

Christ Church Vestry Minutes
Sterling Hope Center
Tuesday, October 18, 2022
5:00 pm

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Dena Benedict (Senior Warden), Milton Bates, Betty Parker Ellis (Secretary of the Vestry), Sam Erwin, Elizabeth Fletcher, Bill Hardaway, Kay Jenkins, Nancy Kennedy, Chris Klasing (Treasurer), Wade Kolb (Asst. Chancellor), Gracen Miller (Youth Vestry Representative), Cindy Poe, Elizabeth Saylor (Youth Vestry Representative), and Michelle Brown (Clerk of the Vestry).

Absent: Nelson Arrington (Junior Warden), Betsy Elliott, Julie Haas, Dexter Hagy, Paul Landis, Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), and Reid Sherard.

Guests: Pastor Sean Dogan (St. Francis Community Health Ministries), Anne Arrington (Chair, FIA Committee), Kevin Mertens (Director of Faith in Action), and Karen Walker (Director of Food Ministries).

Pastor Sean Dogan

- Pastor of Long Branch Baptist Church (present)
- CCES Board Member (formerly)
- Prisma Health Board (now)
- General Director to the Urban League (formerly)
- Now working as St. Francis Director of Community Health Ministries

Pastor Dogan has been a part of the Bon Secours St. Francis Community Health Ministries for little over a year. Looking at community health it covers five areas:

- Poverty
- Access to Health
- Housing
- Income
- Public Safety

His team oversees Community Development Assessment. Since 2010 and the Affordable Care Act, it has been an IRS requirement that all 501c3 hospitals to put out a community survey at least every three years. Bon Secours St. Francis has been doing this since that time. The Community Development Assessment is our responsibility to make sure you're getting a broad response from the community, prioritizing the needs, and identifying the needs that Bon Secours St. Francis will address over a three year period. This process has been completed and these are the priorities for the next three years. Beginning in 2023 through 2025, they will be looking at Affordable Housing, Health Access (looking at who are the most vulnerable in the community), and then Mental/Behavioral Health.

In this Center there are five programs housed:

- Wellness Outreach is the main team in the building with 12 social workers and nurses who are out in the community in different locations.
- Healthy Outcomes Program for the uninsured especially for those who enter through the hospital's Emergency Department (ED).
- Life Wise senior education for 55 years and older.
- Faith Communities which is directed by Carmen Oglesby on how to serve the community better.

GACE (Greenville Awareness Community Engagement) is the newest initiative and focuses on the African-American community with issues that have happened such as the incident with Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. They wanted to gather their associates of color to discuss the situation and to ask Bon Secours St. Francis how they think they could better serve the community:

- Find ways to get more people of color into the healthcare field.
- Look at chronic conditions where associates are not taking proper care of themselves.
- Gather African-American clergy together to go over some of these issues.

Each month there are about 1500 participants in the community that convert about 300 members from misusing the ED and getting them into a medical home or an appropriate medical facility while collaborating with clergy to form a council to identify needs in the community. They are also looking at the county to see what areas are in need of resources such as banks, pharmacies, and grocery stores. The District 25 area has no thriving resources. If you don't have transportation, you are just stuck.

Dealing with affordable housing, they have teamed up with Mercy Housing S.E., out of Atlanta, GA, which takes care of the southeast side of the United States. They have built a development on Butler Road which is based on income. We also have an agreement with TGHA (Greenville Housing Authority), where we go into senior housing complexes that TGHA oversees, and we partner with Habitat for Humanity to build 10 houses over 10 years. They are currently working on the 7th house which is located on Anderson Road.

Q: How does this work? Do they subsidize it? Is it nonprofit?

A: They are subsidized, and they take advantage of tax credits.

When looking at chronic conditions, we hosted for the first time a men's and women's health forum. Partnering with the NAACP, the Urban League and MUSC along with Dr. Siegel, who is an oncologist.

There are mobile units in the community every week. The foundation is raising funds for a second mammogram unit. The team also can translate when it goes out to San Sebastian for those who are non-English speaking people. San Sebastian takes care of most of our Hispanic population and includes three workers, two nurses and a social worker. We also normally give out boxes of food at these clinics.

We now have a program called Barber Shop Talk. This is when we reach out to barbers and beauticians in the African-American community and show them how to use blood pressure monitors along with providing other important information. They now have these monitors in their shops available to their customers coming into their shops to monitor their own blood pressure. By using the information provided to the shop owners, if their numbers are life threatening, they would be able to recognize the signs and seek help. Next year the goal is to be able to expand this program by sending a team to the shops and monitor the information stored in each of the blood pressure monitors.

We offer free colorectal and prostate exams for African-American men 45–69-years old, which is done out of one of the mobile units. They have their blood drawn for the prostate test and can receive a home colorectal kit. Once they get home with the kit, they can contact one of the nurses that will walk them through the directions. The individual sends the results off and the results go back to them. This gives them the knowledge to take care of themselves.

The next hire will be a bilingual Community Navigator so that we can go into more non-English speaking communities.

Q: How easy is it for someone who comes in to use the ED as a primary care space and you're trying to get them a medical home?

A: It depends on what's going on with them at the time. If we can catch a person on their first or second visit, we know that they don't have insurance and can get them with a case manager to find out why they can't get the help they need. For example, it may be transportation which can be corrected by giving them what is needed to get them to their appointment. Whatever it takes to help and give them the knowledge they need.

We have a contract with the state program HOP (Healthy Outcomes Plan), where we are supposed to manage 400 participants and we do 600.

Comment: Sean's commitment to the community, to his family, and to his church is amazing and very much appreciated.

Anne Arrington, Chair FIA Committee

Gave the history behind the Sterling Hope Center.

In 1999 Jervey Eye Group owned and occupied the facility. They moved out and the Greenville Free Medical Clinic moved in. Eventually the Greenville Free Medical Clinic moved out and Jervey asked Christ Church what they wanted to do with the building. A task force was put together and they decided it would be more cost efficient to rebuild rather than repair the building. With the property being donated there was another group of individuals from the church who raised about \$350,000 to rebuild. Representatives from the church went out into the community to find out what was needed and was told they wanted to see education and outreach programs. There have been a couple of literacy programs, a police station, as well as childcare and summer programs for about 15 years in the building. About 5 years ago United Way and YMCA pulled out of the children's programs, at that time a community health assessment was being done by Bon Secours St. Francis and they asked if they could lease some space in the building. They have been leasing that part of the building ever since. The program transitioned from children to adult needs:

- Men's bible study
- Veterans' groups
- Community re-entry for prisoners
- Food programs

There is a partnership with Bon Secours St. Francis where people come and go so we now have a very part-time office manager.

When COVID hit, it shut everything down and we are now trying to restart programs. The ladies from Jasmine Road come over for a LifeWise program where they are learning yoga and health instruction.

Funding has been a little short. The budget is about \$22,000. The church has been giving a small grant every year and the remainder is paid by Bon Secours St. Francis.

The other program we are working on is the interfaith program that works with injustice, which is now the GOAL (Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership) Justice programs. Different churches will get together with this group who does justice work all over the country. They have developed a model

that has created a program to address social justice issues. One church cannot do it all by themselves, but many congregations can work on it together. The last year has been organization building. They have hired a community organizer whose basic process is pulling these congregations together for listening sessions. They identify priority needs, research the needs, and gather as many as they can in what is called Nehemiah Action where thousands from congregations will gather to ask public officials to implement solutions. Thirty to forty people at Christ Church have gotten involved in this. About 500 people would be involved in these meetings and they have each invited three guests. This could turn out to be 1500 members.

This is a growing ministry coalition of congregations from throughout Greenville County. There is a meeting tonight with a group of team leaders working on this project.

Q: Are these listening sessions from the churches or the parishioner, or are these churches going out into the community and asking the question?

A: It's me asking the 12 people to come out and talk.

The goal is to come up with a specific idea that can be done in a year.

We do a good job at walking humbly, worshiping, praying, studying, showing mercy, feeding and clothing people, but showing justice for people is harder.

Q: If people are interested, do they contact you or who do they contact for more information?

A: They can contact Kevin or me, the listening groups are done. Everyone who is already in it has been asked to bring others into it.

Q: Is there a meeting at Westminster?

A: Yes, that's the November 7 meeting and is the first meeting where everyone who went to the listening session and said they wanted to be a part of it will be at this meeting.

Kevin Mertens, Director of Faith in Action

There are several projects going on this fall in addition to preparing meals:

- Over 136,000 meals for Project Host
- 540+ weekend food backpacks a month for Legacy Charter and Cashion Elementary Schools
- Karen and her kitchen crew provide meals to parishioners and visitors and providing hospitality for families who have receptions at the church such as for funerals.
- There is an upcoming Habitat for Humanity build in Nicholtown which is an Abraham build. This means we, representing the Christian community, are teaming up with the Islamic community and the Jewish community. This is the 400th house in Greenville.
- On November 1 at the Sterling Community Center there will be the Habitat Abraham dinner where members of these churches, synagogues, and mosques will be gathered together. Everyone here is invited and encouraged to come.
- On November 13 we will be doing the Rise Against Hunger which is the food packing event immediately after the 10:30 am service. We will be packing 40,000 boxes funded through a donor. This will bring many people together for an intergenerational event.
- Discovery Weekend is coming up October 28-30. Chantal Smith, as Director of Welcome and Engagement, assisted by Betty Parker Ellis as Chair of the Welcoming Committee, work on this new members ministry.

Karen Walker, Director of Food Ministries

Karen began with a story of going out to Cashion Elementary School to deliver bags of food for the children. It was so far out she wondered why they were doing something this far out. As she was driving, she noticed the new developments of homes in Fork Shoals and thought why these people would need assistance living in new homes. She arrived at the school which she had never been to and was welcomed. They gave her a cart to put the bags of food on and wheeled them into the school. The lady that greeted her let her know that some of the children come in on Thursday with excitement about the food they will have over the weekend, and they cannot believe the number of homeless families that live in that area.

Karen's volunteers also go to Legacy Charter every week with 100 bags of healthy snacks. This is new to the Food Ministries and the Project Host sandwiches that they prepare each week. This has brought a different perspective to Karen and a different set of volunteers who want to cook or put things together for the less fortunate. They want to be more involved in helping these individuals. Two Sundays ago, they purchased 2 months of snacks. Sunday afternoon the youth packed 800 bags from 3-5:30 pm which saved the kitchen help some time. It's nice to see how everyone in the church is getting involved. The Food Ministries is an easy way to get people engaged in helping others.

Comments: Food has been delivered to Cashion Elementary for about 5 years.

We were delivering food to Berea Middle School, but we found out they just wanted pallets of food. Since we want to help people, but we also want to get parishioners engaged, we asked how else we could help. They said the number one thing they need is emergency sweatpants for girls.

Q: Are the healthy snacks donated or does it come out of your budget?

A: It comes out of our budget. As for the donations for Project Host, these started during the pandemic and worked really well where parishioners would leave food donations outside of the door, but these began to drop off. Now Project Host is providing cheese, bologna, sliced bread, peanut butter and jelly. We're still getting some donations but most of the time things comes from Project Host, so we're doing the work for them. Percentage wise we might do 25% for Project Host but for the other programs we pay for everything.

Q: For the backpack, do we pay for everything?

A: Yes

Q: Can you get a list of what is needed and how do you define healthy?

A: Yes, and there's a fine line between healthy and not healthy snacks. Some things are just not feasible for us to purchase.

Comment: Kevin and Harrison went out to see William Brown and were told that 25% of 1200 kids at Legacy Charter are homeless, which means they don't know where they are going to sleep that night. It doesn't mean they will be under a bridge, but they may be staying with a family member or even a friend.

Kevin has identified 75 different programs that the church does or wants to start. There are different parishioners here who are leading small groups who collect items for different organizations to help those in need.

Chris Klasing noted that the parishioners need to know about some of these programs that have come out of FIA. He comes across folks who don't know about some of these programs.

Elizabeth Fletcher came up with idea of creating a wish list of food items that can be purchased through Amazon and sent to the church for distribution like what is being done for Angel Tree.

Harrison added there have been many conversations about Outreach funding and one of the things that made him feel good about it was getting people involved in the ministries not just the money. If we have to lower the funding of Outreach, it has to be supplemented by people. Thanks to the Food Ministries for all they do and their willingness to help in our efforts in Outreach.

Kay Jennings had no idea all these things were going on behind the scenes.

As not to lose the quorum the agenda has been moved around.

Minutes from September 20 Vestry Meeting

MOTION: Elizabeth Fletcher made a motion to approve the September 20, 2022, minutes as presented. Cindy Poe seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor. None opposed. The motion passed.

There was an electronic vote to accept the slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee. Email was sent out to the Vestry on October 3, 2022.

MOTION: Milton Bates made the motion to accept the email minutes from the electronic vote on October 3, 2022, by affirmation of the slate for Vestry, Wardens, and Delegates. Sam Erwin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.

Dena referred to Harrison's email the day before where we need one more delegate as an alternate to become a delegate for our Diocesan Convention in November.

MOTION: Dena Benedict made the motion for the Vestry to elect Caroline O. Avinger as an Alternate Convention Delegate serving Elizabeth Fletcher's unfulfilled term. Bill Hardaway seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.

Elizabeth's term ends December 31, 2022 and is not able to attend the Convention. Caroline will be making the move into that slot so that we can have a total of eight delegates at our convention. Tom France is not able to attend as a Delegate, so an alternate is needed to serve in his place.

MOTION: Milton Bates made a motion to approve the 4th quarter Endowment Draw of \$153,590. Sam Erwin seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.

We no longer have a quorum so the meeting was adjourned and whatever reports anyone has will be discussed at the November meeting.

Harrison's final word was "Thank You" for all the well wishes, prayers, support, and encouragement from everyone during the passing of his mother.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 6:07 pm.