

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
Greenville, N.C.
Vestry Minutes
May 20, 2024

The Vestry of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church held a meeting on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:30 pm at the home of Debbie and Barbour Strickland.

Members Present: Ashton Johnson, Angela Mallette, Marty Michaels, Barbara Shreve, Debbie Strickland, Sharyn Lennox, Leslie Veach, Mary Vincent, Chuck Widney, Chip Williams

Member(s) Absent: Bill Biddlecome, Steve Callender

Others Present: Jon Sargeant, Tommy Tucker

Ms. Strickland opened the meeting at 5:30 pm. A quorum was present.

Opening Prayer: Ms. Vincent

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 29, 2024, vestry meeting *were presented and approved by acclamation.*

Ministry Architects Proposal: The senior warden began a conversation about what St. Timothy's is called to be. She asked the members to think about our church and to reflect on and write responses for the following; one (1) "strength", one (1) "challenge", and one (1) "dream". She read the comments as an opening to discuss engaging a company such as Ministry Architects to help St. Timothy's to live a common vision. She stressed that a decision to employ the firm has not been made. She called the Rev. John Porter-Acee to join the meeting via telephone.

The rector asked if the vestry had any questions after receiving the Ministry Architects proposal for consultation services. There were comments on having the youth to be involved and getting maximum participation from the congregation. The vision team will play an important role in the success of the program. The rector feels that the church does not have a common vision for the future of St. Timothy's that should be based on what the congregation is passionate about. As an example, he mentioned that the Outreach Committee has strongly supported the JOY Community Center and Soup Kitchen for many years. He said that now, their director has said that the monetary support is not needed as much as in the past. So, how will the extra outreach funds be used? Ms. Strickland cited that another example is the Firetower Road expansion and the effects of the changes to the church campus. The future operational status of the pre-school is under consideration, which affects a decision about upgrading the playground. To identify a vision is important that requires concentrated follow-up. Grants would be welcomed.

There were other comments including:

- the importance of congregational participation
- having a consultant would be positive,
- the possibility of assistance from Martha Whitesides would be an asset,
- excitement for the future moving forward to keep pace with congregational growth,

- the amount of money charged by the consultant is “daunting”,
- what will happen to the church if Ministry Architects, or similar company was not engaged,
- can the Diocese and/or national church provide resources.

The rector said that he felt someone should be identified to take the lead. He is researching other companies for comparison but has not had good results.

The vestry expressed a desire to continue exploration of a vision process. It was decided to bring this topic to the senior vestry dinner on June 2, 2024.

Executive Session: At this point in the meeting, the vestry discussed a personnel matter.

Senior Warden Report: Ms. Strickland reported on the following:

- **Stewardship Chair(s):** The senior warden said that there is no one who has agreed to chair the stewardship campaign this year. She has some parishioners that she plans to contact. She asked the vestry to help.
- **Communication:** She led a conversation about the importance of effective communication for the congregation. The vestry offered comments about the types and methods being used now to inform the membership about what is going on at church, e.g., Facebook, Blast, website, newsletter, etc. There was a question about the vestry minutes and vestry reports being online. It was noted that the March 2024 vestry minutes are online however, navigating to the link requires a careful search. A suggestion was made to add vestry reports to the website. Another suggestion was to highlight one (1) or more ministry group(s) each week in the Blast. Ms. Strickland asked vestry members to talk to parishioners for comments and/or questions.
- **Bishop’s Annual Visitation:** The Bishop will not be at St. Timothy’s in 2025. He will be at church in 2026 however, no date has been set.
- **Ordination:** Jon Sargeant will be ordained as a Deacon on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at 10:30 am. The ordination will be at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Fayetteville. The vestry offered well wishes to Mr. Sargeant.
- **Operation Sunshine Project:** Assistance has been requested for painting inside the building. The senior warden expressed that helping with the project would be a good opportunity to help this ministry. She recommended making an announcement in the Blast and Fridge page.

Junior Warden Report: Mr. Widney discussed the following:

- **Campus Building Security:** The junior warden stressed the need to ensure that all buildings are secured after use especially making sure the buildings are locked.

Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Williams reported on the following:

- **Revenue and Expense Report:** The operating cash flow is strong but the pre-school is running a slight deficit. He reported that a committee has been formed to explore the possibility of a full-time day care on the campus.
- **Certificate of Deposit:** At the May 9, 2024, Executive Committee meeting, it was announced that the \$100,000 certificate of deposit (CD) for one (1) year had reached maturity. The committee agreed to renew with a six (6) month, \$50,000 CD, at 5.25% interest and a 12-month, \$50,000 CD, at 5.15% interest.

Closing prayer: Ms. Veach

The meeting ended at 7:43 pm followed by dinner.

The next scheduled vestry meeting is Monday, June 24, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the multi-purpose building.

Respectfully submitted:

Tommy Tucker

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Clerk to the Vestry