

***“To love others as Christ loves us”***

**Christ Church Vestry Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

**5:00 pm**

**Attending:** Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bill Hardaway (Senior Warden), Bryant Nixon (Junior Warden), Nelson Arrington (Asst. Treasurer), Betsy Elliott, Betty Parker Ellis, Norma Givens, Julie Haas, Dexter Hagy, Josh Hudson, (Secretary of the Vestry), Kay Jenkins, Wade Kolb (Asst. Chancellor), Paul Landis, Martha Louise Lewis, Cindy Poe, Phil Peterson and Michelle Brown (Clerk of the Vestry).

**Absent:** Sam Erwin, Chris Klasing (Treasurer), Cecil Nelson (Chancellor)

**Zoom:** Betsy Baumgardner

The meeting was opened with prayer from the Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod at 5:00pm.

**Ministry Area Update Challenges, Opportunities:**

Donald Duncan, Director of Music and Liturgy, Part II “The Choral Academy”

- The idea for the Choral Academy began in 2019 and has now come to life.
- Choral Academy will be serving kids 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades.
- The model that has been chosen is “Success begins with a single voice.”
- The Mission of the organization is “To inspire and positively influence the lives of young people through the arts enrichment and academic support.”
- Materials were passed out that outlined what the program offers.
  - Weekly performances, piano and voice lessons, rehearsals, and tutoring and mentoring.
  - Dinner on program days. Partnering with Kevin Mertens and Faith in Action.
  - Summer Choir Camp
  - Arts experience field trips.
  - Regional, national, and international touring opportunities.
  - The program is free for all participants.
  - Christ Church is in partnership with Legacy Charter School who has agreed to recruit up to 30 children and provide transportation for them to get to the church. Their parents will be picking them up.
  - Five kids have been auditioned and accepted and have 15 volunteers to help out thus far.
  - October 23 will be the first gathering for the choristers.
  - The days they will gather together will be Mondays and Wednesdays 3:45pm to 7pm. Dinner will be provided both days.
  - For legal, fundraising and liability reasons a separate entity has been formed, which is the Church Street Choral Academy. It has a board of directors with additional members coming on board next month. Their founding Board of Directors met at 3:00pm today.
  - Please help to get the word out.

Open for questions.

Q. What is the geographic range for transportation?

A. Legacy will be using their buses to transport the children right now.

Q. Any grants for this program?

A. The South Carolina Commission for the Arts gave us \$21k this year for the Creative Arts Camp and has promised another \$21k for next year. There is roughly \$175k in the bank that has been raised through the Bicentennial effort, Vestry designation and includes other gifts. A 501c3 application has been made with the IRS and we will continue to seek out grant opportunities. There was a \$42k UTO grant that was received which came pre-pandemic that was never used. We've also gotten the Dorothy Hooper Beattie Foundation Grant which comes every year.

Q. The 501c3 is completely separate from the church?

A. Yes.

One of the things that will happen since the board is being set up is that we will open a bank account in the name of the Choral Academy and Nelson Arrington has agreed to be the treasurer of the board.

Q. What are the children asked to do?

A. The audition process is more about the interview with the parents and getting to know the kids and looking to see if the parents are willing to make the commitment to have them here.

Q. Do you have any prior experience on how much trouble it may be for some of the parents to get the children to you?

A. Legacy will bus the children to the campus on program days and the parents will pick them up after each session and bring them once a month on Sunday. That is part of the vetting process.

Q. Will there be a vestry liaison for the Choral Academy?

A. At this point it would default to Sam as the outreach person but as vestry responsibilities are thought about for next year, we will make that a consideration. Since Norma Givens is the liaison for Worship, we have a built-in person without naming it as a position.

Q. Going forward in the next couple of years where do you expect your funding to come from?

A. I think gifts and grants. We're well positioned for the next 2 years of programming possibility more. Individual solicitations from those who are passionate about the program is another way as well as support from Christ Church as they have in the past.

Comment:

The hope is the church would look at this in the same way we look at Jasmine Kitchen, which had upfront funding that eventually scaled back and now it has exceeded everyone's expectations. We are now one of the smallest contributors at this point for Jasmine Kitchen.

Donald thanked the Vestry for what has been done at Legacy within the past few years. Their participation has been critical for them to be able to launch the Choral Academy. In the last meeting Donald and Sarah had with Cathy Brown, at Legacy, she articulated why the parents would say yes to this program and that is because of Christ Church's past program commitments and how successful they were.

### **Rectors Report – Harrison McLeod**

- Great start to the program year, the numbers are strong with great participation in Sunday School and other programs. The staff and volunteers have done lots of hard work and the involvement within the church looks to be the same as last year.
- Sunday School classes have ambassadors who are invitational and help get programing information out.
- This Friday Byrant, Bill, and Harrison will meet with the remote work study group to discuss the possibility of staff working from home. We will report back to vestry at the next meeting.
- Bishop Ann Jolly was here last Sunday. She is now the Bishop of Ohio. She expressed her thanks for the help she received from the parish in ways that helped form who she is today. She will be back on October 15<sup>th</sup> and will preach.
- The Leadership team is making progress on beginning to craft a budget based on our priorities. Hopefully by the time the budget has come to the vestry you will have had an opportunity to participate in the development of the budget in your ministry areas.
- As a reminder we will be hosting Diocesan Convention which will be held November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> here at Christ Church. Don't be surprised if someone approaches you for help in all areas.

### **Senior Warden – Bill Hardaway**

- Birthday's
  - Betsy Baumgardner September 6
  - Chris Klasing September 19
- Bill attended the staff meeting today and thanked them for all their hard work. If you have a chance to attend a meeting, please do so. They are held on the first, second and third Tuesday of the month. He also stayed for a debriefing session for Kickoff Sunday. They use the debrief concept after events to measure the pros and cons of the event.
- Shantel Lee is having her Habitat home dedicated this Thursday at 4pm. All are welcome to come out and celebrate. If you don't have the address, it will be provided to you.

### **Junior Warden – Bryant Nixon**

Bryant met with Kevin to go over the building and maintenance budget.

Q. Was there a write up about a group the church is working with to do landscaping?

A. I have not seen that. There are two groups we sub out to, (1) New Leaf, they cut the grass and edge up. We also use a group called Jumpstart; they do a little more. Our budget allowed us to hire a full-time grounds tech, we have not been able to hire an individual, so we've used two companies instead of one person.

Q. Who is in charge of the grounds keeping?

A. We tell them what we want them to do. Our Grounds Committee members, Cindy Poe, Phil Peterson, and Tim Hughes routinely walk around the campus and look out for what needs to be done. Jumpstart is working on getting the grounds back in order.

Q. Is there anything else on the horizon that we need to know about?

A. No. The boiler project is coming to an end. Kevin has informed me the parking lot will be resealed and restriped on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. They are trying to have the signs done before the Diocesan Convention.

**Phil Peterson gave update on signs.**

Chantal has done an inventory of what's on campus and what the verbiage is for each sign. Betty Parker Ellis and Phil met with Chantal to discuss the changes that you will see up coming. We are ready to send everything to the sign company later this week or next week with a check in hand. They are looking at using inserts, another step is a parishioner and his wife have cleaned the signs and have volunteered to paint them black. As Harrison said we are looking to have this done by the convention date.

**Treasurer Report – Nelson Arrington**

- Hopefully everyone has had a chance to read the treasurers report for July.
- The good news is we continue to close the pledge gap. There was an issue in April that has continued to improve.
- YTD is breaking even with the caveat that there would be a sizable deficit due to timing the endowment draw was taken a month early this year which helped to break even.
- Most ministry areas were under budget with their expenses with the exception of worship. They were over due to later than budgeted reserve draws.
- Preschool shows a deficit because of the higher salaries. Tuition will increase. Any loss more than budgeted will be covered at yearend by an additional reserve draw.
- We have a clean report on our audit.
- We don't have August numbers yet because we are a month behind, but we have preliminary pledge numbers for August, and it appears we will be \$120k under budget.
- We have a signed lease on the 101 Broadus property.

Q. How would the gap be covered for the Preschool, and who is over the budget?

A. It would likely come from the endowment or other such draws.

Q. Is there a wait list?

A. Yes. There are about 600 on the list and 300 have paid something to be on the list. The question is does there need to be an expansion of the Preschool and which age group needs to be expanded.

Continued discussion on Preschool.

Another discussion opened up regarding the Choral Academy and how it will be separate from being an account of the church.

Q. How do restrictive accounts work?

A. Any time a parishioner or donor gives money to the church and states specifically what it is for it becomes restricted for that purpose.

Q. How much is in reserve for the Preschool?

A. The Preschool has a healthy reserve.

**Nelson Arrington** passed out invitations for the Leaders in Giving event for Kristin Bennett, Director of Resource Development. The event will be hosted by Janet and Peter Waldo on Thursday, October 5, 2023, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** Cindy Poe moved to accept August 15, 2023, minutes as presented. Phil Peterson seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor. None were opposed.

A discussion went forth regarding the August 31, 2023, minutes. The minutes were not officially on the agenda so they will be discussed as new business and voted on at the next vestry meeting in October.

### **New business**

On Saturday, September 16, 2023, Bill sent out the minutes from Thursday, August 31, 2023, vestry meeting. The members of the vestry would like to make some changes to the minutes and will have them prepared by the next meeting in October to be voted on.

### **Recommendation for 2023 Election Nominating Slate**

Nelson Arrington, Assistant Treasurer is also a member of the Nominating Committee and is recommending the following for Vestry and Diocesan Delegate slate:

### **Vestry Nominees:**

Jessica Clayton  
Ron Gregory  
Kathryn Hix  
Josh Hudson  
Smyth McKissick IV  
Mary Holt Murphy  
Phil Peterson  
Angelle Reichert

### **Diocesan Convention Delegate Nominees:**

Betsy Elliott  
Dan Sterling

### **Vestry and Diocesan Delegates Nominations Slate**

**Motion:** Norma Givens made a motion to approve the Vestry and Diocesan Delegate slate for 2023 election year. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

### **Committee/Team Reports**

#### **CCES**

- Martha Lousie Lewis informed the vestry members about the passing of John Burnett, who was a member of the Christ Church Episcopal High School community.
- She did have a report but will save it for the next meeting.

- All are welcome to come to the services at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd anytime.
- There is a discussion to reschedule the vestry meeting that was to take place at the high school this month.
- The school is doing well, almost completely full.

### **Grounds**

- Cindy Poe passed out information for GOAL (Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership) outlining what problems GOAL is working on.
- There are house meetings taking place and an invitation has been extended to the clergy and the vestry to attend. One of the meetings will be at Cindy's home.
- There will be a meeting on Monday, November 6, 2023. Twenty-four churches will come together at Christ Church and present what they would like to work on and then they will break out into groups.
- There will be a large meeting taking place next spring at the Peace Center.
- There has been a problem with funding for 988 (mental health crisis line). They are asking the state legislators to fully fund the hot line to ensure every call and text is being answered.

### **Welcoming**

- Betty Parker Ellis passed out the New Contacts September 2023 list that was furnished by Chantal Smith.
- They wanted to share:
  1. New Contacts for September (11)
  2. Registration for Discovery Weekend Oct. 27-29 (10)
  3. Those who are waiting to be Confirmed or Received Nov. 12 (10)
  4. Transfer In September 2023 (7)
  5. Transfer out September 2023 (2)
  6. The number that have requested to be removed from Parish Roll but did not request transfer to another church (6)
  7. Other requests – awaiting letter of transfer from incoming parish: (7)

### **Faith Formation**

Betsy Baumgardner

Cara Horn is looking for Sunday School Greeter volunteers if anyone on the Vestry is interested.

### **Worship**

Norma Givens

Donald shared a schedule this morning with all of the church activities that goes out to July 2024.

### **Other Business:**

No other business updates.

**Devotion offered by Betsy Elliott**

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 6:38 pm.