

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT APRIL 26, 2022, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due  
for Review/  
Assigned To

**Date:** April 26, 2022   **Time Started:** 4:35 p.m.   **Time Ended:** 6:05 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** May 17, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

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

**Other Attendees:** David McNair, Rector; Bill Sewell, Treasurer; 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*)

Reports for the first fiscal quarter are attached.

- Pledge receipts are at 40.1% of the budgeted annual amount. Year-To-Date giving statements will be sent out once April results are final.
- Total YTD operating revenues were \$77,074.
- Operating expenses were \$26,676, \$1,226 below budget. Propane expense for the first quarter was \$911 over budget due to higher unit costs and higher than expected usage.
- We have applied for reimbursement of second half 2021 sales tax paid and should receive those funds in the next few weeks.
- Rector benefits payable is due to increased pension costs that have not been billed. This will be paid in April.

Minutes from the  
March 15, 2022,  
meeting were  
unanimously  
approved.

**APRIL 26, 2022**

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The audit of financial results for the year ended December 31, 2021, is being conducted by a volunteer audit committee under the supervision of the Diocese Finance Officer. We have submitted a copy of the PowerChurch database and several hundred pages of additional material for their review.

This will be followed by a one-day field visit to be scheduled in the next several weeks.

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Parochial Report** *(David McNair)*

Report is long and complex. It was extensively examined by David, Bill, and Martie.

The recommendation is that next year it should be read by more people.

Parochial Report approved by Vestry as written.

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

Bullman installed the air purifier system on March 21, 2022. The cost for that install was \$971.96 + tax (\$68.04) for a total of \$1,040.00. The sales tax is recoupable. The cost of the install and unit was covered by a single donor minus sales tax.

Discussion of running the fan and best way to operate the ventilation system.

**New Vestry Duty On Sundays**

This air purification system operates on airflow. It serves only the sanctuary. Regardless as to whether we are heating or cooling, the unit fan must be kept turned on. Simply press once the center button on the sanctuary thermostat. This sets the fan to "on." After the service is over, press the same button, and the fan will return to Auto. There is signage now below thermostat with these instructions.

Additional ongoing projects:

- The Memorial Garden plaque has been ordered and is four to six weeks out.
- Reminder: We need to double-check the settings on the thermostats after the service, because of heat left running when the building is empty. Using only the arrow buttons, push them either up or down. These buttons are the only ones that need to be pushed. Please do NOT press the Hold button. Please note the drawing above each thermostat which indicates which Zone that thermostat is for.

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A walk-through after the service is needed in order to secure a zone, which may require closing or opening doors in order to give the furnace air flow from areas of that zone. Please tag me [Peggy Wilson] in the hall if you want to practice the walk through.

- A parish workday happened Saturday, April 23, 9:00am-12:00 noon. We had seven hearty helpers and accomplished much. Thank you to Tom and Susan, Ginny and Danny, John van Voorhis, Teresa Matthews, Rod Vestal, and Jim Woodruff. Ann and Sam Shiver washed windows on the outside. Because more needs to be done, another workday is planned for Saturday, May 14, 9:00am-12:00 noon. If needed, an additional workday can be set for June 4.
- Creek bank: see the Property Committee report below submitted by Jim Woodruff.

**Property Committee Report** [retyped by Vestry clerk from a small JPEG photo]

Ed McNally requested assistance from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, asking if a representative could join us at the lower property. On April 13, 2022, committee members Ed McNally and Jim Woodruff along with Peggy Wilson, the Jr. Warden, listened and dialogued with Gabe [last name?] in order to devise new approaches to the erosion issue. One response from the rep was that the erosion did not look too bad, when compared to other areas in Madison County. To us, since May 2021 and with perhaps one or two heavy flows of creek appearance is somewhat stable. There is one obvious collapsing of bank and another at the outflow of the culvert mouth. *[The previous two sentences are not clear in meaning. —V. Clerk]* Those present suggested that we delay two or three years to allow funds to be budgeted for this landscape issue, while we target a definite and complementary solution.

We suggest that before the end of the current year (2022), we move the sign from its present location to the opposite side of the creek. Two similar locations were also suggested. A sound foundation for a new sign would withstand flood conditions. Peggy has contacted the person who originally designed and constructed the existing church sign.

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

The following are activities or meetings in which I participated:

Repair of the embankment is expensive and contractors are currently piled up with work. Peggy asks if a new fund needs to be created. Repairs currently funded through Capital Reserves. Bill advises there's no need to create a new fund. The issue is not urgent and can wait a few years while funding is acquired. Capital campaign budget needs to be increased. Bill also advises it should be a joint project of the Property committee along with the Finance committee.

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**4/5/2022 The Living Gifts Fund (LGF) Board of Holy Spirit**

All five members attended, including new members Jim Woodruff and John Graeter, Chair. Other attendees were continuing members Peggy Barnes, Deidre Soileau and Marnie Wilson, and ex-officio members David McNair and Kathleen Phillips. The LGF had an excellent discussion about the Mission, History, Bylaws and role of the LGF. The *next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 12 at 10 am at Holy Spirit* and will address the schedule and process for the 2022 grants.

*NOTE:* Next Quarterly meetings for LGF will be on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM:  
July 12, 2022                      October 11, 2022                      January 10, 2023

**3/7, 4/7/ and 4/26/2022: New ECHS Website** meetings with Virginia Taylor, diocesan Missioner for Communications. The team continues to refine the new website with attention to content, user-friendliness, appearance, and ease of management. It is anticipated that staff and volunteers will be trained in early June followed by the migration of the current website data and domain transition in mid-June. Recruitment of volunteers from the congregation is planned to build a robust pool of people who can step in as needed to assist with maintenance and updating of the new site.

**Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday April 27, at 1:00 PM.**

**3/17/2022: La Esperanza Luncheon at Mars Hill Baptist Church.** Enjoyed the good food and fellowship of the many folks who turned out for this fundraiser. These luncheons are consistently attended by large numbers of folks from the community. They are great relationship builders in addition to providing popular ethnic cuisine at great prices.

**3/18/2022: ECHS Women's One-Day Retreat:** Over a dozen women carpooled to Glory Ridge for a day of reflection and some team labor on a couple of work projects on the grounds. Carol Jablonski used a Calvin & Hobbes cartoon to lead the group in exploring the choices we have in our time on this Earth and our awareness of our mortality.

**3/19/2022: ECHS Women's Monthly Gathering:** This Zoom meeting was a continuation and expansion of the theme from Friday's retreat. Carol again provided her leadership. It was agreed that we will pause in April due to the holy days, and allow more space between meetings during the warm months when many will be involved in vacations, holidays, and summer activities.

**3/23/2022: This was the last Wednesday Evening Prayer** as we pause for Lenten and Eastertide activities. This opportunity for worship on Zoom midweek was offered as part of the effort to help people stay connected during the pandemic. It became a highlight of the week for 10-12 regular attendees. Even when people were traveling, they made the effort to tune in whenever possible. For some it became a lifeline as their health and living situations changed. Interest has been expressed in possibly resuming this offering as a lay ministry for the summer.

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**3/30 and 4/6/2022: Lenten Soupers and Programs** were well-attended.

A presentation by Jade McWilliams on mental illness and navigating our health care system was very informative and moving. Jade's courage in coming forward to share her own experience was an inspiration.

Experience of another kind was offered the following Wednesday by Mallory McDuff, who has published a book about the options for after death care in our society. Questions abounded and gave us all food for thought for our individual plans and choices. A greater awareness of the environmental cost of cremation which provides the basis for Holy Spirit's Memorial Garden also garnered some attention. Mallory's book was made available for sale in advance of her talk. It is a fascinating read.

**3/15/2022 and Beyond: Vestry Covenants**. I often refer to our *Vestry Handbook* from the diocese for guidance in conducting myself as a vestry member and now as senior warden. Following our last meeting I felt called to investigate ways we might improve our experience in monthly meetings and as we go about doing the work of the church in our lives. I learned there is a thing called a Vestry Covenant, and that we don't have one. Best Practices recommend that such a document be created and agreed upon by the vestry and reviewed and renewed each year. These last few weeks I have been doing my own research in hopes of developing a proposal for this vestry to take up this challenge during the coming months. My proposal is still in the formative stage but part of it is that we schedule a vestry retreat day to explore this concept and to have some fun together in the process. I look forward to all of us working together to make our ministry experience more vibrant and rewarding.

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

**1. Pastoral issues:**

**Virginia Gillespie** – A celebration of life service for Virginia happens Saturday, April 30, 2:00pm at ECHS.

**Roger Hartner** – completed the first round of about four treatments of chemotherapy. The post-treatment report indicated that the cancer mass remained the same size. This is considered a positive result attributed to the treatment. He has begun a second treatment round of chemo.

**Patty Schlenker** – Pam McNally's daughter who lives in Minnesota is responding positively to chemotherapy treatment for cancerous tumors. Patty is married and has five grown children. Pam recently returned from visiting Patty and will be asked for an update on Patty's condition at our meeting.

**Rebecca Sharp** – is recovering from last week's surgery for ovarian cysts.

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**The family of Carl and Chloe Worley** – (who are dear friends of Nancy and Jim Larkin) Carl, the 43-year-old husband and father of five children, died unexpectedly last Thursday (April 21) after suffering a brain aneurism. Also last week Carl’s 21-year-old daughter Chloe was hit by a drunk driver while crossing a crosswalk in Myrtle Beach. She is being treated for seizures from the head trauma caused by the accident before being released to go home. The family has no insurance.

**Jennie Lou Reid** – Is recovering in Miami from colon surgery after she was recently diagnosed with colon cancer. Ben Reid wrote the following update: *Surgery went well. Surgeon said the tumor was small and the surgery was not difficult. Two things are now important. The reconnected sections of the colon will need to stay together and we’ll get the pathology mid-week. That will dictate future chemo, although the Doc felt that chemo was unlikely. She will likely come home Monday.*

2. ECHS’s “Reckoning with Race” is scheduled to meet on Saturday, June 4, at ECHS, 9:30 – 11:30am. We will watch and discuss the film “13th” by producer and director Ava DuVernay. The film explores the “intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the US.” It is titled after the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution, adopted in 1865, which abolished slavery throughout the U.S. and ended the involuntary servitude except as a punishment for conviction of a crime.
3. ECHS’s First Wednesday potluck and program or Evening Prayers will begin again monthly on the first Wednesday of the month, beginning May 4, 5:30 – 7:00pm.
4. FYI, I [David McNair] will officiate the wedding of Page Mangum and Will Arditti at Lake Logan Episcopal Center on Saturday, May 7.
5. FYI, I will serve as a chaplain at Camp Henry for Middle School Camp, June 26 – July 1, happening at Lake Logan Episcopal Center.
6. Our diocese is hosting Deanery Dinners in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the Episcopal Diocese of WNC. The Asheville Deanery Dinner will be at the Governor’s Mansion in Asheville on Tuesday, June 21 and hosted by Bishop Jose and the diocesan staff. All members of the deanery are invited to attend. Tickets may be purchased on the diocesan website.
7. The Diocesan Cold Mountain Festival will be held on Saturday, June 4, at Lake Logan Episcopal Center with music by His Golden Messenger, Futurebirds, The Mother Hips, Chatham Rabbits Full Band, I Draw Slow.

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Proceeds from the festival will benefit Camp Henry and Lake Logan Center. Tickets may be purchased online. I plan to attend and would enjoy having your company!

8. The Day of Pentecost is Sunday, June 5. Currently, no special plans exist for this year's Pentecost, although it has been our pre-pandemic tradition to have it at 10:30am in an outdoor setting. Is there an interest in having this service in an outdoor setting with a potluck picnic? Would anyone be interested in helping to coordinate this service and picnic?

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

An Outreach Retreat is being planned for the fall. We hope to meet offsite, possibly at Glory Ridge. Snacks (cookies to COA) will be taken sometime in mid-June. More information to follow in *Weekly Spirit*.

Mary Jo Sparrow will be collecting breakfast items at the end of May for delivering to Homeward Bound.

**First Sundays Report**

- March: Empowering Youth to Succeed was total of \$1408.
- April: Community Housing Coalition to date is \$841 (more will come this week)
- May: La Esperanza
- June: Pastor's Discretionary Fund,
- July: Beacon of Hope
- August: Church of the Advocate

There will be an Outreach Retreat sometime in June for the purpose of discussing how well Outreach has been doing, and what improvements or changes should be made. Mary Jo Sparrow would like to hold the retreat outside of the church setting in an outdoor venue. Possibilities are Nancy Larkin's home or The Island in Marshall.

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

**Christian Adult Formation Committee**

Beginning Sunday, May 1, 9:00-10:00am — and for the two following Sundays, Ty Jones will present on the topic of Resurrection. This should be a great program!

Marc Mullinax, a professor at MHU, will present on the Tao from his book based on that topic. His presentation will take place on three successive June Sundays: 12, 19, and 26. Beginning in September, we will offer classes/programs on a variety of topics, probably once each month. Possible topics include the archetypal Self, definitions of the soul, and the Holy Grail, story and symbol. Also this fall David McNair will do a presentation, perhaps two, about his sabbatical trip.

The committee will meet Sunday, May 8, at 11:30am following the service.

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

The Fundraiser for La Esperanza on March 17 at Mars Hill Baptist Church raised over \$2000. The *Mujeres* gifted the money to David McNair as a thank-you donation to ECHS for all the love and support the community has given La Esperanza over the past seven years.

We are in the grant application process with WNC Bridge Foundation for what will be a three-year grant to fund the Health and Wellness programs of La Esperanza. Grants will be decided upon in June.

We also applied for a mini-grant from MCHD to fund a week-long summer camp and summer field trips for the Latina families. First Bank donated \$1000 to the *Mujeres* Community Aid for the direct assistance to help families in need.

Paula is currently teaching Zumba twice a week: once at ECHS and once at MHB. She is taking TESOL training with the Literacy Council (which currently goes by a different name). After this training Paula herself will begin offering ESL classes.



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I [Rebecca Sharp] am taking a Community Health Worker class with AB Tech to help me with expanding our Wellness programming into the Latina community. Father Oscar Rozo is working with Paula and me to plan a retreat for the Mujeres at Camp Kanuga in late summer. Paula and I are also working with Carolina Bautista-Velaz (Professor and Psychologist ) via Zoom to plan some Mindfulness/Self-compassion and Conflict Resolution classes for the Mujeres and the Latina community  
Finally, very good news: Mujeres meets every Thursday with the return of potluck to which all are invited!

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

No old business to discuss.

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

David brought up this topic: Do guidelines for in-person attendance need revision?

All agreed that mask wearing is optional at meetings and activities at church. The question is whether the same policy should apply to attendance at the Sunday service. Some believe this will keep people from attending while others believe it will encourage attendance. A long discussion resulted.

Finally a vote of Vestry members was taken around three positions: **Option 1** — Mask required at Sunday service. **Option 2** — Mask optional. A third option was also discussed: **Option 3** — Mask optional along with a sitting area for those who wish to be masked. **Voting results:** Opt 1, Five votes. Opt. 2: Three votes. Opt. 3: Four votes. (Those present not voting: David McNair, Bill Sewell, and Lorrie Cooper. Only Vestry members voted.)  
Although Vestry is the official decision makers of ECHS, there will be a sampling of the parish opinion via a form distributed through the bulletin. The content of the form will be created by Mark Holland.

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

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. (Three weeks from today.)**

Issue yet to resolve: Should Pentecost be celebrated this year with an outdoor picnic lunch? And if so, where?

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

Respectfully submitted, Lorrie Cooper, Clerk