

St. Mary of the Hills

Vestry Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2020 at 5:30pm

Via Video Conference

Vestry Members Present: Chip Myers (Sr. Warden), Tim Silver (Jr. Warden), Doug Galke, Roy McCraw, E.B. Springs, Sterling Hutcheson, Jane Milner, Bill Furr, Jim West, and Crawford Cleveland

Vestry Members Absent: Lisa Kaufmann and Gigi Poole

Others Present: Fr. Andrew Hege (Rector), Amanda White (Treasurer), Elizabeth Sudderth (Clerk), Fr. Sam Tallman and incoming Vestry members Faith Jones, Patty Patella, and Marjory Holder

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order with a prayer at 5:30pm.

Sterling Hutcheson made a motion with a second by Chip Myers to approve the meeting agenda proposed by Fr. Andrew.

The Vestry approved the motion.

The minutes from the previous meeting were shared. Two corrections were requested: (both in the financial report section) Amanda White did not send the letter to Jim Runyon asking him to serve as auditor again next year; the correct income figure from the Tour of Homes should be \$64,000.00 rather than \$80,977.03.

Chip Myers made a motion to accept the minutes with the listed corrections with a second from Tim Silver.

The Vestry approved the motion with one Vestry member abstaining from the vote due to their absence from the September meeting.

The Clerk will make the needed corrections.

Fr. Andrew led a leadership check-in with the Vestry members. He asked for Vestry members to share where they have seen God's grace recently. Some answers given were: seeing grandchildren on a Zoom call, being present at the passing of a close friend, a feeling of peace in reordering friendships, the enriching experience of participating in the Rector's forum, sharing the excitement of Andrew and Amanda expecting a new child.

Fr. Andrew shared an update on the Tour of Homes.

Despite not being able to host an in-person tour this year, the fundraising effort for local charities was wildly successful. The virtual tour of the home of Bo Henderson and Ed Springs created a tremendous amount of excitement and contributions.

E.B. Springs gave an update on the effort to acquire a service mark for the Tour of Homes name and the red door logo. E.B. shared that the approval for the red door logo was granted, but there is an additional hoop to jump through to gain approval for the service mark for the name. E.B. had to gather sworn affidavits from at least 4 local citizens attesting to the long history of our parish using the name Tour of Homes. E. B. sent in the affidavits and the request is pending. The process is delayed by the fact that the staff in the N.C. Secretary of State's office is only in the office 1 day a week currently due to COVID restrictions.

The suggestion was made to continue to offer a virtual tour of a home in the future if the homeowners are comfortable even when the in-person tour can be held.

Chip Myers shared a report from the Outreach committee.

Chip read a devotion which Bishop Gary Gloster shared at the Outreach meeting on the importance of providing help to those in need wherever they may be. Chip reported that after much discussion and prayerful consideration the Outreach committee has decided to revise the geographic division of their donations. The new division will be 60% local and 40% non-local groups. The non-local contributions can be given to state, national, or international efforts. Chip noted that many of the non-local donations will continue to be administered through Episcopal Relief and Development.

Chip Myers made a motion to endorse this guiding principle of geographic division of donations by the Outreach committee with a second by Roy McCraw.

Discussion took place by Vestry members which focused on this issue of the outreach donations being given to local groups versus non-local groups. A comment was made stating the opinion that the Vestry needs to respect the committee process and structure we have as a parish for the Outreach committee to have allocation responsibility. Another comment was made pointing out our need to emulate the ministry of Jesus in the larger world as well as our own local area. A suggestion was made to communicate to the parish this process of division of donations when it is decided upon.

The Vestry approved the motion to endorse the Outreach committee donation formula by a vote of 8 approvals to 2 declining to approve.

Amanda White shared the Treasurer's report.

The monthly financial report was shared with Vestry members prior to the meeting. Amanda pointed out that the parish is currently in a great financial position. Pledges are being paid at the expected rate. Amanda noted that the balance sheet is still showing incorrect figures and that will be corrected soon.

Amanda reported that the actual revenue from the Tour of Homes effort is \$68,424.44.

Jim West made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Jane Milner.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew shared the proposed allocations for the funds raised by the 2020 Tour of Homes. A grant process is used each year and grant requests are reviewed by the Tour of Homes committee and the Outreach Committee.

Andrew reported that grant applications have been approved from 17 organizations all in the local area. He shared that all the organizations were so very grateful to have the opportunity to apply for these much needed funds, especially this year. The total amount approved is \$62,045.00. Since that approval, an additional \$3000.00 in revenue has come in from the Tour of Homes.

E.B. Springs made a motion which was seconded by Sterling Hutcheson to approve the allocations. A detailed list of each donation was shared with the Vestry and will be attached to this document.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Chip Myers shared the allocations proposed at the monthly Outreach committee meeting:

Compassion International:	50.00
Blue Ridge Conservancy:	1000.00 (for Middle Fork Greenway)
Episcopal Relief and Development:	1000.00 (for hurricane relief)
Blowing Rock Cares:	1500.00
Casting Bread Food Pantry:	1500.00
Total:	5050.00

Jane Milner made a motion to approve the Outreach committee allocations with a second by Doug Galke.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew gave an update on the Stewardship effort.

As of today, 50 pledges have been received totaling \$206,387.00. Andrew will be sending out an acknowledgement to all who have pledged thus far tomorrow.

Andrew reported our customary pledge to the Diocese is 10% of our annual operating budget. This year that will be \$49,562.00. That is down about \$200.00 from the previous year.

Chip made a motion with a second from Jane Milner to endorse the figure.

The Vestry approved the motion and this will be submitted to the Diocese tomorrow.

Fr. Andrew proposed the engagement letter be sent to Jim Runyon to do our audit again next year. The estimated cost will be \$2800.00. Andrew noted that he pointed out to Mr. Runyon the need for an earlier timeline for completion next year.

Roy McCraw made a motion with a second from Jim West to approve sending the engagement letter for our next audit to Jim Runyon.

The Vestry approved the motion. Fr. Andrew will send the engagement letter to Mr. Runyon.

Tim Silver shared the Junior Warden's report.

On October 11 we had a significant rain which highlighted the long term problem of a leak in the bell tower. This time the leak was especially bad. We had water in the sanctuary and one of the kneeler cushions at the Altar rail was impacted and will have to be cleaned. Tim got an employee of 4 Forty Four Construction to review the damage on October 13. He pointed out the need for a permanent fix. He proposed bringing in a stone mason and a roofer to look at the problem.

Tim also spoke to Luis Soto. He is waiting on him to come look at the issue.

Tim will follow up as this needs to be addressed ASAP.

Tim reported that he had someone look at 2 trees in the front of the church (a hemlock and a maple). The man reported both trees looked good and are not in danger of falling. Any potential work on trees would not be done in any event until a long range landscape plan is completed.

Tim also reported that even with the significant rainfall, the BASEMENT IS DRY!!!!

Chip Myers did not share a Senior Warden's report at this meeting.

Fr. Andrew shared the Rector's report.

We have had 3 recent deaths in our parish family; Ed Springs, John Mackenzie, and a few months ago, Gideon Jones. Andrew and our parish are holding all these families in prayer.

Andrew will be offering a study on the book "God and the Pandemic" for 3 weeks in November.

Andrew will be sharing a reflection in the coming days on the election season. He noted he will be offering Eucharist on Election Day, as is his customary practice. As with all our services, all COVID protocols will be strictly followed. Andrew recently met again with his advisory group

of parish medical professionals and the wardens and our parish will not be increasing numbers of those allowed in worship at this time.

Andrew expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Sam Tallman who will be returning with Mike to Florida soon for the winter season. Fr. Sam's last Sunday in worship here for this year will be October 25.

Sterling Hutcheson encouraged all to get their flu vaccine.

Fr. Andrew reflected on the uncertainty of what the Advent and Christmas seasons will look like this year. He is considering all possible options. One suggestion was made to explore the possible use of the nearby parking deck behind the museum for mid-week drive-in services.

Roy McCraw read the scripture prepared by Fr. Andrew to close the meeting.

Chip Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm with a second from Doug Galke. The Vestry approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry