

Approved Minutes
Vestry Meeting March 19, 2024

Vestry members in attendance: Senior Warden Gail Kase, Junior Warden Peggy Wilson, Deb Carlson, Bendik Clark, Claire Gillespie, Amanda Hilty, Mike Robinson, Rebecca Sharp, Carole VanVoorhis

Vestry members not in attendance: None

Rector: Rev. Dena Whalen

Others in attendance: Clerk Deidre Soileau, guest Ana Gaspar (left after introduction)

The meeting began with a devotion and prayer (Rebecca).

1. APPROVED

February 15 meeting minutes were unanimously approved via group emails on February 24.

2. Treasurer's report. "All clear, steady as she goes."
3. Interim Rector's Report. See page 3-4 (includes schedule of activities for Holy Week)
4. Senior Warden's Report. See page 5.
 - a. Updated Vestry on MHU contact: Bonner scholars cannot work at a church.
 - b. Vestry is collecting funds for a thank you gift for Lorrie for her years of clerking.
5. Junior Warden's Report. No report.
6. Committee liaison reports.
 - a. La Esperanza: See page 6.
Rebecca introduced Ana Gaspar as co-director of La Esperanza and gave an update on activities and new partnerships. She noted increased participation from Asheville residents, the need for spaces for classes, and the need to be more visible to Holy Spirit members.
 - b. Property: See page 6.
 - c. Finance: See page 7.
 - d. Stewardship. No report.
 - e. Celebration: No report.
 - f. Outreach: See page 7-8.
 - g. Church Caring Crew: See page 8.

- h. Communication Committee: No report.
Deidre noted that Amanda had taken responsibility for Holy Spirit's Facebook page, and that they are working on creating a separate, well-linked website for La Esperanza.
 - i. Welcome Ministry: See page 9.
 - j. Christian Ed: No report.
7. Ice breaker. Introvert or Extrovert? Repeat of last year's activity guessing how Vestry members described themselves, due to new people and others knowing each other even better than they did.
8. Discernment Committee (DC) Chair's Report. Deidre' gave a brief review of the information and critical next steps provided by Canon Augusta:
- a. Select and recruit DC members.
 - b. Commission DC members at a church service.
 - c. Schedule a 5-hour retreat for the committee with Canon Augusta and/or her representative, Rev. Joslyn Schaeffer.
9. Deidre and Gail presented the Vestry with possible names for the DC for consideration. After thoughtful discussion, some adjustments were made to the lists.

10. APPROVED

Vestry unanimously approved the revised list of potential candidates for DC and gave Deidre and Gail the go-ahead to begin recruiting.

11. Vestry Rep responsibilities.
- a. Gail asked each member for updates on people they have not been able to contact, and whether they should be removed from the parish roster. Gail mentioned that there was a high bar for removal, since many of the people did stay in touch.
 - b. Rebecca asked for sign re: cell phones silenced in the sanctuary. - Peggy is going to make signs for both sets of doors.
12. Pastoral concerns or addenda.

Silent prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.
Closing prayer.

To dos

- Collection for Lorrie (All)
- Recruit DC members (Gail and Deidre), and schedule for commissioning (Dena).
- Make and post signs about cell phones in the sanctuary (Peggy)

Next meeting: April 16

Interim Rector's Report

Pastoral Care: I continue to meet with people who are in long-term care, in hospital, and home recuperating. Also, I am reaching out to certain people for home visits to get to know them better.

On the second Sunday of each month I am leading the Vespers service at Mars Hill Manor.

Formation: I have enjoyed leading the Wednesday programs in Lent and the scrumptious soups and breads at the suppers. The topics have been Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Interpretation/Authority of Scripture.

Time off has included two Sundays: February 25 and March 10.

Here is the schedule for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Please encourage people to attend!

- THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY -
- March 24, 10:30 am - The service will begin at 10:30am in the parking lot with the Blessing of the Palms. From there we will process into the sanctuary. For those who want to wait inside, please gather in the hallway prior to the service and join the procession into the worship space.
- MAUNDY THURSDAY – March 28, 6:00 pm – To commemorate Jesus' mandate, Do this in remembrance of me, we will take part in "The Lord's Supper." Then, we will share an agape meal as the earliest Christians did. A foot washing (or hand washing) will be offered as we remember Jesus' call to be servants of one another. Finally, the altar will be stripped until it is set again at the Easter Vigil in preparation for our celebration of the Resurrection.
- Please sign up in the hallway cubby with what you would like to bring. Please only bring those finger foods that are on the list (no sweets please). Also, please plan on arriving by 5:15 that evening so that your food can be plated and divided up among the various tables. Signing up for this evening meal is important since we need to know how many tables and chairs we need to set up.
- GOOD FRIDAY - March 29, 6:00 pm – At this service we ponder Jesus' suffering and death upon the cross and we pray for the world for which he gave his life.
- EASTER VIGIL – March 31, 6:30 am – The Vigil will begin in the Memorial Garden with the lighting of the Pascal Candle.

After we process into the church, we will hear readings from scripture and sing canticles that recount God's saving deeds in history. At sunrise the congregation will participate in setting the altar for Holy Eucharist. Those attending Easter Vigil are invited to bring potluck breakfast to share after the Vigil service.

- EASTER BREAKFAST – Those who attend the Vigil will enjoy a potluck breakfast afterwards. Those not attending the Vigil are invited to join in a potluck breakfast beginning at 9:15 am. Please sign up in the cubby if you will be attending and include what you will bring.
- HOLY EUCHARIST– 10:30 am – We will celebrate the Day of Resurrection with a festive Holy Eucharist.
- EASTER EGG HUNT – will take place after the 10:30 service.

Senior Warden's Report

Since our February Vestry meeting, our little boat on the hallway Roadmap has sailed into Discernment waters! This marks an important and historic time in the life of Holy Spirit, and I am confident that Vestry will accompany the Discernment Committee and support the discernment process while maintaining necessary boundaries. (Think of us as becoming a supply vessel.) Deidre Soileau wears two hats now: Vestry Clerk as well as DC Chair. She will take the lead in the discernment process while she keeps us straight with the Vestry minutes. (That should keep her occupied!)

Most of you have sent me the names of people on your Call List who you couldn't reach or who didn't get back to you, so I could check to see if they are engaged in other ways. If you didn't, please do! We'll go through the directory together, so please bring your Call List results—along with any comments you'd like to share. Most of our meeting time will be devoted to discussing and approving the Discernment Committee candidates, but we'll have time to review our Holy Week schedule and of course: the Ice Breaker.

If you are the liaison to a committee, please remember to submit your reports by Friday March 15th, 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, Deidre and Martie, and please keep them concise. Please send me anything that you would like to add to the agenda by the end of the weekend.

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

La Esperanza

- Luncheon fundraiser held at MHB on Feb 15 brought in \$1964 to be used for Operating funds to continue with the regular programming.
- The youth group met on Feb 10 at ECHS. There were 17 youths!
 - They made over 60 cupcakes and Valentine cards for the residents at MH Manor.
 - We then went over and personally delivered the gifts to the residents at the dining hall. It was a beautiful day.
 -
- The Preventing and Controlling Chronic Disease class was postponed from January until this Sunday due to sickness! We hope to have a good turn out!
- ESL classes continue throughout the community. We have 2 new volunteers (from ECHS) who have started with 4 new students! We still have about 3 students without teachers
- We donated \$2500 this month to Latina families in need to assist with rental and medical costs.
- The Advisory Council voted to move Ana's hours up to 15/wk (from 10/wk) Of course contingent on continued funding!
- Ana's position is now Co-Director as opposed to Assistant. The program has expanded a lot due to her commitment and ideas.

Property Committee

Provided by liaison Peggy Wilson

Modified Youth Room

CHC will pick up our unneeded furniture from the modified youth room on March 15. Efforts are to make that room more multipurpose and aesthetically pleasing with a new paint job, softer lighting and purging of unneeded furniture. It is a work in progress and will remain a space for both youth and general use.

Finance Committee

Provided by liaison Gail Kase

No Meeting in February or March. Budget passed.

Stewardship

Provided by liaison Mike Robinson

The stewardship committee will not meet again until September.

Celebration Committee

Provided by liaison Carol VanVoorhis

There has been no meeting since the last Vestry meeting.

Outreach Committee

Provided by liaison Carol VanVoorhis

- **First Sundys**
 - Madison Group Home was January First Sunday and they received \$750.
 - Neighbors in Need is February and Empowering Madison Youth is March.
 - April's First Sunday is Community Housing Coalition, Cathy Dalton of CHC will visit April 7th and share update information about CHC.

- **December 7 Craft/Silent Auction Fundraiser**
 - We spent the majority of the meeting discussing plans for our December 7th Craft/Silent Auction/ Lunch/Baked Goods fundraiser for Outreach.

The event will be a community event, flyers will be designed and distributed throughout the county!

- We encourage anyone who can do crafts for sale to bring their own supplies and work on them on our "craft days".
- Craft making days will be 10 am-2 pm on April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 12th, Aug 2nd, Sept 6th, and Oct 4th
- We will also have a "high end" silent auction. Only 10-12 pieces that will hopefully raise lots of money. Peggy Barnes will also be making a quilt,

- **Ingles Cards**

Nicki Toole will no longer be doing gift cards for Ingles. This raises a minimum of \$250 a month for outreach. We are looking for the next volunteer to take this over, Nicki will train.

Church Caring Crew

Provided by liaison Bendik Clark

Church caring crew has not met, but I have connected with them as the liaison.

Communication Committee

Provided by liaison Amanda Hilty

The Communications Team has not met since the last Vestry meeting.

Welcome Ministry Report

Provided by liaison Claire Gillespie

Supper Club:

Twenty-eight people (6 singles, 11 couples) were divided into four supper club groups which began sharing a meal together in one member's home in March. These groups and hopefully others will be mixed again after four months.

High Tea:

Pam Hayhurst is willing to plan an afternoon high tea for Holy Spirit members as a spring/summer gathering or as an opportunity to invite friends outside of Holy Spirit to join with us.

Welcome Message Board:

Carolyn Homra has made a beautiful welcoming message on the outside sandwich board.

Connections with MHU:

Gail and Loraine Hilty met with the MHU Chaplain Stephanie McLeskey to share ways university students and CHS members can develop a partnership. The welcome team met March 10 to discuss ideas generated from this MHU meeting and ideas involving ways for our members to grow. The possible plan of an ice cream social with MHU students is to learn ways we can assist with their needs and how they can help us. Loraine is meeting with the Bonner Scholar director on March 18th to learn other ways we can join forces. There is a need to become involved with the 25+ students that stay on campus during the summer.

Christian Education

Provided by liaison Deb Carlson

No report.