

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

**MINUTES OF
MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024
VESTRY MEETING**

PRESENT:

The Rev. Phillip Parker, Rector	Alice Alexander	Leesha Faulkner
Cathy Fitzpatrick, Sr. Warden	Carol Alvis	
David Alford, Jr. Warden	Sue Ann Averett	Joellen Murphree
Mike Fitzpatrick, Treasurer	Leslie Criss	Richard Pate
Tommie Moore, Clerk	Nathan Duncan	Margaret Anne Robbins
		Ann Springfield

ABSENT: Marcie Morgan

The Rev. Phillip Parker opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:00 p.m.

CHECK IN

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Discussion of Nancy Sweat's retirement

CONSENT AGENDA:

- June 2024 financial reports
- June 24, 2024 Vestry minutes
- July 22, 2024 Executive Committee minutes
- Christian Growth Commission report

MOTION: (Fitzpatrick/Robbins)

Approve Consent Agenda as submitted.

APPROVED.

PROGRESS REPORTS ON VESTRY OBJECTIVES:

- **Reimagine and resurrect the Men's Group**
Richard Pate advised the men met for breakfast in July with 19 in attendance. They are working with the Property Committee to clean out and reorganize the EYC room and perform a deep cleaning of the kitchen. The Men's group will cook hot dogs and hamburgers for the August 14 Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs.

- **Reimagine and resurrect ECW**
Joellen Murphree reported that ECW (Episcopal Church Women) met Wednesday, July 17 with 14 in attendance. ECW hosted and cooked for the July 17 Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs. She reported that they were able to cover the cost of the ingredients of the salad supper by charging \$6 per person/\$15 family. Mark Maharrey will be the guest at the August ECW meeting and

will lead a beginner's lesson on playing the ukulele. Other programs lined up for the fall include a game night, Mary Jane Meadows, Fall Gardening and the Executive Director of SAFE.

➤ **Further engage with members/newcomers/visitors**

Phillip reported that he is working with a parishioner who offered to host a newcomer's gathering at her home in late August or September. Ann Springfield advised she is sending welcoming cards to those who have filled out a pew card.

➤ **Website refresh/redesign**

Sue Ann Averett reported that she, Cathy Fitzpatrick and Tommie Moore met with Lance Moore, the owner of MooreSites Design Studio to discuss the process of redesigning our current website. Sue Ann and co-chair, Marrion Winders will be meeting to discuss possibilities for committee members. Once that task has been completed, they will meet as a group with Lance to move forward with the redesign process.

➤ **Potluck dinners/programs**

Sue Ann Averett reported that she, Leslie Criss and Alice Alexander met to review the results from the potluck dinner survey. Sue Ann advised they recommend beginning in September, Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs be held once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Their recommendation included having the meal provided at a small cost, with the hosting duties (set up/clean up and providing simple desserts) being assigned to the committees.

Cathy Fitzpatrick advised that she reached out to "Mama What's for Dinner" owner, Sandra Lyons to see what it would cost to have the dinners catered. Sandra submitted a menu list of main courses, vegetables, salads, breads and desserts, noting she could cater the meal consisting of a main course with 2 vegetables for \$12 per person, which would include delivering the meal to All Saints'. Treasurer, Mike Fitzpatrick advised the church could cover \$4 per person of the cost of the meal. Cathy recommended trying this model for our Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs through the end of the year. A discussion followed. It was noted that when choosing the menu each month sensitivity would be given, when possible, to vegetarians and those needing gluten free options.

MOTION: (Faulkner/Fitzpatrick)

Approve offering catered Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs once a month at a net cost to parishioners of \$8 per person/\$20 family, with All Saints' absorbing \$4.00 of the \$12.00 cost.

APPROVED.

BUSINESS

Treasurer's report

Treasurer, Mike Fitzpatrick opened the discussion by reminding the Vestry that we budgeted a \$15,000 deficit in the 2024 budget. While we had a \$4,700 surplus for the month, we currently have a \$36,000 deficit year-to-date.

Total revenue for the month of June was approximately \$55,000 of a budget of approximately \$47,000. Total expenses were approximately \$50,000 of a budget of approximately \$47,000. Mike reported that our HVAC maintenance costs in June were \$3,400 for additional refrigerant, which brings the total cost of refrigerant added over two months to approximately \$6,000. He noted that so far this year we have

spent \$9,187 of our \$10,000 HVAC budget. We have approximately \$59,000 left in “Pre-paid Pledges”.

Mike reported our building loan balance is \$471,617.11 with pledges to the “Burn the Note” campaign of \$490,000.

MOTION: (Pate/Duncan)

Approve Treasurer’s report as given.

APPROVED.

Discussion of options/ideas re: NCADD building

Cathy opened the discussion by giving an overview of the Vestry’s discussion in June about options regarding the NCADD building. At that meeting, Vestry members brainstormed ideas and offered thoughts about how the building could be used if we kept it, as well as selling the building and the possibilities for the use of the money made from the sale. Members were charged with putting “pen to paper” and reporting back in July with details about what it would take to implement some of the ideas for keeping the building, as well as the ideas for selling it. One of the ideas mentioned in June was to sell the building but keep the property. Joellen reported that she contacted a realtor about the feasibility of the idea but did not get a response. Treasurer, Mike Fitzpatrick will research what the market rate would be to rent out the building and report in August. Several Vestry members posed the question about whether or not All Saints’ really wants to take on the role of landlord. The Vestry agreed to look at the financial aspect of both options (keeping the building or selling it) in August to make a determination as to “next steps”.

Discussion of options to sell the sterling silver place settings

Cathy advised that she contacted the antique dealer who sold the 12-piece sterling silver place settings to the person who anonymously donated the items to All Saints’. The dealer advised the items would be worth approximately \$4,800. If sold to an auction house, All Saints’ could expect to realize approximately half of the worth of the set. He suggested holding a silent auction, with a stated minimum bid, advertised in our newsletter with photos and a detailed description and history of the place settings. He also suggested having a place setting on display as some people would prefer to see the items in person.

MOTION: (Faulkner/Robbins)

Approve holding a silent auction, with a stated minimum bid of \$3500-\$4,000, advertised in our newsletter with photos and a detailed description and history of the place settings. Display a place setting at several parish functions for parishioners to view in person.

APPROVED.

Discussion of construction of Flower Guild closet

Phillip opened the discussion by advising the Vestry that Deanna Alford, chair of the Flower Guild has submitted a grant request to the Endowment Trustees for money to be used toward the construction of an enclosed area in the east transept, across from where the other Flower Guild closet is located. She contacted a contractor who submitted a bid of \$3,500 to enclose the area. Knowing the Endowment Fund would not have enough money to grant the Flower Guild the entire cost of the project, Deanna advised that she would be willing to save whatever money they could offer, until the Flower Guild had enough money to cover the cost of the project. In the meantime, Phillip advised that his son Connor expressed an interest in the project as he is a Building Trade Science major at Mississippi State University. Connor priced out the project and stated he could enclose the area and install shelving at a materials cost of \$500 and a labor cost of \$1,500. He estimated it would take about a week to complete. Phillip advised that he

spoke to Deanna and she is comfortable with Connor handling the project. Phillip would be supervising the project through to completion. A discussion followed. It was noted that the Endowment Trustees have not yet met to consider the grant requests and therefore the Vestry could not be sure how much money, if any, the Flower Guild would be awarded or would need to complete the project. It was the consensus of the Vestry to table the matter until the Endowment Trustees meet to determine the amount of grant money awarded.

Retirement gift

Phillip advised that with Nancy Sweat’s retirement fast approaching, he would like to honor her work at All Saints’ over the last 24 years, with the collection of a monetary gift to give to her. He suggested the presentation be made on Sunday, August 11 at the 9:30 service with Coffee Alley following, giving parishioners a time to greet Nancy more personally.

MOTION: (Cathy Fitzpatrick/Murphree)

Approve collection of a monetary gift to be given to Nancy Sweat on the occasion of her retirement as parish secretary.

APPROVED.

CHECK-OUT

CLOSE: With no further business, The Rev. Phillip Parker dismissed the Vestry meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by Tommie Moore, Clerk of the Vestry.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 29, 2024 MEETING:

June 2024 financial reports

June 24, 2024 Vestry minutes

July 22, 2024 Executive Committee minutes

Christian Growth Commission report