

Christ Church Vestry Minutes
Tuesday, April 19, 2022
5:00 pm

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Dena Benedict (Senior Warden), Nelson Arrington (Junior Warden), Milton Bates, Betsy Elliott, Betty Parker Ellis (Secretary of the Vestry), Elizabeth Fletcher, Julie Haas, Dexter Hagy, Bill Hardaway, Kay Jenkins, Nancy Kennedy, Chris Klasing (Treasurer), Paul Landis, Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Cindy Poe, and Michelle Brown (Clerk of the Vestry).

Absent: Sam Erwin, Wade Kolb (Assistant Chancellor), and Reid Sherard.

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod opened the meeting with prayer at 5:02 pm.

Inviting to All – Dena Benedict

Dena's favorite thing about the values is the narratives. "Inviting to All" is honoring our differences by seeking our unity in Christ. Looking outward we can see our differences, but it may be more important to look inward. During Good Friday's service it was said we need to honor our differences by seeking our unity in Christ. Inwardly we may not know the differences, but we need to pray for those who are afflicted in mind and in body; for the sick, the wounded and cripple; for those in loneliness, fear, and anguish; and for those who face temptation, doubt, and despair.

Inviting to All – Betsy Elliott

Betsy agreed with the things Dena said regarding "Inviting to All."

Rector's Report – Harrison McLeod

Harrison thought Holy Week and Easter were fantastic and thanked everyone involved. There were 18 services all week, 8350 bulletins printed, and \$6000 in Memorials for flowers. Compared to 2019 we are still not back to what it was, but the difference was the livestream, which Harrison was not a fan of, but it proved to be a difference maker. There were 406 people that joined in on livestream. Four different people told Harrison how much they enjoyed being able to watch the service on the internet and how it made them feel like they were there. There was a family of three generations at the beach watching online, who sent a picture letting Harrison know they were watching. Livestreaming began on Palm Sunday and Jessica St. Clair Smith did an excellent job. Other observations from the Vestry were welcomed.

May 1st will be the Vestry's time with the bishop for lunch which will begin about noon. Feel free to ask questions or to make any observations.

On May 3rd there will be a New Members Dinner.

There will be two retirements coming up in the Preschool: Betty Holland and Deanna Cordell. More information to come later.

The bishop will be hiring a Canon to the Ordinary and would like him/her to have an office on campus here in Greenville.

For our May meeting, the Building Task Force will be submitting their recommendations as it relates to the viability and condition of our parish buildings.

Thinking about the program life of the church, Anne Green has been in contact with Kanuga regarding next year's Parish Retreat. Kanuga is looking for \$5000, which is nonrefundable, to hold whatever dates we are looking at for next year. While discussing this with the staff we are in the budget cycle now. The \$25,000 that was available this year, thanks to the Bicentennial, will not be an option for next year. This means we are making decisions about next year's budget without the benefit of a forecast of the income for next year. Next week we will gather on Tuesday to discuss our priorities from the three questions:

1. If we had to choose one thing, what would it be? What do we want to be known for?
2. What are you willing to do to make that happen?
3. What are you willing to give up?

In thinking about the \$25,000 that the church spent on the retreat that makes it expensive. Add to that the \$36,000 the parishioners paid, and that is a \$61,000 weekend. I would invite you between now and next week to think about if that is the best use of that money. There were about 250 people in attendance and it generated a tremendous amount of goodwill. It was a learning experience. One of the things we want to figure out is if there is a six-week curriculum that we might offer that would lead into the weekend that would involve a speaker or does the speaker start us into a six-week series coming out of the weekend. This would maybe put us in the same timeline as last year's retreat or mid-February. The staff is already trying to figure out how this could work out for next year such as what programs can we offer or what are our priorities? One of the questions put to the staff was, if the parishioners are willing to spend \$36,000, is there something else they could spend that money on? There could be two or three programs – one in the fall, winter, and spring – if you felt like you could do something else with that type of funding.

Some questions came up regarding the departure of some staff which prompted Harrison to revisit some things that have been talked about in the past. One of those things is the responsibilities of the Vestry. They are responsible for setting the direction of the parish by developing the vision, which goes beyond the vision statement, and determining what it is we want to do? Some specific responsibilities are to manage the campus, maintain the buildings, and the budget. More than anything else you are the leaders. There are challenges in leadership, and one of those challenges is change. How do we manage change? One of the keys to change management is recognizing problems and opportunities. The pandemic was not the problem; it was in how we respond to the crisis around us? Another way we provide leadership is to look for opportunities and to maintain perspective. Other characteristics are:

Prayerful – 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – “Pray without ceasing.”

Collaborate – 1 Corinthians 12:12 – “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

Think – 2 Timothy 3:17 – “So that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”

Think creatively, critically, and biblically. (Is it fair to ask, is the retreat worth \$25,000? What could have been done differently?)

Adapt – 1 Corinthians 9:20 – “To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law.”

Communicate – Matthew 28:10 – “Then said Jesus unto them, do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

These are the things we do as a Vestry. The things that you are specifically appointed to oversee, which are outlined in the Canons

The Vestry

The Vestry shall have charge of the temporalities of the church, and it shall be their duty to provide for all repairs, salaries, and current expenses, take all necessary steps to raise the funds required, and to keep a proper account of the same. They shall also execute all duties which now or may hereafter be imposed upon them by any general convention or convention of the diocese.

It is our job as the Vestry to make sure we have the funds, manage the real estate, pay all the bills, and make sure things are taken care of. We have been blessed with an abundance of resources, and it is our responsibility to maintain and safeguard these things for the future. We don't own any of this; we hold this in trust for our future members. This is one of our principal responsibilities. Everything we have and everything we use here is a spiritual endeavor. It is all meant to build up God's kingdom. When we look at our budget that is just a shorthand way of how we value certain aspects of our ministry.

The Wardens

It shall be the specific duty of the wardens to provide whatever may be necessary for the celebration of the divine worship, books, investments, etc.; also, decency and comfort of the church building and the furniture, books, church records, elements for holy Eucharist; and to put down all public disorder during public worship. (Not everyone knows it, but the stick the vergers carry is called a verge. In previous times, it was used for public disorder, if you were acting out during church you might get popped across the knuckles). They shall be ready to collect the alms and other devotions of the people, and in case the congregation is without clergy, shall disburse them and collect the devotions and disburse them, and also provide for public worship by occasional clergy services whereby lay circumstances they shall also during the vacancy take charge of the church plate, records, etc., and shall present to the bishop of each annual convention of according to parish. It shall also be their further duty to aid the rector or clergy and all agencies in an effort for the advancement of the church such as Sunday Schools and all other related matters that may report to the bishop any irregularities move of conducting public worship and all offences by their clergy or by any other officiating on behalf of their clergy against canons, faith, or morals.

Harrison and the Wardens speak on a regular basis.

Dena added that Harrison's door has always been open. They may not have always agreed on everything, which makes for a healthy relationship, but they come together as a unified front. As Harrison would say, “We are better together.” If you have questions, please ask. Some things cannot be discussed, but what can be talked about we encourage you to bring to our attention. The members of

the Vestry evaluate Harrison and what he is or is not doing well. You are responsible for holding him accountable. Harrison and the Wardens manage the staff.

Q. What are we doing to make sure there is consistency in the youth programming? Do we feel good about where we are, and can we meet those needs going forward with Addie leaving for Seminary?

A. Do we feel good? No, there is a huge hole with two vacancies. Hiring a youth minister is one of the most difficult hires there is. The average life span of a youth minister is two years.

Q. What do we do to fill the gap?

A. We are aggressively looking for someone. In the past we have had dedicated parents that jumped in along with other volunteers that helped.

Q. Do we have a parent leadership committee?

A. Yes, but the last person our youth wants to see in their group is their parents.

Lastly,

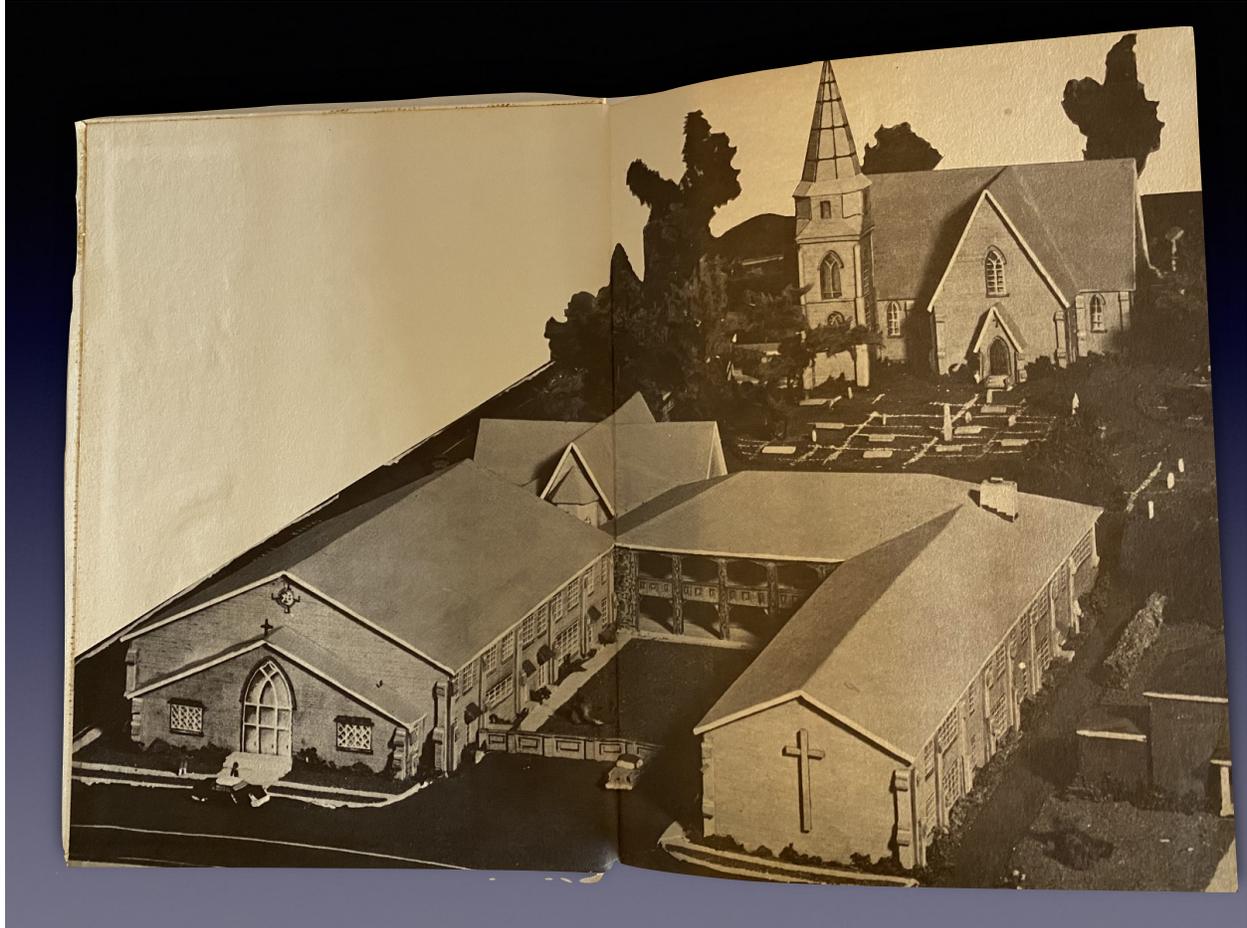
The Rector

Shall have exclusive charge of all things affecting the spiritual interest of the parish subject to the constitution and Canons and general convention of this church. It shall be the duty of the Rector to take order concerning the worship of the church together with all apparatus thereunto. The Rector shall be at all times intitled access to the church to open the same for public worship for catechetical or other religious instruction, marriages, baptisms, burials, and other offices authorized by the church. The Rector shall have direction and control of all parish owned and operated day schools, educational endeavors, and outreach ministries connected with the parish. The Rector shall preside in all Vestry meetings. In case of the Rector's absence the Senior Warden shall preside or the Junior Warden in the absence of both the Rector and the Senior Warden.

These are very broad responsibilities; we set the direction.

The Organizational Chart will be included as a separate attachment.

This is the Parish House in 1961.



Harrison is not sure what the Building Task Force will recommend.

Q. Who gets requests for repairs around the campus? There is a light out as you go into the Chapel from the offices and the ceiling is sagging.

A. Email Suzanne. Jim works for her. You can contact either one.

Milton Bates – Worship

Mark your calendar for the next Sparkle Day for the church. It will either be the 1st or 2nd Saturday of September. Refreshments will be served.

Senior Warden – Dena Benedict

Hiring for Youth Minister is a priority. Kellie is looking for qualified candidates now that she is back from sabbatical. Thanks to all for encouraging parents and other adults to get involved in that area.

Junior Warden – Nelson Arrington

Housekeeping – Repair work was needed in the church that Harrison noticed. The paint has been peeling on the south transept on a couple of windows. The contractor that worked on it previously came back and restored it at no charge. They will be asked to take another look at the rest of the windows because two of the window frames were in question by the contractors. If there is a question about two of the windows, we would like to make sure there are no issues with the others. The same group will be coming back to look at the window in the chapel. They will be here in May looking at the windows in the chapel.

Jim had to deal with vagrants in the house on Broadus. He called the police and put up a “No Trespassing” sign.

If you see any maintenance issues around the campus, please let Nelson know and he will take care of it.

Milton has relayed to Nelson the doors to the church as they are hard to open.

We are now starting the budget process, Chris printed out a list of priorities:

- Empower staff to more effectively and efficiently do ministry.
- Increase inreach and engagement.
- Develop and implement strategies to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- Resume outreach as per the Vestry resolutions(s) of 2021.
- Cultivate partnership with the Diocese.

The reason we have them is the budget process calls for us to start to review them and have them confirmed by August. Harrison will be working with Kristin over the next couple of months to find out what the revenue projection will be, so by August that and the priorities should be handed to the leadership team, and they will begin to work on their individual budgets. As you take a look at the priorities, think back over the Vestry Retreat when you answered the question “What do you want to be known for? Look at those priorities and see if maybe they need to be changed which will come up in the next couple of meetings.

Parish Retreat is a good example for starting a budget of what we want to do.

Treasurer’s Report – Chris Klasing

We had a great January, a not so good February, but we are in good shape.

Insurance

Budget is about \$80K for premiums this year, and our current policy is about that.

The property was reappraised, and our properties have increased about 25%; the premium is increasing about \$8500 which will take us over budget. We are accepting that change.

We investigated earthquake coverage; we do not have it, and the premium to add it for full value replacement would be about \$5700, half value about \$2900. We recommend not adding earthquake insurance.

No comments or suggestions.

Motion: Paul Landis made a motion to approve the Q2 endowment draw. Member of the Vesrty seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

The wording from the March minutes will change from the utility bill for the ASC being \$75,000 per *month* to \$75,000 per *year* instead.

Motion: To accept March minutes with the stated change was made by Paul Landis. Elizabeth Fletcher seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

Kay Jenkins – Welcome and Engagement

Discovery Weekend was a success.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.