

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
Greenville, North Carolina
Vestry Minutes
August 21, 2023

The Vestry of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church held a meeting on Monday, August 21, 2023, in the multi-purpose building.

Members Present: Steve Callender, Ray Franks, Ashton Johnson, Sharyn Lennox, Angela Mallette, Marty Michaels, Barbara Shreve, Debbie Strickland, Heather Tepper, Mary Vincent, Chip Williams

Member(s) Absent: Malcolm Williams

Others Present: John Porter-Acee, Jonathon Sargeant, Tommy Tucker

The senior warden opened the meeting at 5:35 pm. A quorum was present.

Prayer: Ms. Shreve

Senior Warden Report: Mr. Franks spoke on the following:

- **Handrails in Church:** The project is on schedule to be started soon. The rector led a discussion about the way decisions are being made regarding color, design, etc., who are the “decision makers”, and what opportunity exists for collaboration? Mr. Franks said that Susan Holmes, Connie Widney, Peter Woodruff, Scott Crippen, and some members of the choir participated.
- **Parish Workday:** The workday is planned for September 16, 2023, at 8:30 am.
- **Thermostat Settings:** The programmed thermostats are being adjusted.
- **Finishing 2023 on a High Note:** The senior warden commented on the progress and success of meeting the vestry goals for this year and to look forward to setting goals for 2024. He asked the vestry to bring three (3) goals for next year to the next vestry meeting.
- **Diocesan Revival:** Mr. Franks asked for St. Timothy's members to consider volunteering at the revival to be held on October 21, 2023, from 10:30 am – 5:00 pm at the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry in Newton Grove, N.C. Visit their website for more information.

Accomplishments:

- **Awards:** The Rev. John Porter-Acee commented on the importance of the vestry articles about ministries and programs. He cited an example of an excellent report by Chuck Widney about the community garden. Other examples included but not limited to JOY Soup Kitchen and Community Crossroads as prominent and visible signs of the momentum in the church.

He presented a special award to Ms. Mallette for her announcements as vestry member of the day. The vestry applauded.

- **Senior Vestry Dinner:** The second annual dinner for present and former vestry members was a big success. The rector felt that the opportunity to come together created a very positive experience.
- **Vacation Bible School:** The organization and hard work of the leaders and volunteers resulted in successful VBS this year.

Challenges:

- **Review of Vestry Goals:** Mr. Franks led a discussion about the three (3) main vestry goals for 2023 and asked the leaders of each group to comment.
 1. **Goal # 1-Parishioner's Talents and Skills:** Mary Vincent said that the committee has had conversation that continues. No one has signed up in the narthex asking for more information. The committee has talked about having the different ministries to make a short presentation that will be re-visited. There was conversation about including a talent search as part of the every member canvass. Ms. Vincent said that, in the past, parishioners had the opportunity to respond. It was mentioned that it is important to not only gather the information but to record and act upon it.
 - There was discussion about the "Ask Me" parishioners who are specifically involved in being available to greet church attendees and assist anyone who has any questions or needs assistance. Presently, there are not any designated greeters at the Sunday services and there are only two (2) ushers. There has been conversation about having "Ask Me" persons to be present at these services. A comment was made that, if these people do serve as greeters, a schedule should be maintained by that committee for church services.
 2. **Goal #2-Deepening/Newcomers:** Mr. Callender said that there have been some meetings with various people but said that it has been challenging to get traction. He did say that the vestry senior dinner and especially the rector's comments were inspirational and gave him some direction. Mr. Callender offered some ideas about ways to proceed. He is thinking about developing and making a presentation to the congregation. He asked for any assistance from vestry and/or church members. The rector commented that this initiative might be good to be included during the stewardship campaign. He will share some slides to Mr. Callender. Mr. Franks said that the families of pre-school and scouts are being invited to the September 10, 2023, Parish Day. He is also finishing a survey for the scouts. The pre-school is having an orientation for students and parents on Wednesday, August 30th between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Representatives from the garden, Inreach, and formation will speak informally with parents either as they arrive or as they depart. On Tuesday and Wednesday September 5th and 6th, the pre-school is having a "Meet and Greet" at 11:30 am in the parish hall for parents to get to get to know one another and do a little networking.

3. Goal #3-Vestry Communications: Ms. Lennox felt that there has been a great deal of progress for this goal. She asked for feedback on ways to communicate. The rector said that the need for effective communication is an ongoing opportunity to inform the congregation. He is happy to have regular staff meetings and the reports received have been very helpful to strengthen the church leadership.

- Mr. Franks referenced other documents pertaining to the annual goals and urged the vestry to review, make comments, and take actions as needed.

- **Developing Larger Churchwide Projects:** Ms. Lennox reported on the work of the Outreach Committee after being asked at the last vestry meeting to consider possible projects “for the least of these” and to report to the vestry. She said that she, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Strickland met to discuss the charge from the vestry. Ms. Lennox mentioned the idea of supporting teachers at local schools who exhaust their funds for supplies and must rely on the parents and community for contributions. The timeframe, if adopted, would be after the first school term. She said that the possible school project would not address the target groups but said that the Outreach Committee felt that they have been supporting JOY Soup Kitchen, Community Crossroads, and Operation Sunshine, that does focus on “the least of these”, both with funds and active member participation. Mr. Franks commented that he is interested in finding projects that get the most people on board. The senior warden said that what we are doing is great and wondered if there were other projects, like the Lobster Fair, that would earn money and give the church more identity to the community. There was conversation about who should be the target for greater participation, inside the church or from the outside community or both. Ms. Lennox expressed that Outreach did not feel they were in the best position to pursue this topic. She also said that there are other ministries at St. Timothy’s who are doing forms of outreach, e.g., ECW, Daughters of the King, Brotherhood, community garden, choir, etc. Ms. Lennox informed the vestry that the Outreach Committee has adopted three (3) focus ministries for 2023; JOY, Community Crossroads, and Operation Sunshine and supports other groups as well during the year. The committee will consider other projects, but she stressed that both more people participating, and additional funds will be needed. There was renewed conversation about the possible support of a school maybe in January 2024. The schools could be alternated. Martha Whitesides has been involved that might include EYC in one or more projects.

- **Charity and Justice:** The rector related a story about the difference between charity and justice. He said that being able to “change a day” (charity) or “change a life” (justice), is a description about the way we, and society, try to meet the needs of others. Both are important. He urged the vestry to think about social justice and the need for more “face to face” ministry. He said that participating in outreach is extremely important.

Action Item: The rector will meet with Mr. Johnson, Ms. Lennox, and Ms. Strickland regarding outreach.

- **Annual Stewardship Campaign:** Mr. Chip Williams distributed a timeline for the campaign. The theme is “All In”. Conversation followed about the kinds of communication regarding stewardship during Sunday services.

- **2024 Budget Worksheet:** The treasurer distributed a worksheet for the 2024 budget year and gave an overview of the financial status for the year. Non pledge contributions will not reach the budgeted goal this year. Insurance premiums have gone up. There was discussion about various fundraising efforts available to the church to generate revenue.
- **Nominations for Vestry:** The senior warden led a discussion about ways to identify parishioners to serve on the 2024 vestry. The vestry was asked to submit names for vestry for 2024.

Rector Report:

- **Jonathon Sargeant:** The Rev. Porter-Acee introduced Mr. Sargeant, from St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Kinston, who has joined St. Timothy's from the Diocese as a postulant seeking holy orders to be a Deacon. He will be at St. Timothy's from September 2023 through March 2024 when he hopes to be ordained as a deacon. The rector indicated that he will be actively involved in the ministry of St. Timothy's. In the past Mr. Sargeant has been heavily involved in outreach and formation at his home church. The vestry welcomed Mr. Sargeant to St. Timothy's.
- **Pre-School:** Enrollment is down this year that will likely result in an operating deficit at least for the fall term. Hopefully, new students will join in the spring.
- **Formation:** Plans for the fall are forthcoming.

Approval of Minutes: The July 9, 2023, vestry minutes were *approved by acclamation*.

Treasurer's Report: There is a positive cash flow. The Treasurer's report was *accepted by acclamation*. See submitted report.

Closing prayer: Ms. Mallette

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

The next scheduled vestry meeting is September 18, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the multi-purpose building.

Respectfully submitted:

Tommy Tucker

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Clerk to the Vestry