

Christ Church Vestry Minutes
Tuesday, June 21, 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), Sam Erwin, Elizabeth Fletcher, Julie Haas, Dexter Hagy, Bill Hardaway, Kay Jenkins, Nancy Kennedy, Wade Kolb (Asst. Chancellor), Paul Landis, Cindy Poe, Reid Sherard, and Michelle Brown (Clerk of the Vestry).

Absent: Chris Klasing (Treasurer) and Cecil Nelson (Chancellor)

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod opened the meeting with prayer at 5:04 pm.

Donald Duncan, Director of Music and Liturgy introduced our guests Ann Fisher Sherard, who will be a 2nd grader, and Reagan Thomas, who will be a 3rd grader. These two young ladies will be telling us about Children's Sabbath, and it will end with a prayer song that we will all participate in. There will also be a video that shows the different activities that go on at Christ Church for the youth.

Donald set the context of what Children's Sabbath is about. It is a way to engage the children in catechesis about the worship traditions and to help them grow into faithful Christians and good Episcopalians who love the prayer book and worship traditions.

Inviting to All – Elizabeth Fletcher

Elizabeth thought about the different ways we are invited to be together, to share, to serve, to give, and to pray. One thing that stood out in her mind was her experience at the recent Parish Retreat. She participated in a group that talked about addictions, which does not have to be about substance abuse, but it could be an addiction to social media or even to shopping. One of the couples in the group told their story and how they found their way out of their situation, and then others began sharing their experiences as well. Inviting to All, reminded Elizabeth that the Holy Spirit is with us and brings us together and gives a strength and invitation to share.

Inviting to All – Julie Haas

Julie reflected on the tragedy that unfolded at an Alabama church the prior week. A man sat among a group of individuals who were having a potluck supper, the kind of event that we would have here. The evening would end in tragedy and leave a parish traumatized. The story speaks about an agitated man who sat at a table drinking from a liquor bottle. There may have been signs there was something wrong, but no one drew attention to it. Instead members of the group took the time to go over to the man and invite him to eat with them. John 14:27 came to Julie's mind: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Even though these are tragedies, Julie is at peace knowing that God always wants us to invite others to our table. As Harrison has reminded us in service this past Sunday, death does not have the final word.

A Vestry Welcome was extended to the Reverend Lindy Bunch.

Rector's Report – Harrison McLeod

Harrison spoke on the tragedies over the past few weeks and let us know we are offering as safe an environment as possible. He has consulted with Nelson Arrington who is a trained constable on public safety in interventions and de-escalations and with Bill Hardaway who had special training in security details while in the military. Harrison has asked them to spearhead an effort to figure out reasonable steps to take to safeguard our community.

In regard to the Preschool, it will not be an easy task. We have taken some steps already and a number of suggestions have been talked about. We are moving towards having a full-time security person to be put in place for the Preschool. It is a secure environment (mostly) but there are occasions when the doors are open and access can be gained, and we are looking at that. Based on what Harrison has read in the past few weeks, one of the most effective steps that can be taken is training staff, volunteers, ushers, and greeters how to be aware of their surroundings and how to de-escalate a situation.

Harrison was not seeking to solve this problem during this meeting, but have the goal of letting the experts have an opportunity to make some suggestions and establish some policies. Bill, Nelson, and Christine will be a part of the conversation with the professional security officers that have been lined up to do the risk assessments. We also are looking at conducting a security audit to identify our vulnerabilities so we can better safeguard our campus.

Harrison will make a call to the police and sheriff departments tomorrow by 9 am and will ask for recommendations for private security agencies. He will then let the Vestry know of the results.

Dena Benedict – Safety Precautions Moving Forward

This Sunday one officer will be stationed in front of the fountain between the Markley Chapel and the Historic Church from 7 am to 12:30 pm. Access to the chapel front door will begin at 8 am. There will be another officer stationed at the front of the Parish House near its fountain. Facilities will open the doors to the Parish House at 8 am. For the Historic Church, three doors will be open for entrance only at Galilee Porch, the Bell Tower, and the South Transept. For services we will make sure ushers thumb bolt the locks on the inside (not dead bolt). There will be a third officer added Sunday night who will arrive at 4:30 pm and will be stationed at the fountain which will also cover the chapel front door.

Moving into the summer schedule beginning July 3rd, the only difference is after the 8 am chapel service, the door will be locked because there will not be a 10:30 am chapel service. The officer will do a walk from the fountain to the Galilee Porch and will stay until 12:30 pm and the one in front of the Parish House will remain until 12:00 noon.

A conversation regarding funerals has not yet been fully discussed; we will have Jim and Fabio present for those services.

Comment: Check to make sure the push button on all the doors work.

At this point everything is a work in progress. Feedback is welcomed and as comments come in changes will occur.

Q. What changes have been made for the Preschool?

A. We have scheduled an officer to come in to do risk assessments and training, not just for the Preschool, but for all staff members. We've also reminded folks not to prop doors open when it gets busy with drop off or pick up. Jim and Fabio will be out here until we get security in place.

Other Comments from Harrison:

There are a lot of good things happening. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

Youth Mission Week 1 was very successful last week. There were 38 youth and 13 adult volunteers that participated in the program. Each day they went to a different venue for service projects. This included going to McPherson Park, Free Medical Clinic, Harvest Hope, Book Distribution, and Project Host.

VBS started Monday with 151 kids, 42 adults, and 14 youth.

Creative Arts Camp will take place August 1-5. There are 155 kids signed up, including 70 from Legacy Charter who will be our guests that week.

We are still looking for a Director of Youth Ministry. We have begun to think differently about the salary for this position, which is to combine the Assistant and Director of Youth Ministry into one and supplement the director with a part-time administrative person while staying within the budget. Kellie Wilson has already begun putting together a plan to talk with the parents of our youth about the new vision.

Aaron Smith, who applied for the Director of Youth Ministry, has accepted a position elsewhere. It may take some time, but we will get there. Kellie has been asked to help collect ideas from not just parents but also from the lower and upper schools, as well as from young adults on how we want to move forward. We are hoping that there will be enough support where people begin to say what group they want to be in charge of such as hospitality or transportation. If anyone knows of people that would be a good fit for the position, let us know. One of the things that may be an option for this position is to consider a teacher who would like to move out of the school system.

What our parents need:

- We need to give parents feedback on what has transpired since the Aaron Smith interview.
- Ask parents what's important to them and what they are looking for.
- Send out a survey asking direct questions.
- Parents need an update.

Questions that need to be addressed are:

- What are we excited about with this youth ministry position?
- Do we know what we want?
- What kind of youth ministry are we trying to create in this church?
- What are we excited about accomplishing?
- What are the gifts an applicant must have to have the result we desire?

Final word from Harrison:

1. After 9 am tomorrow Harrison will send out an email updating everyone on his calls to the police and sheriff departments.

2. Send out emails each week to parents and the Vestry to say here's an update on our search for Director of Youth Ministry.

Senior Warden – Dena Benedict

Nominating Committee has set the dates for election nominations for Vestry, Wardens, and Delegates coming up this fall. It has been recommended that the (open period) be from August 17, 2022, through September 14, 2022, at 5:00pm. There is a motion on the floor with those dates.

Q. Did this come from Ben?

A. Yes

Suggestion: The recommendation that came from Ben Horne was not represented from the majority of the Nominating Committee. Harrison suggested that the recommendation go back to Ben Horne and the Nominating Committee for clarification.

Q. What would be another outcome?

A. Just a formality to set the dates and to let information go out to the parish on what the time period is for the nominations.

Dena will contact Ben and go from there.

Junior Warden – Nelson Arrington

Nelson had nothing additional to report.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Landis

The reports were sent out in the email. Any questions you may have will be passed on to Chris.

Comment: We are fortunate to have Chris, Suzanne, and Kim and all their support.

Q. Has Chris had the opportunity to find "a new Dan"?

A. Not yet.

Minutes from April 19th meeting

MOTION: Bill Hardaway made a motion to approve the April 19th minutes as presented. Cindy Poe seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Minutes from May 17th meeting

MOTION: Milton Bates made a motion to approve the May 17th minutes as presented. Kay Jenkins seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

New Business:

Q. When are we getting together with the staff?

A. We have still not set a date.

Q. What about the Building Task Force?

A. Still working on that.

Kay Jenkins announced the Youth Mission Week 2 will be coming up in July 25 to 29.

Adult and parents are needed.

Don't have a number of how many youth are participating because sign up is still in progress.

Faith in Action has stepped up and helped.

They will be using the same agencies Harrison spoke about earlier.

Times will be from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm all five days.

Kim Lerstang will be helping on Monday and Friday with Kay Jenkins helping on Monday only. Additional help will be needed for the other open days.

Comment: Kay has been instrumental in helping make Youth Mission Week a success. Thank you!

We will have a Sandwich Sunday focus in the Historic Church at the 10:30 am service on Sunday, June 26, to recognize Project Host and all the Christ Church volunteers who have worked tirelessly since March 2020, to help feed hungry neighbors by making over 130,000 lunches in the ongoing Feed the Hungry ministry. As a thank you, Project Host is supplying the cookies for the Cookies and Lemonade Table in the McKissick Family Courtyard following this service.

In addition to enjoying these light refreshments from Project Host, we will also be saying farewell and wishing the best to Addie Tapp as she leaves us to go to seminary.

Closing Devotional

The meeting closed with a video of Claire, a parishioner at Christ Church participating in our Sunday School class for the "Walking the Way of Love" unit. In the video Claire talks about her prayer space and special prayer candle.

Do you have a place in your home set up where you feel especially close to God?

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.