

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

**MINUTES OF
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024
VESTRY MEETING**

PRESENT:

The Rev. Phillip Parker, Rector	Alice Alexander	Leesha Faulkner
Cathy Fitzpatrick, Sr. Warden		Marcie Morgan
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: Carol Alvis

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

CHECK IN

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Pressure washing funds request from the Property Committee
- Flower Guild closet

CONSENT AGENDA:

- May 2024 financial reports
- May 20, 2024 Vestry minutes
- June 13, 2024 Vestry by written consent minutes
- Christian Growth Commission report
- Christian Service Commission report
- Christian Stewardship Commission report

MOTION: (Murphree/Duncan)

Approve Consent Agenda as submitted.

APPROVED.

PROGRESS REPORTS ON VESTRY OBJECTIVES:

- **Reimagine and resurrect the Men's Group**
Richard Pate advised the men have continued to meet for breakfast one Saturday a month. At their last gathering the men have decided to partner with Pack and Troop 85 to reorganize the EYC room, clean out the closet and repaint the room. They will work with Vance Perkins, Rob Kiste (Pack and Troop leaders) and Allison Bedillion to accomplish this task. Richard noted they are also considering some type of event for EYC where the youth could invite their friends. He

will report back to the Vestry with the details as they are developed. Richard asked that an usher training be considered in the near future.

➤ **Reimagine and resurrect ECW**

Cathy Fitzpatrick reported that ECW (Episcopal Church Women) gathered for a Wine & Cheese event on May 23 in the Parish Hall. They asked members to submit ideas for projects ECW could undertake. Some of the ideas submitted were health and wellness activities; tutoring for children; hymn sing. ECW also met on Sunday, June 2 following the service and cooked for the Care Team freezer.

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

Phillip reported that he has had several positive conversations with visitors and newcomers who have been impressed with the warm welcome extended to them. He is also working with a couple that would like to be married here and are considering joining All Saints' for worship. He encouraged Vestry members to greet and welcome newcomers and visitors on Sundays.

➤ **Website refresh/redesign**

Cathy Fitzpatrick advised she and Tommie Moore met with Lance Moore, the owner of MooreSites Design Studio to discuss the process of redesigning our current website. She asked the Vestry to consider Sue Ann Averett and Marrison Winders as co-chairs of the committee. They will be tasked with recruiting members for the committee and working with Lance Moore on the redesign.

MOTION: (Murphree/Alexander)

Approve Sue Ann Averett and Marrison Winders as co-chairs of the website committee.

APPROVED.

➤ **Potluck dinners/programs**

Leslie Criss, Sue Ann Averett and Alice Alexander met to review the results from the potluck dinner survey. Sue Ann reported they have some ideas about how to restructure the potluck dinners and programs but want to see how the attendance is at the single potluck dinner in July. It was suggested that a group cook for the July offering. Cathy will work with Leslie, Sue Ann and Alice to determine if that can be arranged.

BUSINESS

Treasurer's report

Treasurer, Mike Fitzpatrick reported that pledge receipts are under budget approximately \$10,000 month-to-date and approximately \$44,000 year-to-date. He noted that twenty-five households are behind on their pledge. Mike will make an announcement in church on Sunday, June 30 and run a request in the newsletter for parishioners who are behind to bring their pledge current if possible. Mike also said that statements will be sent to all households at the end of June.

Mike advised that he is waiting on the Diocese of Mississippi to send one month of the Curate subsidy which is owed to us. He has spoken with the financial officer for the Diocese about this matter.

Mike reported that expenses were below budget in May, but he expects expenses may be above budget in June due to some HVAC repairs and maintenance. He advised we are showing a deficit of

approximately \$41,000 vs. the projected deficit of \$13,000.

Mike thanked the Vestry for their timely response to his recommendation to accept the insurance proposal from Church Insurance Company. He noted our yearly insurance premium will increase to \$32,000 up from \$20,000.

Mike reported we have received fifty pledges in the amount of \$483,000 on the Burn the Note capital campaign. He thinks additional pledges may be received.

MOTION: (Pate/Cathy Fitzpatrick)

Approved Treasurer's report as submitted and updated.

APPROVED.

Discussion of open Vestry spot

Cathy advised that she has been in discussion with our Chancellor, Reed Hillen about how or if to replace resigning Vestry member Leila Keel. Leila was serving the balance of an unexpired term and her term would be up at the 2025 Annual Meeting. At issue is the wording in our Bylaws: Article IV, Section 2C: *"Any vacancy on the Vestry shall be filled for the balance of the term involved by election by the remaining Vestry members, at their discretion."* It was interpreted that "shall" means *must* which is at odds with "at their discretion". Cathy asked Reed for his opinion. Reed stated that the term "at their discretion" supersedes "shall". Therefore, with only a few months left on Leila's term, Cathy recommended leaving the seat open and electing for the position at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

MOTION: (Alford/Duncan)

Approve leaving open the vacated seat on the Vestry until the 2025 Annual Meeting.

APPROVED.

Discussion of youth fundraiser for "Burn the Note"

Cathy advised our children and youth have donated approximately \$140 to the "Burn the Note" capital campaign over the past month and are looking for ways to earn money to continue donating to the campaign. Capital Campaign co-chairs, Wayne Averett and Donna Timmons want to support the effort of our youth and asked the Vestry to approve a fundraiser for Sunday, July 28. Wayne and Donna will work with the youth on the details of the event.

MOTION: (Cathy Fitzpatrick/Robbins)

Approve fundraiser managed by our youth on Sunday, July 28 to raise funds for the "Burn the Note" capital campaign.

APPROVED.

Discussion of Director of Christian Formation job description

With the hiring of Allison Bedillion as our Christian Formation Director, Phillip advised he has worked with Tommie to combine the job descriptions of the Christian Education Director and the Youth Director. Allison will be responsible for children, youth and adult education programs, as well as the Jr. and Sr. EYC programs. He submitted a revised job description for the Director's position for review.

MOTION: (Averett/Duncan)

Approve revised Director of Christian Formation as submitted.

APPROVED.

Discussion of ordination gift for Bishop-elect Wells from All Saints'

Phillip advised that it is customary for parishes in our Diocese to give a gift to the Bishop-elect. In the past, this has been done several different ways. Gifts can be made by a parish or by individuals. Phillip reported that the Diocese is asking clergy to contribute toward the Gifts of Office for Bishop-elect Wells. The Vestry discussed how to donate as a parish. It was suggested that gifts be made individually, giving everyone in the Parish a chance to donate.

MOTION: (Faulkner/Alexander)

Approve providing parishioners with instructions on how to donate to the Gifts of Office for Bishop-elect Dorothy Wells.

APPROVED.

Approve Les Alvis as chair of Columbarium committee

Cathy asked the Vestry to consider approving Les Alvis as chair of the columbarium committee, tasked with studying options for an outdoor columbarium.

MOTION: (Pate/Morgan)

Approve Les Alvis as chair of the Columbarium committee.

APPROVED.

Discussion of gift of sterling silver place settings

Cathy advised that a gift of twelve-piece sterling silver place settings from France acquired from an antique dealer in the 1990's has been gifted to All Saints', with the hope that All Saints' would sell the silver and the money would be given to the "Burn the Note" campaign. It is expected that the sale would amount to approximately \$5,000.

MOTION: (Murphree/Morgan)

Approve selling the gift of twelve-piece sterling silver place settings with the proceeds being given to the "Burn the Note" campaign.

APPROVED.

MOTION: (Murphree/Morgan)

Authorize the Wardens to sell the twelve-piece sterling silver place settings at a price they deem fair.

APPROVED.

Discussion of gift of painting

Phillip advised that an original painting by newcomer David Howard was gifted to All Saints' by the artist. Phillip said David has really appreciated the warm welcome he has received since coming to All Saints'.

MOTION: (Robbins/Criss)

With deep gratitude, accept the gift of the cross painting by artist David Howard.

APPROVED.

Discuss moving the next Executive Committee meeting to July 22 and the next Vestry meeting to July 29

Cathy advised that due to Phillip serving on staff at Special Session 2 at Camp Bratton-Green and Cathy and Mike being out of town, she recommends moving the next Executive Committee meeting to July 22 and the next Vestry meeting to July 29.

MOTION: (Pate/Murphree)

Approve moving the next Executive Committee meeting to July 22 and the next Vestry meeting to July 29.

APPROVED.

Flower Guild closet

Deanna Alford, chair of the Flower Guild, submitted a grant request to the Endowment Trustees for an amount unknown at this time for the construction/enclosing of the area in the east transept where Flower Guild supplies are currently being housed. The enclosure would not block the entrance/exit transept door. Deanna has a quote of \$3,500 to enclose the area in question. Phillip advised that his son Connor could possibly handle the construction of an enclosure for the cost of the supplies and labor. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Vestry to ask Connor Parker to price the construction of the enclosure and submit the quote to the Vestry.

Property Committee pressure washing project

Tommie spoke with Wayne Averett, co-chair of the Property Committee about work they hope to accomplish during the property workday on June 29. One of the projects consists of having our concrete and brick areas pressure washed as they have become very dirty and unsightly. Wayne submitted a request to the Endowment Trustees for \$850 toward the total cost of the \$1,700 project. The Trustees will not be meeting to review all grant requests until mid-July. Tommie reported that Modern Woodmen has awarded All Saints' \$850 toward the pressure washing project. Tommie asked the Vestry to consider covering the balance of the cost of the project (\$850) through church funds if the Trustees could not grant their original request of \$850 either partially or fully when they meet in mid-July. A discussion followed.

MOTION: (Averett/Alexander)

Approve covering the balance of the cost of the pressure washing project (\$850) through church funds from Restricted account line item 8043 "Vestry Capital/Discretionary Reserve" fund if the Trustees could not grant their original request of \$850 either partially or fully when they meet in mid-July.

APPROVED.

Initial discussion of NCADD building

Prior to the June Vestry meeting, Cathy asked the Vestry to come to the meeting prepared to brainstorm or share any ideas they may have heard concerning the use or disposition of the NCADD building, given to us in January 2024. She opened the discussion at the meeting by advising that she had received two letters addressed to the Vestry concerning the NCADD building. One letter spoke in favor of selling the building and the other spoke in favor of keeping the building. She read both letters to the Vestry. Cathy emphasized that the Vestry would not be asked to make a decision about any option for the NCADD building at this time, but rather share ideas and thoughts on the possibilities of keeping or selling the building. Phillip noted that when the NCADD building was gifted to All Saints', there were no restrictions attached to the property. Cathy also advised the Vestry that if they had ideas about either keeping or selling the building, they would be asked to research on what it would take to bring the idea to fruition. Several ideas were voiced during the discussion. Cathy asked those members to report back to the Vestry at the July meeting with concrete details of the implementation of the use of the building for the Vestry to review.

Cathy explained to the Vestry that the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Mississippi are required to approve the sale of any property. This process can take several months especially with

the transition to a new Bishop in the diocese. Given the time this can take, Cathy asked the Vestry to agree to ask the Bishop and Standing Committee for approval to sell the property. She emphasized that asking for permission does not in any way indicate the preference to sell the property but just prepares us once a decision is made.

MOTION: (Pate/Alford)

Authorize Sr. Warden, Cathy Fitzpatrick to request permission from the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Mississippi to sell the NCADD building should the Vestry vote to sell the building as the best option.

APPROVED.

CHECK-OUT

CLOSE: With no further business, The Rev. Phillip Parker dismissed the Vestry meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by Tommie Moore, Clerk of the Vestry.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2024 MEETING:

May 2024 financial reports

May 20, 2024 Vestry minutes

June 13, 2024 Vestry by written consent minutes

Christian Growth Commission report

Christian Service Commission report

Christian Stewardship Commission report

Director of Christian Formation job description