

Christ Church Vestry Minutes
Christ Church Episcopal School, Upper School Presentation Room
Tuesday, September 20, 2022
5:00 pm

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Nelson Arrington (Junior Warden), Dena Benedict (Senior 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, Paul Landis, Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Cindy Poe, Michelle Brown (Clerk of the Vestry), Gracen Miller (Youth Vestry Representative), and Elizabeth Saylor (Youth Vestry Representative).

Absent: Chris Klasing (Treasurer) and Wade Kolb (Asst. Chancellor)

Zoom: Reid Sherard

Guests: David Padilla, Head of School; Fr. Wallace Adams-Riley, Sr. Chaplain; Kristin Bennett, Director of Resource Development; and Josh and Julie Segars, Chairpersons for Annual Giving 2023.

Fr. Wallace led a Compline Service in the Upper School Chapel beginning at 5:00 pm.

After reconvening in the Upper School Presentation Room, the Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod opened the Vestry meeting at 5:30 pm. He welcomed Gracen Miller to the meeting. She is our other Youth Vestry Representative.

David Padilla, Head of School, welcomed the Vestry to Christ Church Episcopal School. David offered a brief biography of his time at the school and talked about his family. He will deliver the sermon on October 16 at the 10:30 am service in the Historic Church.

Kristin Bennett introduced Josh and Julie Segars who are this year's Annual Giving Chairpersons. The Segars have been at Christ Church for over 20 years along with their children. They wanted to kick off with the leaders of the church first, our Vestry, as a demonstration of the triple TTT's (time, talent, and treasure). Pledge packets were passed out and the Vestry members were asked to give their 100% participation by Tuesday of the following week.

Tuesday night, September 27, there will be an Annual Giving event at the Timmons home and the entire Vestry has been invited to attend. We also have the Annual Giving Food Truck Fest on October 2. We are also partnering with the Ministry Fair to share different ways you can offer your gifts.

Inviting to All – Bill Hardaway

Bill shared his thoughts on inviting people to church services and different events with an emphasis on extending a personal invitation, making phone calls, and speaking with people you don't know. Bill passed out a Hospitality 101 Worksheet Survey for all to take. Harrison asked that everyone participate and turn them in to Michelle.

Comment: Sam Erwin expressed his thoughts on the new Sunday School classes and the energy they bring to the church. One class in particular is the Pit Stop. This is a class where the age group is about 45-69 who are empty nesters. He thinks this class will be a difference maker for those in between stages in life and a great opportunity to invite others.

Comments: Gracen Miller and Elizabeth Saylor reported that in their opinion, things are going well! They shared their experiences of working with Joleen and how excited they are about the youth program:

- New SLT members for this year
- Lock-in a couple of weeks ago
- Retreat planned
- Texts to 40 middle schoolers each to invite them to the youth group
- High schooler recruitment for more SLT members
- NFL drafted 9th graders
- EYC Planning
- Encourage others to invite friends
- Kick off with 75 kids
- Old members coming back because the church is standing out above other churches

Comment: Elizabeth Fletcher was at the Spirit Week football game. Joleen and her friend, Drew, made themselves comfortable in the stands by cheering and having fun in a place they had never been before.

Rector's Report – Harrison McLeod

Harrison started where Kristin left off from her Annual Giving presentation.

About 18 months ago, Kristin joined our staff, but she has been at Christ Church since she was an adolescent. She came on her own while her parents were attending St. Peter's. Kristin wanted to be part of our parish and youth group and has been committed to our parish ever since. She was new when the Annual Giving campaign started last year, when Beth and Paul Landis took her under their wings helping her to learn how this all unfolds. It was last year when Josh and Julie agreed to co-chair, which means they would chair the following year. Harrison could not be more pleased with the way things are going and how Kristin has adjusted to her job and the incredible job she is doing.

We are asking that the Vestry's pledge cards be turned in by Tuesday, September 27, and we will be asking the staff to do the same thing tomorrow.

Harrison added to Sam Erwin's comments when expressing his thoughts on Sunday School classes. Harrison received a thank you card from Marguerite Wyche, who had received a personal invitation from Anne Green Buckner to come to the Women's Bible Study. From that invitation, it snowballed into something bigger where there were about 200 people who attended. An invitation is not just getting them here; it is also making them feel welcomed.

Jennifer, Harrison's wife, has been a greeter in the Parish Hall. She commented that she has not had as much fun as she has had welcoming people and directing them on to where to go for Sunday School classes. She also polled people as they were leaving and asked them how their experience was? From the youngest to the oldest they all enjoyed it!

Those who do not yet know, Claudia Coleman has been working as the interim Director of Children's Ministries. Within about a week she had volunteers recruited, trained, and ready to go. Claudia has agreed to serve in this capacity through May of next year. We don't have to worry about hiring someone for this position quickly. There is an interview taking place tomorrow, and we will keep you posted on the outcome. Joleen has been a great addition to the staff as well.

Anne Green Buckner facilitated a new Sunday School class that met in the Earle Conference room. There were 61 people that showed up. So they are now meeting in the McCall Refectory to accommodate a larger attendance.

The Rector's Forum is for anyone preparing for confirmation. It's a mixture of youth and adults. The class focuses on all basics of our faith. Also well attended.

There are other classes and study groups that offer something for everyone. This has been a strong opening for us this year with so much energy.

Our stated goal for this year is \$2.7 million in pledges for Annual Giving.

Dena, Nelson, and Harrison talked about having a handicap ramp installed. Harrison spoke with Bryant a couple of days later and was told there were plans for a ramp already.

Trying to follow security measures on campus has proven to be a challenge, but progress is occurring.

No comments or questions on the security matter.

The Leadership Team has begun work on the budget. They will develop ideas on how they imagine ministry will unfold next year. We have asked them to go through an exercise to get them out of their own ministry areas. They will be looking for a priority-based budget. We've asked them to come up with three must-have programs within their ministry areas and three outside of their areas. Our charge to the Leadership Team is to think beyond their own ministry areas so that our resources can have a maximum impact. This will come back to the Vestry; you are the ones who will pass the budget. It will come from the Leadership Team but with your help. If you have not gotten a phone call by the end of the week from your staff ministry area contact, reach out to them. We should be developing our budget with the help of the Vestry.

We have finally hired a basketball coordinator. Her name is Anna Blencowe who is also a parishioner.

The results from the Nominations Committee for the Vestry Slate have been turned in by Ben Horne. One more phone call needs to come to either accept or reject the nomination. If they decline another phone call needs to be made to fill the eighth slot. We will vote electronically, so look for an email. We will need 100% participation.

Harrison had his peer group meeting last week. This is a group of 15 parishes in downtown Episcopal churches all over the South. The rectors get together and talk about integration. This started in 1968 and continues to go on. They gather twice a year, and it is his favorite meeting of the year. These are top parishes, but in Harrison's opinion, ours is the best. Some do better, but none do as much as well as we do.

Any questions, comments, or observations?

Comment: Milton Bates thought the memorial service for Queen Elizabeth II was put together well. Donald and Sarah did a great job. There were 347 in attendance and there were people who were not members of the church, which says we are doing the right thing. Fox News and WYFF were there as well to feature what the church was doing to honor the Queen.

Senior Warden – Dena Benedict

Thank you to all the parishioners, staff, and Vestry for the September 11 Kickoff two weeks ago. They did an amazing job! They led volunteers to do their jobs and parishioners to return to campus to recommit their lives to Christ Church. When you see the staff, thank them for their hard work. We have volunteers but we also have an amazing staff that makes things happen. It has been nice to hear about Inviting to All tonight especially through personal invitations. Thank you all for your leadership and for encouraging people.

Please contact your staff ministry area person about the budget process, it will make it easier.

Junior Warden – Nelson Arrington

No additional comments.

Treasurer’s Report

No report this month, we will have two months’ worth at the next meeting.

Minutes from August 16 Vestry Meeting

MOTION: Nancy Kennedy made a motion to approve the August 16, 2022, minutes as presented. Paul Landis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor. None opposed. The motion passed.

New Business:

Q. Do nursery workers have to be 18 years old?

A. Yes. This means 16- and 17-year olds can only be volunteers because they are not required to take the “Safeguarding God’s People” course. They do not count as an adult supervisor.

Harrison gave Trudy a special thank you. Of all the things he has heard in the church these past few weeks, he has not heard anything about the Nursery, which is a positive.

If anyone needs mulch, Laurens Nicholson purchased too much and is giving it away.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 6:35 pm.