

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

APRIL 18, 2023, VESTRY MINUTES

Date: April 18, 2023 **Time Started:** 5:00 p.m. **Time Ended:** 6:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 16, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Gail Kase, Senior Warden; Peggy Wilson, Junior Warden; Rebecca Sharp; Barbara Schauer; Amanda Hilty; Mike Robinson; Carol VanVoorhis

Members Not Present: Mark Holland; Kathleen Phillips

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 March, 2023, meeting were unanimously approved.

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

The property committee met and implemented plans for the patio area and the back of the church area with the picnic tables. A crew erected the tent in the backyard area with the tables underneath. For the front patio space, two sun sails have been ordered and will be hung side by side across the front patio. The sun sails will provide shade across an approximate 10ft x 20ft space over the tables and chairs.

The two parish workdays in March resulted in many helping hands with weeding, mulching, painting and window washing. Another workday is slated for the middle of May.

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

Greetings! As Sr. Warden, I will continue to work on forming a healthy and smoothly functioning Vestry, since the Vestry forms the active center of our cherished church. At this point that work involves developing clear boundaries and guidelines for our meetings. As David has requested, we will share news for Vestry meetings in our reports to respect our 90-minute meeting time.

If you wish to share a concern or additional announcement *during* the meeting, please let David know ahead of the meeting how much time you will need (and try to keep it concise). As always, 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 ECHS community: helping us keep our hearts and minds open to discern what Love asks of us.

APRIL 18, 2023

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Message Board: This project hit a speed bump due to the photo board still being under construction. But our faces are back, refreshed! I asked Jade McWilliams if she would design the message board, and she agreed to do so. (She had kindly done the welcome board). The larger board will still include space for Vestry announcements and will also have space for our personal news or needs. This will allow us, we hope, to “tighten up” the after-service announcements as well as provide another helpful format for communication.

Location was discussed, along with the nature of the postings. It was agreed that personal items would be posted and content would be kept current.

AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report *(Bill Sewell)*

Currently 36.8% of member pledges have been received.

Bill explained the background of the challenges involved with providing medical insurance to Lynn Michie (David McNair’s wife) and Sadie and Simon (David McNair’s children). Conflicting advice has been given by Diocesan finance persons, with regard to how David is to be compensated. Bill will take the problem to the Finance Committee when it meets on Thursday, April 20.

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

1. Pastoral issues:

Frances Knisley – She is at Madison Health and Rehab Center in MH after falling and breaking her femur at the hip joint. Surgery to repair the hip was successful. She is receiving PT and is slowly regaining strength and balance..

Jade McWilliams – She is back in her apartment and slowly returning to a normal routine.

Sam Bingham – He is receiving radiation treatment for metastasized melanoma in his lungs. Sam has requested to be added to our ECHS prayer list

Esther Moriarty – She continues to receive regular leukemia treatment. She reports that she is responding well to the treatment.

Jean Talliferro – She is a patient at Elderberry Health Care Center in Marshall. Jean has been an Episcopalian all her life and her daughter requested that we pray for her mother, and that she be visited by myself and others at ECHS.

2. Visitors to ECHS since our February Vestry meeting:

Bill Steigerwald, 104 Barn Road, Burnsville NC 28714, WRLDmsc@gmail.com.

3. Emergency First Aid: Bendik Clark asked if he could put Narcan in the First Aid kit at ECHS to use in the event of an emergency [drug or opiate] overdose. He reported that there is no risk of harm for someone who might use it incorrectly. Before agreeing to his request and moving forward with the plan, David wants to discuss it with the Vestry and other medical professionals. A location was discussed, and it was felt that the First Aid Kit would be best.

4. Sacred Ground: The fourth meeting will be held Saturday, May 6, 9:30 -11:00 a.m. at Mars Hill Methodist Church. Newcomers are welcome, but please contact David for reading/viewing assignment before the meeting.

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5. **Earth Day:** There will be an Earth Day service on Sunday, April 26, in the Memorial Garden. The ECHS Earth Care Team is taking the lead with this service. Following that service will be a blessing of the peace pole and walking trails on our property (developed by Ty Jones) and a plastic-free potluck lunch. The Community is encouraged to attend. Plans for a Vestry Retreat in May or June are being made. More info TBA.
6. **Jennifer Reda and Discernment.** She has begun the discernment process for Holy Orders to the Diaconate, which began March 1, 2023, and is a six-month process. As required by our Episcopal protocols, David has notified Bishop Jose and the Diocesan Commission on Ministry. Jennifer and David will meet regularly over the next six months, and then a Parish Lay Discernment Committee from ECHS will be formed to discern with her going forward. It is expected that the Vestry will be kept abreast of this discernment process.
7. **The Day of Pentecost:** Sunday, May 28. Prior to the pandemic, our practice was to have the service outside at an offsite location. Last year this service was held in the Memorial Garden. David asked the Vestry to weigh in on a preferred location for this year's service: The decision was to have Pentecost again at the church: it's easier for those setting up the service and provides no confusion to newcomers. ECHS has a beautiful setting, particularly at this time of year.

AGENDA ITEM: The Welcome Ministry Report *(Barbara Schauer)*

The Welcome Ministry has been gaining its footing in the past month, preparing improved intake and reception materials for visitors and especially for seekers. It's publicizing the first event hosted by the Welcome Ministry workers: a small gathering at the conclusion of the special icon painting week led by Teresa Harrison. This reception will take place Friday, April 21, 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

We have begun the work toward a hospitable patio area that will allow for conversation and deepening of friendships by our current church members and Sunday seekers, as well as by invitation to events which can showcase the light of Holy Spirit Church.

A June music gathering at the church is being set up by Jim Haaga. This event will include our own musicians as an evening of shared musical gifts.

Actuating the great ideas in the national church's material in Invite, Welcome, Connect has been pleasant and exciting!

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

The Celebration Committee has been on hand for three memorial services and a visit from the Bishop in the past several months. Ann Shiver has provided great leadership in rallying volunteers to work together on all these events, which have resulted this year in bringing new members and should continue to do so.

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

The Church Caring Crew (CCC) will hold its first in-person meeting of the year on May 3, 2023.

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- Barbara Maloney continues as committee chair.
- The Meal Train was activated for Lee and Linda Ballard. They are receiving four evening meals a week through Saturday, April 22.
- An appeal was also sent out to the parish for childcare assistance. The response has been helpful and is much appreciated.

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

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 5:00pm.

AGENDA ITEM: Closing Prayer *(David McNair)*

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk