

St. Mary of the Hills
Vestry Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2022

Vestry Members Present (In person): Tim Silver (Senior Warden), Marjory Holder, Leslie Billingsley, Buddy Fore, Patty Patella, Doug Galke
(Via Zoom): Bob Finney (Junior Warden), Lisa Kaufmann, Faith Jones, Joe Doswell

Vestry Members Absent: Chip Monroe, Roy McCraw

Others Present: Fr. Andrew Hege (Rector), Elizabeth Sudderth (Clerk), Fr. Sam Tallman (Priest Associate), Amanda White (Treasurer),
Michelle Curry (Vestry Member-elect)

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

Fr. Andrew requested acceptance of the meeting agenda.
Marjory Holder made a motion with a second from Leslie Billingsley to accept the meeting agenda.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew requested approval of the September meeting minutes.
Leslie Billingsley made a motion with a second from Buddy Fore to approve the minutes as submitted.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Amanda White shared the Treasurer's report.
Expenses exceeded income over the past month, but year to date, income still exceeds expenses. Insurance premiums were due for workers comp coverage which is only paid annually.
75% of pledges have been collected YTD.
Marjory Holder made a motion with a second from Doug Galke to accept the Treasurers report.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew shared the allocations approved by the Outreach Committee this month.

Episcopal Relief and Development	\$2000
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To assist in flood relief in Florida and Pakistan; spokespersons from ERD confirmed that they are indeed working in these areas

Compassion International	\$ 100
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To assist the young boy, Pabasra, and his family in Sri Lanka, who the Outreach Committee helps to sponsor

Doug Galke made a motion to endorse these allocations.
Marjory Holder seconded the motion.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew requested approval of a distribution from the Peggy Carlson/Clara Neese Smith Trust endowment in the amount of \$4,000. These funds will be used to endow a scholarship through the Watauga County Children's Council. This request was initiated by John Carlson, trustee.

Doug Galke made a motion with a second from Leslie Billingsley to approve this distribution of \$4,000 from the Peggy Carlson/Clara Neese Smith Trust.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Bob Finney shared the Junior Warden's report.

Bob thanked those who worked so diligently on cleaning out the basement: Doug Galke, Bill Devereux, Joe Doswell, and Carmen Patella.

The shed has been removed from the play space area. We have the permit for construction. Grading will start this week.

The trailer in the parking lot contains items to be placed in the new storage room.

The stained kneeler on the right side of the Communion rail will be cleaned this week by Bush Carpet Cleaning.

The reserve study has been completed and sent to the Executive Committee and the Chair of the Finance Committee for comment and review. It should be ready by the time budget discussions begin next month.

Work continues on the Crisis Management Plan. The plan is to finish it prior to the November Vestry meeting.

The next work day is Saturday, October 29. We have lots of projects planned both inside and outside the building. Bob's participation will be limited due to mobility issues with his knee, but he has organized what needs to be done. A big turnout of folks to work is a must.

Tim Silver shared the Senior Warden's report.

Tim had another Zoom meeting with the folks at Eagle Solar and Light as he is working to determine the feasibility of solar power for our facility. The company is eager to help the church decide if we would be well served by installing a solar unit. They requested copies of our utility bills for the last year and some photos of our current electrical setup. Tim supplied that material and they are evaluating it. They told Tim that once the assessment is complete, it is usually a "cut and dried" decision. Either solar is beneficial to us or it is not. Some areas of concern they raised with Tim are the age of the roof (more than 20 years old-therefore needing to be replaced in the not-too-distant future), Blowing Rock's "sub-alpine" climate (clouds and fog), and to a lesser extent, the trees that overhang part of the roof. We would not want to install solar panels and then take them down to replace the roof. However, the company has studies and data that will allow all of these factors to be taken into account. Tim will keep us informed as he gathers more information.

Carmen Patella contacted Tim about the need to update our list of committees and committee members. The most recent list we have was compiled during our centennial, pre-Fr. Andrew. Tim is aware that a number of Vestry members serve on numerous church committees and we need to take note of that. Tim is not yet sure exactly how we are going to compile the new list, but will keep us updated.

Tim happily reported he recently completed signing all the checks for dispersal of the funds raised by this year's Tour of Homes. He could not help but marvel at the many ways in which St. Mary of the Hills supports the larger community!

Fr. Andrew reported it is time to honor our financial commitment to the Diocese with the payment of our Diocesan pledge. The requested amount for the parish to contribute to the Diocese is 10% of our Normal Operating Income for 2021. That amount is \$56,105. This is due by the end of the month.

Tim Silver made a motion with a second from Bob Finney to endorse payment of this pledge in the amount of \$56,105 to the Diocese.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew shared the Rector's report.

Bill Stroh retired on September 30, 2022 after 28 years.

Bill Devereux is beginning as our Facilities Manager (part-time). He will be in the building 6 hours on Sundays and an additional 6 to 9 hours per week to set up/take down meetings and events and liaise with contracted services.

Ongoing adjustments to job descriptions and duties are underway as we live into a new season and staffing model.

The Blessing of the Animals with Rumble Presbyterian was well attended, despite the hurricane forcing a delay of one week. Fr. Andrew received positive feedback on our continued partnership with our neighbors. He anticipates doing our annual Advent Hope and Light liturgy together on December 21 at Faithbridge. Fr. Andrew will preach. There are many opportunities to grow several liturgical ministries. Contact persons are: Eucharistic Ministers (Valerie Purcell and Michelle Curry), Acolytes (Michelle Curry), Lectors/Intercessors (Leslie Billingsley), Altar Guild (Sue Sweeting), and Flower Guild (Patty Patella).

Fr. Andrew completed a Christian Formation series entitled "Stewardship: More Than Money" in the Rector's Forum during September/early October.

He will be teaching a two-week series introducing the Gospel of Matthew in early November as we prepare for a new liturgical year in Advent.

He and Lindsey are planning and preparing for Advent offerings.

Letters with pledge cards are out in the mail to parish members. Ingathering Sunday is October 30. Vestry members are encouraged to submit pledge cards by October 23.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, October 30: Ingathering Sunday for 2023 pledges

Sunday, October 30: Chili Cook-Off, 5:30pm

Sunday, November 6: All Saints observed in AM, All Souls at Evensong,

4:00pm

Sunday, November 6: Rise Against Hunger, 2:00-4:00pm, Blowing Rock
School
November 11-12: Diocese of WNC Annual Convention at Trinity, Asheville
November 13: Diocese of WNC Revival Eucharist with Presiding Bishop Curry,
10:00 am, Christ School
Average Sunday Attendance thru October 16: 104
Average Sunday Attendance since July 1: 125
Holy Eucharists offered YTD: 147
Daily Offices offered YTD: 195

Leslie Billingsley made a motion with a second from Buddy Fore to adjourn the meeting
at 6:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry