

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MARCH 21, 2023, VESTRY MINUTES

Date: March 21, 2023 **Time Started:** 5:00 p.m. **Time Ended:** 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2023, at 5:00pm.

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

Members Not Present: Carol VanVoorhis

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

DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

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

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Vestry Minutes (*Clerk, Lorrie Cooper*)
Minutes from the February, 2023, meeting were unanimously approved.

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

Two parish workdays are planned: Saturday, March 25, and Friday, March 31, both from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A parish appeal for more folks to sign up for lawn mowing has resulted in no additional helpers. I am researching other options, which may include hiring an outside paid service once a month.

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

The Vestry Call List project has been quite interesting for me! We will review the results, and more important, the experience of the process. As Senior Warden, my primary focus is the process of building our Vestry community. Bringing people together to form a healthy and functioning group takes time, but it's crucial, since the Vestry forms the active center of our cherished church. That said, I welcome any advice or help or criticism from you. One of the functions of my role is to be open and available to hear congregational concerns, especially those of Vestry members. **Please feel free to contact me.** 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.

Message Board: This project hit a speed bump because the board with our photos is under construction. As soon as the new photo board is complete, I'll replace or reorganize the Vestry bulletin board in the area outside the sanctuary in order to add space for announcements. Examples would be: "Is anyone looking for exercise equipment?" or "Does anyone know a good electrician?" "I'm looking for a pet-sitter." etc. We hope this will allow us to tighten up the after-service announcements as well as provide a helpful format for communication.

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Presentation of Introvert/Extrovert characteristics. As a first step in building the Vestry Community, Gail directed an initial exercise meant to help everyone get to know each other. Members guessed each other's temperament: that is, where everyone presents on the introversion/extroversion axis. It was an enjoyable exercise enjoyed by all.

Vestry Liaisons to Committees:

Property:	Peggy Wilson
Stewardship:	Mike Robinson
Youth & Children:	Rebecca Sharp
La Esperanza:	Rebecca Sharp
Outreach:	Carol VanVoorhis
Celebration:	Carol VanVoorhis
Communications:	Amanda Hilty
Finance:	David McNair, Gail Kase
Welcoming:	Barbara Schauer
Church Caring Crew:	Kathleen Phillips

AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report (*Bill Sewell*)

Pledge receipts are down. There was nothing to report on expenses. This month ECHS makes its quarterly payment on its Diocesan pledge. Sales tax was repaid and all money for gift cards was received. There was a continuation of working out the business bill payment to First Bank. David McNair's health insurance still needs adjustments: a recommendation is coming soon.

Authorized check signers for the main First Bank operating account ending in 0414:

Gail Kase, Senior Warden; Peggy Wilson, Junior Warden; William Sewell, Treasurer; and David McNair, Rector. **Vestry voted acceptance on these signers.**

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

1. Pastoral issues:

Frances Knisley – moved to Mars Hill Retirement Center last Monday. She is settling in and continues to gain stamina and strength. UPDATE: Frances fell yesterday [Monday, March 20] and broke her femur. She underwent surgery to repair the break and her hip joint. She is at Mission Hospital, room K718.

Jade McWilliams – Jade admitted herself last week to Advent Behavior Health Center to be treated for depression. I visited her last Sunday. She said she is glad to be receiving professional help and is pleased with the care she is being offered. Jade asks for prayers from our congregation. Jade was released from Advent Health on March 20, 2023. Volunteers are scheduled to assist Jade throughout this week while she adjusts to being home again. Cards and texts are the best way to communicate with Jade.

Sam Bingham – was recently diagnosed with metastasized melanoma in his lungs. He will be meeting with his doctors to determine a treatment plan. Sam has asked to be added to our ECHS prayer list.

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Esther Moriarty – continues to receive regular leukemia treatment. She is doing well enough not to need a return to Duke for two more months.

Jean Talliferro – is a patient at Elderberry Health Care Center in Marshall. Jean has been an Episcopalian all her life. Her daughter requested that we pray for her mother and, if possible, that she be visited and offered Holy Communion. Jean's health is tenuous and at her daughter's request, I offered her "Ministration at the Time of Death" (Last Rites) last Sunday.

2. Visitors to ECHS since our February Vestry meeting:

Jacqui Young, June Kihner and Zosia (baby) Felicianno, 14544 Hwy 25, Marshall NC 28753

Mike and Bobbi Tousey, 416 Green Meadow Ln, Mars Hill NC 28754, #828-206-5100

Miriam Luse, 515 North Main Street, Mars Hill NC 28754

Pat Mahon (wife, Joan), 219 Castle Pointe, Weaverville, NC 28787, josephm382@gmail.com

Barbara McGuire, 481 Blue Herron Road, Mars Hill NC 28754, barbara@barbaramcquire.com

Marnie Zei, 3924 Beech Glen Road, Mars Hill NC 28754, marnie.zei@gmail.com

Tom and Laura Bell, 103 Snitey Road (hard to read print), #828-582-5403.

3. Rev. Tulia Visit: The paperwork required for the Humanitarian Parole VISA application for Rev. Tulia Sanchez and her family (Osmani, Suzanna, Sarah) has been submitted. We await news of whether they will be granted this status.

4. Sacred Ground: The third meeting will be held Saturday, April 1, 9:30 -11:00 a.m. at Mars Hill Methodist Church. Newcomers are welcome, but please contact me for reading/viewing assignment before the meeting.

5. ECHS Lenten Soup and Program will continue on March 22 and 29 beginning at 5:30 p.m. We have had 25-30 people attending per week, which is very good turnout.

6. Holy Week Schedule:

Thursday, April 6, Agape Meal and Footwashing service at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 7, 4:00 p.m., *Community Good Friday Christ and Creation Stations of the Cross*. It begins at the pavilion on the Mars Hill Greenway. Parking is at the front of Mars Hill Elementary School, 200 School House Lane, Mars Hill. We will walk from station to station with a brief reading, meditation, and prayer at each of eleven stations. Please wear weather-appropriate clothing.

Easter Day, 10:30 a.m. – **Easter Potluck Breakfast** at 9:15 a.m., **Holy Eucharist** at 10:30 a.m. (We will not have the Easter Vigil service this year).

7. Sunday Vestry Representative Reminder: turn down the heat/AC to 60 in all of the building except the sanctuary before leaving.

8. Updated ECHS nursery plan: – Because we have not had babies/children in the nursery for about six months, ECHS will suspend paying nursery workers beginning Sunday, April 16. A volunteer nursery minister will be assigned to the nursery each Sunday. If a baby/child arrives needing nursery care, the volunteer will review a list of nursery volunteers and recruit one to assist with nursery care that day. If we consistently have babies/children in the nursery, we will resume paying for a Sunday nursery worker.

9. Vestry Retreat: Plans for a retreat in May or June are being made. Likely will be on a Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. More info TBA.

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AGENDA ITEM: New Attendees Contact *(Barbara Schauer)*

The Welcome Ministry has begun to assemble, using guidance from the national Episcopal Church provided in its experience-based program for the sustaining and evolving of churches, *Invite, Welcome, Connect*. [www.invitewelcomeconnect.com]

The stranger who visits among you shall be to you as one of your own family, and you shall love him as yourself. (Leviticus 19:34)

As a way to connect with people who have visited over the past year, Holy Spirit members who drifted during the pandemic, and attracting new people who have spiritual curiosity, we are hosting a small reception at the end of the week of icon painting with Teresa Harrison. It will be held **Friday, April 21, 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Invitations are printed and available for mailing, for handing to people who may enjoy gathering with us that evening, or for pinning to bulletin boards around the community. In preparation for that small party, we have begun to assemble comfortable outdoor seating to set the stage for relaxed conversation and socializing to cement new friendships and deepen old ones. Friendliness is a hallmark of Holy Spirit and part of the design of the wellbeing of the church as we adjust to the very different future, still here to love and serve through our love of Christ.

AGENDA ITEM: Outreach *(Carol Van Voorhis)*

On Sunday, March 12, after the service an AED class was performed in the Community room by Carol VanVoorhis and Ann Smith. The basics of CPR (hands-on only) and the operation of the AED (automated external Defibrillator) were reviewed. Approximately ten parishioners attended the class.

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

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 5:00pm.

AGENDA ITEM: Closing Prayer *(David McNair)*

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk