

April 17, 2018 - Christ Church Vestry Meeting

Earle Conference Room, Christ Church Parish House

Vestry Meeting

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bern Mebane (Senior Warden), Dena Benedict (Junior Warden), Chris Klasing (Treasurer), Bill Kehl (Chancellor), Anne Arrington, Lauren Briles, Cotton Clarke, Mac Gentile, George E. McCall, Kevin Mertens, Louise Oxner, Chuck Reichert, Betty Teague, Brent Williams, Helen Wynkoop.

Absent: Dan Seaman (Assistant Treasurer), Jim Baumgardner.

Guests: Hannah Flack (Youth Ministry Director) Hedrick Lewis (Children's Ministry Director), Mary Ellen Vernon (Faith Development Program Coordinator), Penn Williams (3rd Century Commission Co-Chair), The Rev. Kellie Wilson (Faith Development Director)

Harrison opened the meeting with prayer at 5:00 PM.

Ministry Area Goal Report: Faith Development

Harrison recalled three years ago when Vestry and Staff met jointly and the practice began afterward to have ministry area staff members visit Vestry meetings and for Vestry members to visit staff meetings to build collaborative relationships. Harrison said that staff members and ministry areas have put a lot of work into their goals, which have been sent to the Vestry, and will be attending Vestry meetings this year to discuss them. Faith Development is the first ministry area to bring their goals to a Vestry meeting.

Faith Development Vestry Rep Lauren Briles introduced the team. She said that she was able to attend part of their planning retreat that led to these goals and is excited to work with these staff members.

The departmental staff members - Rev. Kellie Wilson (Faith Development Director), Hannah Flack (Youth Ministry Director) Hedrick Lewis (Children's Ministry Director), Mary Ellen Vernon (Faith Development Program Coordinator) – each introduced herself and the length of time she has been on staff. Holly Melton (Athletics Coordinator) will not be at tonight's meeting due to a conflict with her daughter's track meet. Each staff member spoke briefly to each of the department's goals.

Faith Development Goals

GOAL 1: In order to creatively address the unique needs of all ages and stages of Christ Church parishioners, the Faith Development Team will systematically increase evidence of the intentional integration of other ministry areas into Faith Development Programming. Kellie distributed a copy of the Wedge tool of the stages of spiritual development and data that charted the distribution of current programs at Christ Church. This shows the strengths and opportunities of programming for each age and stage.

GOAL 2: In order to collaborate with and engage parishioners to uphold the Christ Church mission and the Faith Development team's vision for Christian Formation, the Faith Development Team will form working councils for Children, Youth, and Young Adults to serve as effective coordinators of various ministries.

Kellie said that, to offer a full slate of programming, the Faith Development department needs a large group of committed volunteers due to only one staff member for youth and one for children. She said the Young Adult Council was also reliant on an active group of volunteers due to the lack of a staff member in this department. These are opportunities to develop leaders and recruit volunteers.

Kellie introduced the Wedge model of Christian Formation of moving people through the stages of formation and development to mature discipleship.

Hedrick said the Children's Ministry Council is helping define goals for children's ministry areas. She, council members and other ministry areas are recruiting volunteers to support the goals and increase diversity. An example she gave is the new Safeguarding standards of one adult for every seven children and only non-related adults can be in the same room as children.

Hannah said that she has worked to establish the youth council, which also helps define ministry and develops leaders. The council is divided into 11 different positions with job descriptions. such as food coordinator and missions coordinator. Three are open if you're interested! Sunday School Coordinator, Orimos Coordinator and Retreat and Trip Planner are open.

Mary Ellen is excited about collaboration, which can happen haphazardly in the hallways to fix an immediate need or can happen intentionally in an unrushed manner, which is more in balance with other ministry areas and engages more parishioners. As the administrator, she finds this type of thoughtful and creative planning and organizing exciting.

Kellie said that each person has a part in working toward the goals. Everyone spoke to the strategies they are using. Kellie is meeting with the Children's and Youth Councils and will plan training sessions for them. She also attends all Young Adult Council meetings, and is teaching other ministries about the Wedge model and how we can work together.

Hedrick is meeting with Bible studies to encourage involvement of different ages and stages in Children's ministry. She is hoping to plan an Art Camp this summer for Christ Church, Sterling and YouthBASE with artists and intergenerational connections who've offered different perspectives.

Hannah asked the Young Adult Council to partner with Youth Ministry on summer outreach projects. In July, they will offer a different outreach opportunity every Wednesday.

Mary Ellen is collaborating and coordinating with different ministry areas, reviewing calendars and coordinating administrative support.

Kellie outlined the obstacles, successes and dreams of Faith Development. The biggest obstacle for her, while also supervising the Faith in Action department and with no college and young adult coordinators, is time. She is excited about how creative her team is regarding strategy and opportunities. Her dream is that if someone came to Christ Church, we can talk about the different things we offer for each stage of spiritual development and intergenerational opportunities so they can plug into the church and grow.

Hedrick said two years ago, she held a focus group with families with special needs children. The families had different needs, but all shared the desire to worship together as a family. Her research found Rhythms of Grace, an Episcopal service for special needs, that launched here in August and is held every third Sunday at 3:00 PM. Each time, there are new people attending, and the spirit of welcoming from the children and their families is very inviting to newcomers. She worked with the clergy on structuring the liturgy. Hedrick has collaborated with an organization called David's Table, which supports churches who are reaching out to families with special needs. Christ Church is this year's recipient of their annual award, which is a table for communion made by the board members of the organization. Getting this service started was a personal goal of Hedrick's.

Hannah related a story about her weekend trip with eighth graders and how some of the eighth graders will be helping lead the Bridge retreat for 5th graders. She found it very moving to see youth develop as leaders.

Dena asked Hedrick and Kellie about the Art Camp. Kellie noted that it is an intentional effort to connect children from different backgrounds and art is a non-threatening way for them to communicate as well as provide both inreach and outreach opportunities. Chuck asked about the team's efforts to engage parishioners who aren't very involved. Kellie spoke to how they are developing core leaders. Brent complimented the team on their model of planning. Bern, having ushered with Hedrick's son, complimented the team on providing intergenerational opportunities. Vestry members expressed their appreciation and support for the Faith Development Team.

Harrison rearranged the agenda to move up the Third Century Commission Report and introduced commission co-chair and guest Penn Williams.

Third Century Commission Report

Dena Benedict reported that the survey was launched last week and paper ballots are also available. As of this morning, 510 surveys have been returned, but we can do even better! She encouraged the Vestry to talk up the survey with any groups with whom they meet and to be sure to take the survey. She complimented consultant Dawn Huntley's work with the commission and its subcommittees. Dena said it is a real pleasure to serve with co-chair Penn Williams and thanked her (and her husband, Brent!) for taking on this opportunity.

Penn Williams noted that the Vestry had been asked to submit values to the commission along with staff and the Third Century Commission. She updated the group on the values process and buy-in from the groups represented. Dawn also looked at other churches' statements for values and put all these words, which totaled 487, into a spreadsheet. Dawn then clustered the words that naturally seemed to fit together. The Value subcommittee of Dena Benedict, Penn Williams, Norma Givens, Harrison McLeod, Mary Ellen Vernon, plus consultant Dawn Huntley, reviewed the 15 encompassing words over three hours to review each word and determine the final list of words for the survey after lengthy and thoughtful conversation. An email is coming out Sunday to encourage everyone to take the survey before it closes April 23. Anne asked if the values on the survey were to represent what the church currently has or the ones we want the church to have. The answer was both.

Dena also noted that paper copies will also be available this Sunday and priest announcements will encourage people to take the survey.

Harrison said that he saw some of the informative comments and words offered by parishioners and one of the words he found significant was "sacrificial." The most questions came from "social justice." He complimented Penn and Dena for their leadership in this process to develop a mission statement and ways to hold ourselves accountable to our core values.

Rector's Report

April 22: We will celebrate Bob's almost eight years of ministry with us in Pastoral Care this Sunday. Harrison complimented Bob's gift of building relationships and ministry to Christ Church families. Bob will preach and celebrate at the 10:30 AM service in the Church and a reception will follow. Bob's last day is May 15.

Staffing: Harrison said that he hopes that we will be able to make announcements soon on hires for open positions. He said that Emily Davis is resigning as Welcoming Ministry Director and we are planning a transition.

Easter and Holy Week: We had 180 more participating this year than last year. He expressed thanks to the hundreds of people who helped through a week of moving and spiritually transformative services.

April 29: Restoration Sunday will be celebrated and Bishop Waldo will be present. Please plan to attend as we rededicate the church, use the gift of festive vestments, and bless the carillon and organs in the combined 10:30 AM Church service. A reception, including art from the Joyful Garden Tour, will be held on the new courtyard. The Joyful Garden Tour is also that weekend – lots of wonderful stuff.

2019 Vestry Retreat Confirmed: Friday-Saturday, January 11-12, Coldwell Banker Caine building in Greenville. Harrison is excited for the Vestry to see the building to give us insight as to what the Parish House can look like!

Questions and Comments for Harrison: None

Senior Warden

Bern Mebane followed up by thanking Harrison for his leadership during Easter and Holy Week. He spoke to the Vestry's role in calming any concerns about change as we move back into the Church, provide additional programming, and conduct the Third Century Commission survey. He had sent the Vestry a memo from Chris Klasing and the Property Review Committee that was prepared in the 1990s. He did some research on the history of deed and land and titles of Christ Church property transfers and related some interesting stories about them.

Junior Warden

Dena Benedict said that she appreciated the ministry area's presentation of goals. She expressed appreciation for the Faith Development's efforts to draw volunteers from different areas. She reminded the Vestry that the Vestry Rep for each area will introduce their team members when they visit the Vestry.

Dena spoke to the renegotiated lease with the First Reliance Bank, previously known as Independence Bank. This afternoon she met with Keith Jones, Bill Johnson, Harrison McLeod, Chris Klasing and McNeil Epps.

She introduced a motion to approve the Letter of Intent including the changes outlined below to the red-lined copy distributed at the meeting. Bern seconded. Discussion followed.

The changes noted were to delete the section in Item 8 related to the lessee's requirement of insurance since the church's overall insurance also covers this property; also under Item 8, in the second paragraph remove the words "seal coating"; Item 9 should be titled Lessor rather than Lessee

Improvements; and under Item 11: Parking: add “and non-business hours” after the word “Sundays.” Chuck asked about the LED light wording under Item 9. Harrison indicated that the lighting will be paid for out of the \$62,000 payment for back taxes made to the church by the bank.

Dena called the Vestry’s attention to the spreadsheet handout provided by Bill Johnson, Interim Administrator. McNeil Epps of Earle Furman said this was a very good lease that will be beneficial to the church. First Reliance will paint and also re-carpet as part of rebranding. The charge for negotiating the lease will be approximately \$30,000. Chris commented that this brings our lease up to current commercial lease standards. It also makes the lease more attractive for both tenants and any likely buyers in the future. Lauren asked who had managed the lease in the past. It has been and will be managed by the church. The bank pays us a management fee of \$4,000. The building is part of our overall property insurance.

Kevin amended the motion to say and to authorize the wardens to negotiate and finalizing changes that need to be made to execute the lease. All voted to approve. The motion carried.

Harrison asked the Vestry to thank McNeil for his work on this lease and for discovering the back taxes owed by the bank to the church.

Treasurer’s Report

Chris Klasing called the group’s attention to the monthly report sent earlier by email to the Vestry. In general, he said that the church appeared to be on track for this time of year. He said that we had budgeted to pay for the 2016 audit in 2017, but it was not completed in time, so this is charged to 2018. We expect to pay for the 2017 audit in 2018 also. He said that the HIStory Lives report is current and accurate. He said that we are receiving interest on the money market excess cash account, which can be accessed within 24 hours if ever needed.

Cotton asked about the Endowment and Reserve Credits – is this coming from Endowment or credits. This is a credit from the back taxes from the bank, and shouldn’t be considered going forward as it will be spent within the next month as identified in the prior discussion regarding the bank lease.

Chris noted that the Endowment always had a BB&T account, which had to be transferred from Alex Brown’s money management account. We will close the BB&T account and simply keep these funds in the Brown money management account.

March 20 Vestry Meeting Minutes

The March 20, 2018, Vestry Meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting by email. A motion to accept the March 20 minutes was made by Betty and seconded by Cotton. All Vestry members voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried. Cotton asked to include a parenthetical note to identify the clarifying email Chris Klasing sent following the last Vestry meeting regarding HIStory Lives funds, which is attached to the March 20 minutes.

New Business

Canterbury Counseling Center Board Treasurer Candidate

Kevin Mertens presented a motion for the Vestry to approve nominee Nelson Arrington III as Canterbury Counseling Center Board Treasurer as former Treasurer Bob DiGarmo has stepped down. Nelson is a

former Vestry member and serves as a Verger at Christ Church. He and his family are well known to the Vestry. Kevin moved that Nelson Arrington III be approved as CCC Board member and Treasurer. Cotton seconded, no discussion. All voted aye, none were opposed. The motion carried.

Committee/Team Reports

Restoration Sunday: Lauren and Helen noted that there are still opportunities for Restoration Sunday through SignUp Genius. Dena reminded the group that the entire Vestry made this commitment at the Vestry Retreat and we need to take the lead in helping our staff with this event in order to save the Church some money. Food may be dropped off Friday or Saturday as well as Sunday morning. Betty encouraged Dena to remind the Vestry by email and send the SignUp Genius Link.

Joyful Garden Tour: Betty Teague said that a ticket taker spot is still open! Thank you for volunteering!

New Member Dinner Reminder: May 15, 6:00 PM in McCall & McKissick, right after the Vestry meeting. Please plan to attend and respond to Emily Davis, edavis@ccgsc.org.

101 Broadus: Chuck said that the survey and environmental studies have been done. No big surprises were found.

Harrison closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Rose Cuddy