

Holy Family Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting August 21, 2024 7:00 PM
Parish Hall

Minutes

Attending: Bruce Gray, Gary Snyder, Bethany Paden, Kay Mulhall, Kristine Canter, Chris Beldin, Jessica Largent, Lee Cahalan, Jolene Johnston, Emily Becraft

Opening Prayer

Celebrating Little Wins-what needs to be widely shared?

- Summer music specials were very well-received. Special thanks to the Tannases for their efforts as well as Joel Bruns for his Music and Meditation offerings.

What's in the parish gossip chain that needs to be aired out?

- The Vestry discussed a few medical concerns of parishioners.

Old & New Business

Holy Family hosts Fishers Pride September 7. The Fishers Pride organizing committee has plans and processes completed. Adult Forum September 8th and 15th will focus on the Episcopal Church's ministry past and present with LGBTQ people

- Currently have 43 vendors expected including about 13 non-profit booths, one of which is Holy Family's.
- Matt Okerson is running point on the Holy Family booth. The committee is preparing handouts of information about HFEC and the Episcopal Church.
- The gardeners have been encouraged to avoid the festival times as their will be no parking lot access. They do still have access to the garden but may need to park away from the property and walk to the property.
- The festival runs from 1-5 pm. We are contacting the Goddard School and Realtor office for parking permission for our people volunteering. Also encouraging people to park in the parking garages downtown and walk the trail to the church.

Land Sale updates

- Coffee and Conversation September 15 11:15. No news, just review and Q&A plus discussion. An opportunity to remind parishioners where we are at in the land sale process.
- Dan Chillemi and Jessica Largent met with the City on behalf of the Nickel Plate Garden non-profit (the community garden) seeking city grants for moving the garden. The garden is currently 100% non-parishioners.
- We have also applied for the Collaborative Partnerships Grant through the diocese and are currently in the 2025 group for receipt of grant funds. So many congregations applied for the grant, they have divided it up into multiple years.

- We intend to use these funds to hire a landscape architect to help us plant the layout of the grounds to maximize use of the space as well as keeping the plantings as low maintenance as possible.
- Amount has not yet been determined.

Sunday School resumes September 15

- Survey of Sunday School (pre-K to grade 6) families was sent out and had very positive feedback. Suggestions have been taken into account when planning the upcoming year. The people that responded to the survey were the families that are the most involved in the program. PreK-1st grad follows the godly Play curriculum while grades 2-6 follow the lectionary and cover the Gospel each Sunday.
- Youth group does not have a set curriculum. Ruth tries to discuss what the youth want to talk about each week. Also wants to encourage youth to help determine activities and topics. The Diocese now has Heather Kennison in charge of diocesan youth and Waycross and we are trying to take advantage of diocesan opportunities. There will be a fall retreat at Waycross this year.

Holy Family and social media

- Recent Reddit post discussion. The Vestry was pleased with the email from Bruce and has not heard any negative feedback from Parishioners.
- Openness, transparency, who we are and how do we share it. Instead of engaging with commenters on threads which could potentially turn negative, we can encourage people to invite commenters to visit the church and come to a service.
- The Vestry discussed church growth seen in other denominations vs. the Episcopal church.

Choir rehearsals start September 5th with choir on Sundays starting September 22nd.

Safe Church training is required for all Vestry members and staff.

Kristine Canter reminded the Vestry that we need to finish the discussion regarding the goals set at the Mutual Ministry Review. It needs to be added to the Agenda for September.

Chris Beldin suggested adding a prayer for the upcoming election into the service.

- Discussion surrounding the optics of having that in the service. The prayer from the Prayer Book was reviewed and Father Bruce explained the historical stance of the Episcopal Church's historical support of American civic institutions. The intent would not be partisan in any way, but to encourage parishioners to do their civic duty and pray for God to guide the nation.
- Bruce will add the prayer into the service starting in September and include an explanation of the "why" and the history in order to dispel any misunderstandings as to the motivation behind the prayer.

Treasurer's Report-Ben Paden (submitted via email)

- First, I continue to struggle with the new software and don't have good reports to share yet. I'll have to manually pull two months' worth of data that Huntington is having a problem transmitting over, I have a couple of cleanup questions for the Diocese, and I have to re-categorize some things so that they show correctly.
- Second, below is the base information on income and expenses. Note that we have not needed to touch any of our reserves, so everything with the diocese investment account and the rest of the trail money continue to accrue interest at a good rate.
Through July 31, 2024
Income: \$181,729.88
Expenses: \$202,968.60
- Third, I have recently not seen money coming in from the Diocese like normal and I think the reason may be with Brendan being on sabbatical. I've asked Kim at the Diocese to look into it and play catch up while he's out, but I'm awaiting a response. Not sure it actually matters too terribly much as anything they lend us will just need to be repaid as soon as the land sale closes, but I know it would make us feel better in the interim.
- Fourth, we have seen our normal summer slump in terms of income. I'm sure everyone has noticed the same thing with summer attendance. Every year we see this, so I'm not yet worried about it. There are a couple of pledging units I plan on speaking with just to check in, but I don't see anything alarming. Here's where pledging stands. Keep in mind that some people are behind at least a little with the summer slump.
Pledged: \$185,740.00
Received: \$99,062.93
Open Alms: \$4,784.59
Non-Pledged Regular Giving: \$4,514.12
- Fifth, I do plan on providing statements for parishioners as soon as Q3 ends (September) so we can all financially plan accordingly for the end of the year. This will also be good timing for the start of our discussion on next year's finances.
- Last, a small note on the discussion around raising funds specifically for things around the church this year to mirror the changes to the land. Maybe call it Special Projects 2025 Fundraiser as the terminology will be important and it's not really a "capital campaign." We already have over \$3000 given for this project.

June Minutes approved by email

Rector's Report

Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships Grant Participation request approved-update on process (see above)

Instructed Eucharist October 13th at the 8 & 10

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Next Monthly Vestry Meeting Wednesday September 18, 7:00 PM