

**ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
608 WEST JEFFERSON STREET
TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI 38804**

**MINUTES OF
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023
VESTRY MEETING**

PRESENT:

The Rev. Phillip Parker, Rector	Alice Alexander	Joellen Murphree
The Rev. Becca Walton, Curate	Carol Alvis	
Cathy Fitzpatrick, Sr. Warden	Sue Ann Averett	Margaret Anne Robbins
Stephen King, Jr. Warden	Caleb Bedillion	Ann Springfield
	Karen Dieckmann	
Tommie Moore, Clerk	Leila Keel	Donna Timmons

ABSENT: Mike Fitzpatrick, Richard Pate, Grant Smith

VISITOR: Mary Jane Meadows, chair of the Stewardship Committee

The Rev. Phillip Parker opened the meeting with a prayer at 5:58 p.m.

CHECK IN

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mary Jane Meadows attended the Vestry meeting to give an update on plans for the Fall Stewardship campaign. She reported the committee has been viewing many of the webinars made available on The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) website. These have been very informative and helpful with a wealth of resources available for our use.

Mary Jane distributed 2024 pledge cards to the Vestry and asked members to prayerfully consider their 2024 pledge to the operating budget and return their pledge card no later than October 8. She stated the Stewardship Committee would like to announce at the kickoff event that 100% of our leadership have turned in their 2024 pledge and the amount those pledges represent.

She also advised the committee is working on stewardship testimonials, both written and video, banners, and signs to be placed inside and outside on our campus. They are also working on the Stewardship kickoff event scheduled for Sunday, October 22. There will be one service at 10:30 a.m. with "Oktoberfest, Beer & Brats" following in the Parish Hall.

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM VESTRY AND CLERGY

Vestry goals/objectives:

- Be intentional about engagement with parishioners or newcomers (personal connection, lunch, coffee, etc.); Share social media posts
- Help to communicate liturgy explanations to the Parish.
- Increase Vestry attendance at services, events, programs, classes.
- Start each Vestry meeting by reviewing goals and reporting on specific progress.

In August, Sr. Warden, Cathy Fitzpatrick challenged the Vestry to reach out to parishioners who have not returned to church since the Pandemic and report the progress at their September meeting. Several members reported they had reached out to those they have not seen in a while and/or introduced themselves to newcomers. Joellen Murphree reported she is meeting with five parishioners who are discerning their involvement in Daughters of the King.

Clergy goals/objectives:

Cathy advised that after a discussion with Stephen King and our clergy, it was decided to remove the clergy goals/objectives from the monthly agenda. She stated that it is the Wardens' responsibility to check in with the clergy, not only about church/professional matters, but about how they are doing personally. Cathy stated she and Stephen will be regularly checking in throughout the months going forward.

Cathy also reported that one of the goals outlined at the Vestry Retreat was for All Saints' to be more of a presence in the wider community. Lately, clergy and other volunteers have erected the All Saints' tent or been a part of events such as "Blessing of the Balloons" at the FLABR Hot Air Balloon Festival and the Tupelo High School tailgating event. Upcoming events we plan to be a presence at are the Robins Street Art Stroll, the Tupelo Pride event and possibly Chili Fest. Cathy noted that it should not fall to our clergy alone to be a presence at each of these community events, but instead recruit volunteers who have an interest in a particular event to be present. She referred to the Mediation Agreements outlined in Section E.3 "Caring for the Pastor" to serve as a reminder to all Vestry members: *"That a stated expectation of Vestry members be to initiate the taking of responsibility for tasks."* The representation of All Saints' at any event should always be approved by the Rector, but the recruitment of the volunteers to work the event should come from those wanting All Saints' to be a part of said event. She asked the Vestry to look for events where All Saints' could be a presence and then after approval, take the initiative to organize the effort.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- August 2023 financial reports
- August 21, 2023 Vestry minutes
- September 11, 2023 Executive Committee minutes
- Christian Growth Commission report - written
- Christian Service Commission report - written
- Christian Stewardship Commission report - written
- Jr. Warden's report – part of the Executive Committee minutes
- Sr. Warden's report – part of the Executive Committee minutes
- Curate's report – written

➤ Rector's report – part of the Executive Committee minutes

MOTION: (Springfield/Robbins)

Approve Consent Agenda as submitted.

APPROVED.

BUSINESS:

Treasurer's report

On behalf of Treasurer Mike Fitzpatrick, Cathy Fitzpatrick advised August pledges were short of budget approximately \$2,800, with non-pledge offerings short of budget approximately \$500. Year-to-date total revenue is approximately \$28,000 over the budgeted deficit. Mike will be sending statements to parishioners soon.

MOTION: (Timmons/Springfield)

Approve Treasurer's report as given.

APPROVED.

Update from the Budget, Nominating and Compensation Review Committees

The Wardens submitted names of parishioners to fill the open membership slots on the Budget Committee. After reviewing the names and a brief discussion the following motion was made:

MOTION: (Averett/Dieckmann)

Approve membership of the Budget Committee.

APPROVED.

The Wardens submitted names of parishioners to fill the open membership slots on the Nominating Committee. After reviewing the names and a brief discussion the following motion was made:

MOTION: (Bedillion/Alvis)

Approve membership of the Nominating Committee, with the Wardens ranking the selections.

APPROVED.

The Wardens submitted names of parishioners to fill the open membership slots on the Compensation Review Committee. After reviewing the names and a brief discussion the following motion was made:

MOTION: (Murphree/Springfield)

Approve membership of the Compensation Review Committee.

APPROVED.

Consider t-shirt/sweatshirt fundraiser

Phillip advised a parishioner had suggested selling All Saints' t-shirts and sweatshirts during the Fall, as it had been a while since we had new ones to sell. Details continue to be gathered as to the cost, design and number of items to be ordered. The matter was tabled until further details could be obtained.

MOTION: (Dieckmann/Timmons)

Table discussion of t-shirt/sweatshirt sale until further details can be obtained.

APPROVED.

Consider explanation and placement of food container on our campus

Phillip advised a parishioner asked if All Saints' would be interested in having a free standing container in which canned goods or hygiene items could be placed and given to those in need. Stephen King showed the container to the Vestry. It is well built and very attractive. Phillip advised putting it on the

Madison Street side of our campus, noting this offering would work much like the “Little Free Libraries” seen around Tupelo, except ours would contain canned food items and hygiene items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste. The suggestion was made to call it a “Blessing Box.” After a discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: (Timmons/Robbins)

Approve new addition of the “Blessing Box” to be placed on our campus in an area determined by the Rector.

APPROVED.

CHECK-OUT

Phillip asked the Vestry to support the Saints’ Brew Ministry which will be competing at “A Night Out for a Hand Up” event on Monday, September 25. Deepika Dey, Director of Saints’ Brew will be making the presentation and Saints’ Brew will be competing for monetary awards – 1st place \$10,000; 2nd place \$5,000; 3rd place \$2,500 and “Crowd Favorite” \$2,500.

CLOSE: With no further business, The Rev. Phillip Parker dismissed the Vestry meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Submitted by Tommie Moore, Clerk of the Vestry.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING:

August 2023 financial reports

August 21, 2023 Vestry minutes

September 11, 2023 Executive Committee minutes

Christian Growth Commission report

Christian Service Commission report

Christian Stewardship Commission report

Curate’s report