

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## MAY 16, 2023, VESTRY MINUTES

**Date:** May 16, 2023    **Time Started:** 5:00 p.m.    **Time Ended:** 6:20 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** June 20, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

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

**Members Not Present:** Carol VanVoorhis

**Other Attendees:** David McNair, Rector; Lorrie Cooper, Clerk; Bill Sewell, Treasurer; Tom Panek; Peggy Barnes

\*\*\*\*\*

### DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

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

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

**AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report** *(Bill Sewell)*

Attached [to treasurer's email] is a summary of April YTD contribution receipts. A complete set of April financial reports will be provided when available. Also attached [to treasurer's email] is a proposal for amendments to the 2023 Operating budget.

**Tom Panek (Property Committee):** Focused on subject of water outside the culvert: consulted an engineer from D.O.T., who advised that although it need not be addressed immediately, it should be remedied eventually. No need to bring in the Army Corps of Engineers. Tom will explore the matter further and return to give another report to Vestry, which will include an estimate of the cost.

**Peggy Barnes:** [Key concepts : summary]

**Bill Sewell:** Explained further adjustments to the budget. [Bill: are there any statements you can provide that would correctly summarize your presentation?]

**Vestry voted approval of the adjustments to the operating budget.**

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

As Sr. Warden, I will continue to support a healthy and smoothly functioning Vestry, since the Vestry forms the active center of our cherished church. Part of this support will be to encourage clear boundaries for our meetings. David has requested that reports be submitted ahead of time to respect the ninety-minute meeting schedule. If a concern or additional announcement will be shared **within** the meeting, please inform David how much time you will need (and try to keep it concise).

**MAY 16, 2023**

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
VESTRY MINUTES, MAY 16, 2023  
DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

I welcome any advice or help or criticism from you. One function 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:** What at first was a simple idea to limit after-church announcements as well as to provide a space for congregational concerns and communication has become quite a convoluted endeavor! Amanda graciously met with me to analyze the function of all existing bulletin boards, including purging outdated or redundant information. Have no fear that this project *will* come to fruition, without requiring the formation of a bulletin board committee! Stay tuned.

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

A local plumber has been contacted to address the lack of water pressure in the kitchen sink faucets. He has yet to make an appointment because, like many such professionals, he is busy. We will get in line.

**Ongoing Property Committee:**

Installation of sun sails for the shading of patio area.

Addressing the erosion near the culvert at bottom of driveway: Some of the committee met with the DOT last Monday to obtain input and ideas from that level of expertise. A report of that meeting is pending.

**Mowing/Trimming of ECHS Church Grounds:**

A schedule is in place, taking into consideration the following:

- The church's collective efforts to become more environmentally conscious of fossil fuels usage.
- How to provide more pollinator resources by allowing wanted flowering in meadow areas.

The above will be practiced while maintaining a pleasing and welcoming appearance to our church grounds. The committee will review this practice throughout the summer and tweak the schedule when necessary.

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

**1. Pastoral issues:**

**Francis Knisley** is back in her apartment at Mars Hill Retirement and attended church service for the first time yesterday [May 14].

**Linda Ballard** is home after being hospitalized with sepsis – and slowly is regaining her strength.

**Sam Bingham** is receiving radiation treatment for metastasized melanoma in his lungs. He will undergo testing in June to reveal how he is responding to treatment.

**Esther Moriarty** continues to receive regular leukemia treatment. She had a bout of pneumonia in one of her lungs a few weeks ago but has mostly rebounded.

**Jean Talliferro** 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:**

Emma Dunlap, 1196 High Rock Mountain Road, Marshall NC 28753. [EmmaWDunlap@gmail.com](mailto:EmmaWDunlap@gmail.com)

**3. Bill Sewell has announced his intent to end his tenure as ECHS Treasurer on August 31, 2023.**

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
VESTRY MINUTES, MAY 16, 2023  
DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

He, Katie Douglas, and members of the Finance Committee are now completing detailed job descriptions for the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Bookkeeper to clarify these new roles going forward. There is currently no one who has agreed to assume the Treasurer position.

4. Plans are being made for a Celtic evening prayer service at the pavilion at Wolf Laurel. The service will be followed by a potluck dinner on Wednesday, June 7, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Following the potluck, Taylor Barnhill will lead an easy hike at the top of the bald which has spectacular views.
5. The fifth meeting of Sacred Ground will be Saturday, June 3, 9:30 –11:00am at Mars Hill Methodist Church. Newcomers are welcome, but please contact me [David McNair] before the meeting for reading/viewing assignment.
6. As is our practice, the Vestry will NOT meet in July unless urgent business arises. Plans are being made for a three-to-four-hour Vestry retreat in August. The retreat will be led by Rev. Gary Butterworth, who is trained in Congregational Life and Vitality. We need to decide on a date convenient for all Vestry members, preferably during either the week of August 28-Sept. 2 or the week of September 5-8.

**Vestry voted for August 28, meeting at noon (sharing lunch)  
and ending at 4:30. Location TBD.**

7. The Day of Pentecost service on Sunday, May 28 will be held at 10:30am in the Memorial Garden followed by a potluck lunch.

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

The Church Caring Crew (CCC) held its first quarterly meeting on May 3.

**Committee members for 2023:**

Barbara Moloney (Chair), Carol Van Voorhis, Claire Gillespie, Gail Kase, and Nancy Whitaker.  
With *ex officio* members: David McNair (Rector) and Kathleen Phillips (Vestry Liaison).

Following the opening prayer, discussion was opened about the need to increase awareness of the CCC's existence and its purpose. It was also agreed that increased membership would enable the ministry to reach additional parishioners more effectively. David introduced the concept of a "second tier" of volunteers.

Barbara presented **CCC Information Cards**. The cards will be displayed in the hallways where they will be accessible to parishioners who may benefit from this ministry's assistance. To draw attention to this ministry's scope and opportunities for volunteers to participate, an article will be published in the *Mountain Spirit*. Along with posts in Sunday bulletins and the Monday *Weekly Spirit*, there will be announcements on Sundays to reinforce the messages. David, in tandem with Claire and Kathleen, presented updates on the status of several members of the parish. *See David's report on Pastoral Issues for parishioners who have recently/currently received CCC care.*

***The next quarterly meeting will be in person at ECHS, August 2 at 11:30am.***

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
VESTRY MINUTES, MAY 16, 2023  
DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

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

Welcome Ministry hosted a reception open to the nearby community on Friday, April 21, 5:00-7:00 pm. We advertised on Facebook, posted on Instagram, handed printed invitations to people who might enjoy attending, and sent postcards to people who have visited Holy Spirit in the past year as well as to former church attendees still living in the area. The completion of the icons of Mary Magdalene under the instruction of Teresa Harrison gave us something unique to share. We left the serving tables in place, complete with flowers and food items, for the Earth Day potluck on Sunday April 23 following the special outdoor service.

We have been making the patio areas into gathering places with outdoor furniture that can fold away when not in use. Pam and Ed McNally donated six small metal tables. The tables can be used to allow the wooden garden benches accommodate people sitting for conversation with coffee, providing a surface on which to place cups and plates.

We plan to have another parish gathering Friday, October 20.

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

Reminder of Pentecost Sunday: Service to be held in the Memorial Garden, followed by a potluck.

Pam McNally volunteered to serve a three-year term on the board of the Living Gifts Fund, which requires a vote of approval from the Vestry:

**Vestry voted approval of Pam McNally serving this term.**

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

Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 5:00pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk