

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MAY 17, 2022, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due  
for Review/  
Assigned To

**Date:** May 17, 2022    **Time Started:** 4:40 p.m.    **Time Ended:** 6:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** June 21, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

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

**Absent:** Peggy Wilson, Junior Warden; Bill Sewell, Treasurer

**Other Attendees:** David McNair, Rector; Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

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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)*

Attached are reports to be included in the meeting. I will be out of town with limited computer access and unable to attend the meeting.

April pledge receipts were somewhat disappointing at \$6,833. For the year-to-date, receipts total 43.8% of the annual budgeted amount. I have reason to believe that May receipts will be stronger, and I have emailed YTD Giving Statements to help members understand where they are relative to their 2022 pledges.

Expenses are generally in line with budget, and we hope we are out of the propane heating season until Fall.

On the balance sheet, we have applied for reimbursement of sales tax paid on purchases in the second half of 2021. Under Unrestricted Net Assets, "To Be Determined" is the amount remaining on the PPP loan forgiven without restriction last year.

Minutes from the  
April 26, 2022,  
meeting were  
unanimously  
approved.

**MAY 17, 2022**

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As agreed in the budget, we are transferring \$666.67 from this line to Revenue each month for the rest of the year. To Be Determined - II is the proceeds from the March La Esperanza lunch given to the church without designation.

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

Parish workday was held Saturday, May 14, with six helpers. Much continued weeding was done on the front bank in preparation for a fresh dressing of mulch. Memorial Garden plants were fertilized, and bushes were trimmed as needed. Another workday is planned for Friday, June 3, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon in the hopes of moving mulch to the prepared bank.

**Adjusting the thermostat for services or meetings:**

Use the arrow buttons, moving them either up or down to adjust heat or AC for services and meetings. There's no need to press the **Hold** button. After the service or meeting, return the thermostat to its prior default settings. Above each thermostat is a drawing indicating the **Zone** for that thermostat. Following the service a walk-through is needed to secure the zones. That may result in the necessity of closing or opening doors in order to give the furnace or AC airflow to the areas in that zone.

**REMINDER: New Vestry Duty On Sundays**

Our new air purification system operates on airflow. This unit only serves the sanctuary. So regardless as to whether we are heating or cooling, the unit fan must be on. Simply press the center button once on the sanctuary thermostat. This puts the fan to **On**. Following the service, press the same button, and the fan will return to **Auto**.

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

**Finance Committee met on April 27.**

— **Reports** from Treasurer Bill Sewell for the month of March were the same as presented to Vestry the previous day.

— **New business:** begin to address the need to find *replacements to fill the roles of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer*. Bill Sewell, Peggy Barnes, and David McNair met with Carol Tannenbaum at the Diocesan office.

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—*Discussion*: Suitability of Diocesan resources for our application; need for clear definition of each position; responsibilities and work-flow; possibilities to streamline/simplify operations; exploration of possibility of finding individuals within the parish for whom this might be a calling.

—Still in process of identifying the best options for a way forward.

—This is the beginning.

**Masking Policy Survey** of parishioners: A total of sixty-four responses were received. Tabulation and compilation is underway. A full report will be sent out Tuesday morning. Please be on the lookout for the report in order to look it over before our meeting. Thank you for your patience.

**Big May Giveaway** was attended by many of us, and the overall feeling is that it was a Big Success. It was a true team effort and ran very smoothly, especially considering that the event was held indoors due to the weather. Folks came who would never have had cause to visit ECHS and check us out. They all seemed to appreciate our efforts. Joy and enthusiasm ran through the hallway all day! I encourage the team to place an article in the upcoming *Mountain Spirit*.

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

**1. Pastoral issues:**

**Roger Hartner** – continues to receive chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer. The latest post-treatment report indicated that the cancer mass remained the same size. This is considered a positive result attributed to the treatment. Roger has a nephew coming to live with him who will be able to provide assistance as needed..

**Patty Schlenker** – Pam McNally's daughter who lives in Minnesota is responding positively to chemotherapy treatment for cancerous tumors. We will ask Pam to share an update on Patty at our meeting.

**Jennie Lou Reid** – Is in Miami recovering from colon cancer surgery. Ben Reid wrote the following update on 5/11/22:

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” The pre-surgery MRI and CT reflected no cancer in any organs. Surgery took 52 lymph nodes and all were clean. The pathology found evidence on lymphovascular invasion near the tumor. Only because of that, she will take three rounds of chemo as a precaution.”

**Jane Edwards** – Jane’s daughter Louise plans to move Jane to Minnesota sometime in the next several months. Jane will be living in a care facility within walking distance of Louise and her family.

**Bob Magnus** – I visited Bob last week, and he is enjoying living at Arbor Terrace and appears to be doing very well. He has decided to attend the Sunday chapel service at Arbor Terrace rather than have ECHS people transport him to and from ECHS.

2. Those who gathered earlier this month for the ECHS’ First Wednesday potluck and program/Evening Prayers agreed that they would like to continue with this potluck meal throughout the summer, 5:30 – 7 p.m. Jim and Margie Haaga will be offering a report on their cross-country trip following the meal on Wednesday, June 1.
3. The ECHS service on the Day of Pentecost, June 5 will be held in the ECHS Memorial Garden (weather permitting) followed by a potluck lunch.
4. The new ECHS website is planning to launch sometime in July. Exact date TBA. Virginia Taylor, our website consultant/designer will be offering web training for ECHS staff and volunteers the week of June 6-10. The plan is to move our live-streamed Sunday service to a Facebook Live platform.
5. FYI, I will be officiating a graveside service for James Chandler in Marshall on June 3 at 10:00 a.m.
6. There will be a wedding at ECHS on Saturday, June 11, for an out-of-town couple. They requested permission to host the wedding at ECHS. The service will be officiated by a local Episcopal priest. I have asked the couple to pay a \$100 cleaning fee to Rebecca Sharp for her services..
7. I will be serving as a chaplain at Camp Henry for Middle School Camp, June 26 – July 1, at Lake Logan Episcopal Center
8. The Diocesan Cold Mountain Festival will be held on Saturday, June 4, at Lake Logan Episcopal Center with music by Hiss Golden Messenger, Futurebirds, The Mother Hips, Chatham Rabbits Full Band, I Draw Slow. Proceeds benefit Camp Henry and Lake Logan Center. Tickets may be purchased online. I plan to attend and would enjoy having your company!

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9. I am working with Ginny Lentz, Bobby Pell, Barbara Schauer, Nancy Larkin, and others to plan a service observing the Feast Day of Mary Magdalene on Sunday, July 17.

10. Paula White and David Sharp have been hired to be our ECHS Sunday morning nursery workers. Paula and David will work every other Sunday. I have informed them both that they are required to complete the diocesan Safeguarding God's Children Training ASAP.

**AGENDA ITEM: Christian Education** *(Mark Holland)*

**Meeting of the Adult Christian Formation Committee on May 7:** Our meeting focused on generating ideas for programs to begin in the fall. The following suggestions were made by committee members:

- Incarnation (a program for Advent — Carol and Ty to present)
- A presentation(s) on Islam, perhaps inviting an Imam to participate or to do the program(s)
- How did anti-Semitism develop in Christianity?
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Carol would like to do this)
- The Book of Acts and the emergence of the Christian church
- Self and Soul (Mark would do this)
- The Holy Grail (Mark would do this)
- The founding story of Holy Spirit (our church, and we'd ask Susan Sherrod if she'd like to do this)
- Program or workshop on loss

Please consider sending to all committee members further suggestions you may have.

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

On Thursday, June 9, Father Oscar Roza, the Diocesan Latino Ministry Missioner will attend our Mujeres group. He will explain to the Mujeres the differences between the Catholic and Episcopal churches, emphasizing that we are all God's children. Possibly we will share a communion service. We will enjoy a potluck lunch together. All are invited! Reminder: everything will be in Spanish.

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We will start having Saturday adventures:

- Community garden days in the Grapevine area,
- Hiking the Laurel and Rocky Fork,
- A trip to the North Carolina Arboretum and the UNCA botanical gardens,
- A Lake Logan day

Summer Bible camp will happen July 11-15 (Monday-Friday), 10:00am to 2:00pm. It takes place here at ECHS. All ECHS children are invited. We need volunteers to pick up families and children so let me know if you can help, even it's only for one of those days. Saturday, July 16, we will hold an end-of-the-week celebration at Lake Logan.

We are currently processing ideas for recruiting more volunteers who can drive families to events, tutor ESL classes, serve on the Advisory Board, help with fundraising, etc. If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering, kindly pass that information on to me.

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

Carol Van Voorhis, a retired Surgery RN, checked the defibrillator at the church installed for emergency use and although it is still operable, the pads have dried out. In an emergency, the machine can still be used with the expired pads. She ordered new pads for the defibrillator, but long backorders on the pads mean that a long wait for them is likely. Once they have arrived, a date will be set for retraining the Vestry in the use of the defibrillator, as well as anyone else in the congregation who wishes to learn its use.

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

Once again, long discussion occurred around the issue of mask wearing in the sanctuary during the Sunday morning service: whether masking should be mandatory or optional. There were strong opinions on both sides of the issue. Although a survey of the parish revealed a majority favored optional masking, the argument was made that the parish opinion should not dictate the policy but rather the decision should come as a result of evaluating the medical risks, even though they are currently extremely low in Madison County.

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Although there was an attempt to ascertain the loving approach and whether current science considered unmasking to be securely safe in Madison County, no final conclusion was reached in the discussion which satisfied all attending Vestry members. Some argued that a required masking policy would repel potential attendees to the church. An opposing argument centered on the reality that new variants are arising in other locations and may soon appear locally — thus, people might feel safer choosing to attend when masking is required.

Options were briefly considered: for example, having two Sunday services — one for all attending to adhere to mask wearing, the other service in which masking was optional — was discarded due to the need for the parish to meet together as a whole.

Realizing the two viewpoints were unmovable, David asked for a motion to be made so the Vestry could vote on the issue. (*See the motion in the right-hand column.*) Six were in favor of the motion and two were not in favor. As a result, this policy will go into effect June 5. However, the policy will not be considered “set in stone,” and the issue will be constantly evaluated by the Vestry.

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

Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 4:30pm

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk

**Motion:**  
**Mask Optional** for all worship services, meetings, and gatherings in the ECHS building— with the exception of the church office during office hours.