

Vestry Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2024

Vestry members present: Senior Warden Gail Kase, Junior Warden Peggy Wilson, Amanda Hilty, Claire Gillespie, Mike Robinson, Carol VanVoorhis, Deb Carlson, Bendik Clark

Others in Attendance: Rev. Dr. Dena Whalen, Treasurer Sam Shiver, Treasurer, Clerk Deidre Soileau

Evening Prayer: Begin in silence

Opening devotions: Gail Kase

1. **Approval of September 17 minutes**—completed on September 20, 2024, via group emails.
2. **Treasurer’s report:** Holy Spirit has received over \$14,000 in donations from parishioners and friends far and wide for Helene relief. Susan Sherard is writing thank-you notes, and Susan Sewell is distributing the funds through Outreach (primarily to Beacon of Hope and Community Housing Coalition, others as the need arises).
3. **Interim Rector’s Report.** Dena is back from her 100 mile Camino de Santiago walk; Peggy Barnes’ son’s car rolled and he was seriously injured; Dena has visited Pat Mahon and Frances Knisely.
4. **Senior Warden’s Report.** See page 3.
5. **Junior Warden’s Report.** No report this month.
6. **Committee liaison reports.**
 - A. Monthly featured committee article for Mountain Spirit: Skip for Hurricane relief?
 - B. Property: No report this month.
 - C. Finance: Dena. Ex officio. No report this month
 - D. Stewardship: Mike, See page 3
 - E. Celebration: Carol. No meeting this month.
 - F. Outreach: Carol. See page 4
 - G. Church Caring Crew: Bendik. No report.
 - H. Communication Committee: Amanda. See page 5
 - I. La Esperanza- been working on hurricane relief efforts but there is no report
 - J. Welcome Ministry: Claire. See page 5
 - K. Christian Ed: Deb. See page 6

7. **Discernment Committee Report:** See page 6
8. **Ice breaker.** Roundtable sharing about experiences during and after Hurricane Helene
9. **Treasurer search:** Marcus King has agreed to take the position.

Ending prayer: Dena

Next meeting: November 19

To Dos:

Deidre to order components for the electronic signage

Senior Warden's Report

Greetings!

It's been quite an eventful month, to say the least. We've found ourselves in the midst of a disaster, checking on neighbors, hearing helicopters, seeing FEMA and other relief vehicles, as well as the horrific images of destruction and loss. Every member of Holy Spirit is accounted for. Services are gradually being restored, roads and bridges repaired, and mud removed. The church is full of supplies for folks who need them, and once again Holy Spirit's boots are on the ground to help our community.

We're entering Stewardship season as many of us are still recovering from Helene, which shines a different light on how we come together to support each other as the body of the Church of the Holy Spirit. I am so grateful to be on this boat with you all.

If you are the liaison to a committee, please remember to submit your reports by Friday, September 14th, even if the committee has not met since our last meeting. This gives everyone a chance to read them before the meeting, and allows Deidre time to include them in her minutes. Please send them to Vestry members, Dena, Deidre and Martie, and include the name of your committee.

Please send me anything that you would like to add to the agenda by Friday the 18th.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Kase,

Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

No report this month.

Property Committee

No report this month.

Finance Committee

No report this month.

Stewardship

Mike Robinson

The Stewardship Committee informally includes Ty and Ann as co-chairs, and we have met on the phone as he holds out in Ohio, for now. Carolyn Homra and Peggy Barnes have agreed to be on the committee. Carolyn and I have met in person several times to discuss Stewardship. Jennifer Reda is an unofficial advisor to the committee, having volunteered her experience from chairing this last year. Martie has been informed regarding bulletins and timing.

Here is where we are:

1. Theme: Dreaming for the Future, from Jeremiah 29:11. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."
2. Ty has prepared Prayers of the People for this theme, and Martie has already incorporated them into the bulletins. He has also prepared (or is preparing) the Stewardship letter. Stewardship "packets" with the forms are pretty much ready.
3. We will use 3 Sundays for Stewardship purposes. They will be 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, and in-gathering 11/24.
4. We are lining up speakers for each of the weeks. Two are already on board.
5. Themes for each of the three weeks are something like:

Week 1 is about appreciating what we have, including each other, all the ministers in our midst (that's us) and having the communal comfort of knowing we can "put something down" (ex., a ministry long held) when we find ourselves called to another, because we are deep in gratitude that expresses itself in others "picking it up."

Week 2 is about "picking things up," re ministries, while balancing our "new lives" with a "new spiritual leader." We don't need to look in the rear-view mirror. We are looking forward, with gratitude and energy and love for our church, and looking to grow spiritually as individuals and corporately.

Week 3 will be more focused on how this is a precious and critical time, working on our individual and communal stewardship as we prepare for a successful transition with new leadership. Using our Holy Cow consulting results, we want to make sure we look at ourselves honestly and with renewed energy to really be who we want ourselves and think ourselves to be, as a congregation, as we look to attract the right fit of the person looking to be our priest.

Celebration Committee

Carol VanVoorhis

No report this month.

Outreach Committee

Carol VanVoorhis

We approved \$2500 to Community Housing Coalition and \$2500 to Beacon of Hope, these are the two organizations that will be working for the long run in our community and need our help right now. We also approved \$1,000 in gas gift cards to go to those who are volunteering down in Marshall (many service workers who lost their jobs are working to rebuild).

Sam Shiver said that he had someone who was also writing two \$2500 checks to CHC and BOH. Neighbors in Need offices were destroyed in the flood.

Our Dec 7th event should fund CHC and Beacon of Hope- NIN will probably not do a food pantry again

(BOH does it every day) and if they can find an office in the future, they will only do fuel assistance-but that could be weeks/ months away. If they get up and running sooner than later, we can always fund them in future.

We also discussed yesterday moving forward with the Dec 7th fundraising, but not charging for food, inviting folks to come for cup of soup-chili and bread and just enjoy the space. Maybe have some music in the sanctuary. Hopefully sell crafts and have the silent auction.

Susan has only a handful of applications for First Sunday. She'll bring that list to our Oct 20th meeting. One idea is we fund next year on a quarterly basis- and we focus on Madison County and those who serve Madison County.

Church Caring Crew

Bendik Clark

There has not been a meeting

Communication Committee

Amanda Hilty

Communications Committee discussed how to make sure people who are creating materials representing the church meet a basic level of "brand" consistency, with the logo always included, and name and address correct, etc. We wish people would run anything by the Comm. Committee before going to print so we can make sure this happens

We discussed the need to create a simple brochure or card for handing out at events, and to purchase some "swag" for the same purpose.

Deidre is to follow up on the purchase of components for the electronic message screen.

Welcome Ministry Report

Claire Gillespie

Welcome Committee wants to host a welcoming luncheon for people new to Holy Spirit, with a simple meal and decadent dessert; they are working on finding a good date.

Other ideas are to have a talent show, a game night, and a circle of music at 1 pm at the church. They also want to start serving a birthday cake on the first Sunday of each month, to celebrate everyone who has a birthday in that month.

Christian Education

Deb Carlson

No change from last month. Upcoming offerings below:

Sundays

Art Depicting Faith: Ty Jones 11/03, 11/10

Wednesdays

Divine Feminine Pat Mahan 11/06, 11/13, 11/20

5pm potluck, 5:30-6:00 discussion

Advent Series Dena Whalen TBD

Discernment Committee Report

Submitted by DC Vestry Rep Amanda Hilty

Discernment: Parish Profile is coming along. The DC will present the findings of the CAT Sunday, the 20th, prior to service. Our first meeting for Oct was cancelled because of the Hurricane.

A five-and-a-half-hour Anti-Bias Training is scheduled for 1pm, November 17, at Holy Spirit.