

Church of the Good Shepherd

Minutes -- Summer Parish Meeting – June 25, 2019

1. Opening prayer, Welcome
 - The meeting began at 5:17 pm
 - Approximately 65 parishioners present – we have a quorum!
2. Staff news and vestry nominations
 - Music Program – Charlie Steele has decided not to stay. We have guest organists (Gary Mitchell, David Brensinger, and Sandra Anderson) coming in over the next few months. We may end up deciding to have a group of organists that rotate if we cannot find one full-time organist.
 - Ellen Albright has been here 1 year! Thank you for all you do.
 - Zach Massey is our summer intern and has been our Sunday assistant also. He is taking pictures to update our directory so if you see him on Sunday have him take your picture!
 - Vestry Nominations will be held next month for the 2020-2022 term. The actual voting is done in November. You are encouraged to nominate either yourself or someone else.
3. Elect our Parish Representative to Diocesan Convention
 - Janis Cox and Scott Turner have been nominated to attend the convention. None opposed. Janis & Scott will be our representatives.
4. 2018 Year-End Finance Report – Treasurer, Ralph Greene
 - Alice Stanly was the Treasurer through 2018 and we applaud her for the 20 years of service she gave as Treasurer.
 - Our current financial condition is one of a blessed balance sheet. We have a lot of assets and no liabilities. In 2018 we met and exceeded the incoming budget and spent less than the allotted budget resulting in a positive cash flow of \$16,000.
5. 2019 Budget and YTD report – Treasurer, Ralph Greene
 - Currently, we are ahead of the expected income budget and are still spending less than the allotted budget for expenses.

- The “accumulated funds” line item from the 2018 budget is an accumulation from all prior years of monies that were an excess of income over expenses.
6. 2020 Stewardship
- We currently have 74 households that have made a pledge for 2020 – thank you!
7. Vestry Goals for 2019
- Revise Mission statement
 - We are revising the mission statement for the church and will be welcoming your input at the end of the meeting.
 - Establish new scholarship fund and promote legacy and other giving to the fund
 - Revise and refocus stewardship efforts
 - We want this to be a year-round effort, not just once a year. Lawson Kelly, Nora Jones, Perrin Dargan, and Rob are on the committee. They have already invited feedback from parishioners and plan to continue to solicit feedback from parishioners.
 - Complete Land Swap with High Hampton and make improvement to parking and landscaping
 - It has been finalized!
 - We have to go through the diocese for any property exchange. There was no money involved in this swap.
 - Weave results of the Mutual Ministry Review into our work as vestry
 - Clean up financial accounts, create new accounts, and polish balance sheet
 - Right now some of the accounts are tangled like a ball of jewelry and we are in the process of untangling them.
 - bring Invite, Welcome, and Connect to Good Shepherd
 - This is a program that concentrates on making sure that visitors and newcomers are welcomed and integrated into the parish.
 - Doreen Hastings and Suzie Sinclair attended a conference to learn about the Invite, Welcome, Connect program and are excited about bringing it to Good Shepherd. They will be sharing what they learned and their ideas for implementation. It was inspiring to see people from the program share how they have grown and improved their connection with parishioners since starting the program.
 - Hiring a curate or second clergy or additional staff person
 - We did attempt a spring search but did not find a suitable fit for us. We will recruit more in the fall of 2019.
 - The pay for the curate is taken in part from the accumulated funds.
8. Mutual Ministry Review and Mission Statement Revision
- We invited Bill Livingston to come in and do a Mutual Ministry Review. The review consists of multiple questions to gauge the status of a congregation. We are doing well. The report is available to parishioners upon request.

9. Land Swap with High Hampton and new parking ideas
 - In the attached picture: Good Shepherd acquired the green parcels and the yellow parcel is what we gave to High Hampton.
 - We have already acquired some parking and hope to reconfigure the parking lot near the driveway to bring the total new parking spot number to 18-20.
 - Thank you to Ray Daniel and David Young who have been instrumental in this process.
 - The largest piece we are acquiring is near the Memorial Garden. We may expand the Memorial Garden or we may create a meditation garden.
 - Parishioner asked if we could trim the hedges between the entrances to improve visibility. We are looking into the possibility of relocating the entry/exit on the side closest to town to help improve visibility when exiting the lot. Parishioner reminded everyone that our parking spots are narrow so please make sure you are not taking up two spaces and to pull all the way into the spot.
 - The landscaping and parking projects are being planned to hopefully be complete within the next 12 months.

10. Endowment Report – Bill Canby, Endowment Chair
 - The members of the Endowment Board are listed on page 12 of the Annual report. We are always looking for people from different backgrounds to serve on the board.
 - There is a total of \$1.5 million in the endowment account, separate from the general fund.
 - This year we adopted a NC rule in how we manage endowment funds. This has allowed us to take 5% every year.
 - In 2018 we received a \$100,000 bequest into the Hines Hall fund.
 - \$37,000 was distributed for scholarships.
 - There are numerous ways to give money: depreciated stocks, IRAs, Qualified Charitable Distributions. Please talk to you financial advisor about the best way to donate to the endowment funds.
 - There are currently 4 endowment funds, but this year we are adding a 5th!

11. Conkle-Rowe Scholarship Endowment
 - In the 1920s Good Shepherd was in disrepair and all but closed. The Bishop at the time found Henry Conkle (Nancy Swann's father) to run the church. Henry Conkle was the Bishop's Warden from 1948 -1979. He ran the church for a number of years including finding clergy, musicians, and lay leaders. In 1979 he gifted beautiful candelabras to the church as a retirement gift.

- Good Shepherd created a Scholarship Fund to honor Henry Conkle that we hoped would continue in perpetuity, with \$1,600 to be given every year for scholarships. Unfortunately the funds were depleted.
- Fast forward to the 1990s and Good Shepherd had begun to thrive once again and was able to award scholarships through our Outreach program. The vestry at the time decided that there really needed to be a separate Scholarship Committee and so our current Scholarship Committee was born.
- Since 1998, Pat Rowe has been the head of the Scholarship Committee. Her passion for education and crunching numbers has allowed the amount of scholarships awarded to increase from \$1,600 a year in 1979 to \$50,000 a year!
- In honor of these two amazing people who have been so passionate about education we are establishing the Conkle-Rowe Endowment Fund.
- We thank Pat for her hard work and efforts and hope that her legacy will continue for many years to come.
- Pat was very thankful for this honor but wanted to make sure that we knew that it was not be her effort alone. She is so proud of the students that we are able to help. We have even been able to give students more than they requested after learning about family situations. Pat had her son Tom and grandsons Michael and David with her and was grateful for the love and support from her family.
- Rob said that we will be asking for money to fund the new Endowment. He asked Pat to create a dream 5 year plan and in that plan the current budget of \$50,000 doubles to \$100,000 every year awarded in scholarships. The Scholarship drive will begin in August.
- Currently the other endowment funds are in good shape. We are hoping to be able to grow this new endowment fund to \$1-2 million dollars so that there will be enough to draw the \$100,000 budget every year.
- As Bill Canby mentioned, there are many ways to give to the Endowment Fund and we encourage everyone to give as they felt led.

12. Outreach Activities, including the Outreach Grants for 2019 (Janie Crews)

- In 2018 we awarded \$158,275 in Outreach grants.
- We just finished the process for the 2019 grants and have awarded \$181,000 to 32 agencies. 9 agencies presented to the committee, 3 agencies are new (listed below), and 6 agencies from 2018 did not request funds this year.
 - HERE (Housing Equality Resources & Education) cares for the homeless in Jackson County. Destree LeeJee worked with the NC Homeless Coalition and Reach and she is starting up this agency with the county's help and hopes to build a shelter and provide assistance to those who are having problems getting a home of their own.
 - HIGHTS (Helping Inspire Gifts of Hope, Trust, & Service) Marcus & Greta Metcalf have a clinical counseling background and want to grow leaders through programs. They take troubled youth from schools and the Sherriff's department and give them service opportunities as well as a chance to explore different vocational paths.
 - Live Challenge of WNC has a house in Sylva that houses 10 women. The women live there for 1 year and participate in a biblically principled program. They teach the women life skills and provide educational services and employment opportunities. The Outreach Committee visited the house and were very impressed with how immaculately clean the house was kept. They were also able to meet the women who were staying there and were very impressed by them.
- We wish that everyone could hear from these agencies. We are helping these agencies do so many wonderful things in our world.
- If you are interested in any of these agencies we encourage you to please get involved!

13. Raffle, Bazaar and Auction news and needs

- The lineup for the Live Auction is coming soon! Get together with your friends and plan you bid. Call Doreen Hastings with any questions.
- The Silent Auction has over 225 items!
- The Live Auction list will be in the Sunday bulletin and also in the newspaper.

- The Bazaar is Saturday, July 13th from 9 am – 1 pm – come get some great deals!
- 14. 2020 Pilgrimage – dates and place to be determined
- 15. Questions?

Table Discussion Topics:

1. Service Times November through May: 9 and 11 am

How did these work for you?

Is it good to have the 11 am service the same for the whole year?

Any suggestions?

- It is confusing when it changes
- Some people come at 11 because they assume it is 11
- We like the service times as suggested

2. *Draft of Good Shepherd Mission Statement*

As the Body of Christ we are committed to **reflect God's love with faith in action** to all in our community through

- Welcoming worship
- Redeeming outreach and
- Spiritual growth
- Don't like "welcoming", welcoming and worship do not seem to go together. Worship is vertical – you and God. Welcoming is horizontal – between you and others.
- Don't like "redeeming". Paying for something is not necessarily a redeeming action. A security system is a need, but is not redeeming.
- We didn't have enough time to come up with alternatives but we all had some issues with the adjectives, especially "redeeming". Much of the giving, while helpful and needed, is not necessarily redeeming.
- Would like to see the mission statement in the bulletin once finalized. Need to make sure that we remind the congregation what our mission is.