuesday, August 22 at 5:00 pm instead of August 15.

Vestry agreed to this change in meeting date.
12. Rev. Paula Dempsey will be our guest preacher this Sunday, June 25. Paula retired in 2021 from a ministerial career in Baptist life, which included serving as a pastor, campus minister, hospice chaplain, and nonprofit director, with the last twelve years spent as Director of Partnership Relations for the Alliance of Baptists. Since retiring, she has become engaged in the community, convening the Madison County Racial Justice Coalition, co-facilitating Sacred Ground, and most recently being elected as chair of the Madison County Democratic Party.

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AGENDA ITEM: The CCC Liaison Report *(Kathleen Phillips)*

The Church Caring Crew (CCC):

1. Activated the **Meal Train** for the Ballards through this week. The good response from parishioners was much appreciated.
2. Decided to create a phone list of parishioners who are homebound, lonely, and sick, or who would appreciate a call from time to time – and then recruit volunteers to make regular phone calls to the folks on the list. This process is underway.
3. The next CCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 11:30.**

AGENDA ITEM: New Business *(David McNair)*

The new printed church directories are available in the hallway. They contain the most current version of contact information. The online directory is updated regularly as soon as changes happen, so it contains the most up-to-date listings.

Committees should meet at least four times a year. Vestry should encourage their committee leaders to do so.

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

Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 5:00pm.

AGENDA ITEM: Closing Prayer *(David McNair)*

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk