

# **Episcopal Church of the Epiphany**

## **Vestry Meeting Minutes**

### **October 16, 2022**

#### **In Attendance:**

Vestry - Erin Braden, Paul Hinson, Richard Messner, Bert Bender, Lisa Daily, Liefy Smith, Kaylie Gibbs, Susan Ashmore, & April Maa  
Clergy - Amy Dills-Moore  
Ex officio - Shelle Bryant & Sherry Wallace  
Visitor: Sally Ulrey

Absent: Peter Dodge, John Wierwille, Paige Howell, Nicole Lambelet, & Randy Shearin

#### **Meditation:**

Amy led the group in an opening meditative discussion.

#### **Priorities & Goal Setting with Sally Ulrey:**

Sally Ulrey led the group in discussion and activities to help identify our priorities and set goals. The priorities will be discussed with the entire parish in an ingathering on November 13.

#### **New Business:**

Amy will send a notice to the parish stating that the wearing of masks in church will be optional.

Amy asked the vestry to think about new vestry members for the term beginning in 2023.

Liefy noted that the next Newcomers gathering will be Sunday, November 13 at 4:00.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

Approval of the September 2022 vestry minutes was included as part of the consent agenda. All voted to accept. There were no gifts over \$100.

The meeting ended with evening prayer.

#### **Online Resolutions:**

On October 6, Richard motioned via email that the vestry approve an additional \$100,000 to the COE debt that is currently held by the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. The term will be for 10 years. Peter seconded the motion. There were ten votes in favor and one against, and the motion passed.

On October 7, April motioned via email that the vestry approve the IT quote from Pro2Call that would improve the WIFI and internet services for the Church. Erin seconded. There were nine votes in favor and none against, and the motioned passed.

On October 12, Erin made the following motion via email:

RESOLVED, that, Randy Shearin, Treasurer, and, Erin Braden, Senior Warden, be authorized to execute a note to the Diocesan Foundation, Inc., up to the amount of one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) with the term of ten years at 1.52% interest, and that the promissory note so executed be incorporated as an exhibit to these minutes.

April seconded. There were ten votes in favor and none against, and the motion passed.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Nov 13 – Ingathering and Parish Session—Priorities

Nov 20 & Dec 18 – Vestry meetings

Jan 22 – Vestry meeting — Gather-Transform-Send Model with Sally Ulrey

Jan 29 – Parish Annual Meeting

Feb 11-12 – Vestry Retreat

Feb 26 – Parish Session—Invitational Ministry “Workshop” with Sally Ulrey

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Wallace

Clerk of the Vestry

## Vestry Reports

### Values – Revised Draft

#### Faith as a Journey

We believe God loves you – no exceptions. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we honor you.

#### Love in Action

We are called to engage with the wider community through the life and teachings of Jesus. Together, we work toward environmental, racial, gender, and LGBTQ+ justice and equity.

#### Transformative Relationships

Through God's grace, we seek to embody God's love in our care for each other.

#### Radical Welcome

We are an inclusive community that seeks and serves Christ in all people. You are welcomed here.

### Children & Youth – Emily Elder and Paige Howell

Sunday Morning Formation for children and youth has now been going on for about a month. The 4th and 5th Grade Formation class is the class most regularly attended, with between 3 to 9 children in attendance each week. Our Godly Play and Youth Formation classes are smaller, usually drawing between 2 to 4 children/youth each week. Nearer the end of the semester, I plan to check in with volunteers about how things are going, and with parents to see if a different time would work better for next semester (e.g. having Godly play during the service, before communion, etc.)

Youth Group continues to draw 5-10 youth each week, and the biggest update from this month has been our joint events with Holy Trinity Parish. We went to Fellini's with them on October 2 and we'll host them for a time of sharing and listening to testimonies this evening (October 16) with a dinner of Willy's to follow. This has been a wonderful partnership, especially following our pilgrimage with the Holy Trinity youth group this summer.

A one-time event for children is in the works for Election Day on Tuesday, November 8: a "Parents' Morning Out," so that parents can have a break and go vote while their children are at the church. This event is still in process, but it will most likely take place from 9 AM to 11:30 AM at Epiphany, and will include a Godly Play story, a snack, an art project, and time spent playing outside. Nicole and I would appreciate any safe-guarding trained adults who would want to help out with this event!

## **Community Engagement – Nicole Lambelet and Susan Ashmore**

Nicole has been hard at work on this important event. Please join if you can!

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | Only One Earth Event**

*Sunday, October 16, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Science Gallery Atlanta*

Faith communities play a crucial role in the work for ecological justice. On October 16, 2022, civil and environmental rights leader, the Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley will deliver a keynote address about the intersections between faith, climate, and justice at Science Gallery Atlanta. Rev. Durley is the chair of the National Interfaith Power and Light board and the former Pastor of the historic Providence Missionary Baptist Church of Atlanta, where he served for nearly 25 years. In 2011, Rev. Durley was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame for his contributions during the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Rev. Durley's address will be followed by a panel discussion composed of local interfaith leaders and scientists from Emory University, who will respond to Rev. Durley and explore how concerned citizens of faith can mobilize their communities to address the environmental realities and policies requiring our action in the state of Georgia.

**Panelists include:** Minister Wan Smith, Georgia Conservation Voters; Rabbi Ellen Nemhauser, Director of Interfaith Atlanta; Aseelah Rashid, Program Director of Inter-City Muslim Action Network; and Eri Saikawa, Director of Emory Climate Talks. The panel will be moderated by Rabbi Jonathan Crane, Professor of Bioethics and Jewish Thought at Emory University. Opening Remarks delivered by Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Atlanta.

*Co-hosted by Climate Talks at Emory University, Science Gallery Atlanta, Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, Interfaith Atlanta, Interfaith Children's Movement, The Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, The Ismaili Council for the Southeastern USA, and The Temple.*

## **Finance – Richard Messner**

(Susie Boyko, Bookkeeper)

September MTD results were concerning: a deficit of \$10,241, bringing YTD deficit to \$26,415.

I think these results are not as dismal as they seem.

MTD revenue was \$54,317, about \$3K over budget. Giving was somewhat over budget, as was Facility Rental. YTD revenue = \$451K vs budget of \$460K and last year YTD of \$471K.

The problem, obviously, was in expenses: MTD actual \$64,558 vs budget of \$51,125. September expenses included \$7,500 for the audit, three months of health insurance for the new Youth Director (\$3,600), and quarterly Community Outreach payments of \$2,232. These expenses are one-time or will level out before year end.

YTD revenue shortfall compared to budget: about \$9K. Giving is short of budget about \$18K; Other Income is over budget about \$9K. YTD expenses exceed budget \$17K, mostly in Office & Administration (over budget \$13K, mainly due to \$12,500 audit fee vs YTD budget of \$4,875) and Building and Grounds (over budget by \$7K). Some areas (Children & Youth / Community Outreach) are under budget YTD, offsetting overages.

## **Membership - Liefy Smith**

- The Membership Committee and the Art Ministry Photo sessions will be completed the day of this meeting. The first Sunday's group's photos went out to the Parishioners this past week. About 15 parishioner households signed up for this opportunity. Shea will be sent a few photos from each family to include in the directory.
- During the Ministry Fair- we gained one new volunteer sign-up for the committee.
- A Fall Newcomers Gathering is set on Sunday, **November 13, 2022 4-5 pm.**

## **Parish Life – John Wierwille**

Polly Nodine (Chair)

The only event we have hosted since kick-off was Oktoberfest on Oct. 1.

We think the potential of bad weather from the hurricane limited the numbers this year as the numbers dropped to around 40 people and there were no children this year, which was disappointing. Still the event went well and we had plenty of food. Joel and crew managed the grilling with the usual finesse. The weather was fine in the end but breezy.

The committee would like the sign up for these events to have the ability for people to see what others are bringing as well as who has signed up. This is not possible now through Realm. Polly has talked to Shea about this and know she has worked with Realm to give us more flexibility, but it seems the software does not allow for this. Polly notes that she does not want to make the sign ups more onerous for Shea but would like to explore how this might be done.

Kanuga is upcoming and the committee has everything in place. Holly and Charlie Slater can give you more information, Oct. 21-23.

Next we are setting up for the Nativities exhibit which will have a limited display. This exhibit involves a great deal of labor and the amount of help has dwindled. Last year was too much work for the committee so we are only displaying Luke and Matthew in the gallery and narthex. This will be for the parish only and it will remain up through Epiphany.

We next host the Lessons and Carols reception which is held after this event. We provide nibbles and wine/juice.

We need more committee members, as most committees do, and hope the Ministry Fair may have sparked some interest.

### **Pastoral Care – Lisa Daily**

For your information, below you will find Epiphany's 2022 Annual Report for Community of Hope International. Please note the number of pastoral care encounters that occurred. Ann Fowler's leadership of this ministry has been extraordinary!

The Pastoral Care Committee and the Community of Hope participated in Epiphany's Ministry Fair on October 9. Members of the Pastoral Care Committee continue to send cards to parishioners as they are added to the prayer list.

Members of the Pastoral Care Committee are Cecelia Democko, David Draper (Chair), Susan Moody, Nancy Thompson and Sherry Wallace.

Community of Hope's Leadership Team is comprised of Jessica Burns, Lisa Daily, David Draper and Ann Fowler. Additional members are: Barbara Belcore, Laura Gary, Lisa Gray, Paul Hinson, Chris Miller, Katie Pederson and Annie Strahan.

## **Stewardship – Kaylie Gibbs**

Stewardship season is in full swing following the ministry fair last week. We had a great turnout, and thanks to all of you that attended and/or participated in some way. It was a great success. Letters from the stewardship committee are being mailed this week to all parishioners, and starting October 16th, we are distributing pledge cards and leaf paper for the parish to engage with our tree hanging in the gallery. We also have speakers lined up for now through In-gathering for the Stewardship moment during Sunday worship. Please reach out if you have any questions or feedback on this year's campaign.

# 2022 Annual Report for Community of Hope International

## COHI Center:

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

2089 Ponce de Leon Ave., NE

Atlanta, GA 30307

## Activities During the Past Year

### Community of Hope Training

On October 4, 2021, Epiphany began its 14-week Community of Hope training for lay pastoral caregivers. Eleven Epiphany parishioners participated in the training, which concluded with a retreat at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church on March 12, 2022, led by the Rev. Lynnsay Buehler, the director of the Julian of Norwich Center. A commissioning ceremony for the lay pastoral caregivers took place during Epiphany's Sunday worship service the following day.

### Circle of Care Gatherings

Epiphany's Circle of Care gathers on the fourth Monday of each month. We began on April 25 and all eleven trained caregivers continue to be active in the Circle of Care. One member cannot attend the monthly meetings in the fall because she has classes at the Candler School of Theology but plans to re-join us next semester. Jessica Burns, Lisa Daily, David Draper, and Ann Fowler form the leadership team.

### Pastoral Caregiving

Our Circle of Care members serve parishioners and people in the Atlanta community in various ways. Here is a record of our service in the past five months:

Pastoral Visits	83 visits/28 hours
Pastoral Phone Calls	55 calls/9.5 hours
Eucharistic Visits	10 visits/5 hours

New Members	8 conversations/2 hours
Healing Rail	10 services/1 hour, 45 minutes
*Pastoral Outreach in community	15 visits/18 hours
Cards/Texts/Emails	52/8 hours
Pastoral conversations at church	5 conversations/ 45 minutes
<b>Total hours in pastoral care service</b>	<b>73 hours</b>

\*Pastoral encounters with Church of Common Ground foot clinic clients, Refugee Family members, and Emmaus House food pantry patrons

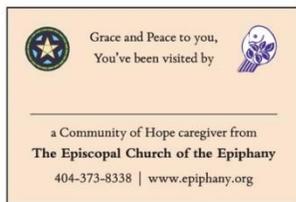
### 2022 CoC activities included:

April	We began reading and discussing <i>Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict</i> by Esther de Waal.
May	The Rev. Nicole Lambelet facilitated a pastoral visit role-playing session.
June	We watched and discussed Kate Bowler's TED Talk " <i>Everything Happens for a Reason</i> "— <i>and other lies I've Loved</i> . Previously, we read Bowler's New York Times article <i>What to Say When You Meet the Angel of Death at a Party: After years of living with stage IV cancer, I have some suggestions</i> .
July	We watched and discussed Stephen Colbert and Anderson Cooper's CNN conversation about grief. We also set up a formal schedule for visiting a parishioner who lives with memory loss.
August	Our CoC members visited the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers. The Rev. Amy Dills-Moore, Epiphany's priest in charge and a former Lay Cistercian at the monastery, led a discussion on the history of monasticism and the lives of the monks at the Holy Spirit Abbey. After spending time in silence on the monastery grounds, the group attended noon day prayer led by the monks in the church.
September	In addition to our daily reading and monthly discussion of Joan Chittister's <i>Rule of Benedict</i> , we are reading Margaret Guenther's <i>The Practice of Prayer</i> , which has led to deep spiritual conversations.

For our October gathering, we will explore best practices for communicating with care receivers living with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.

### Visitation cards

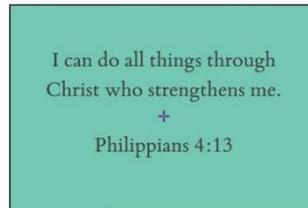
Each Circle of Care member has a set of ten cards to leave in hospital or care facility rooms when they visit people with memory loss (or who are sleeping soundly, etc.) and the family isn’t present. Caregivers write their names on the front of the cards. Epiphany’s phone number and website address are included if the care receiver or their family want to make contact. Images of the church and quotations from scripture are on the back of the cards.



Front of card



1. Back of card



6. Back of card



7. Back of card



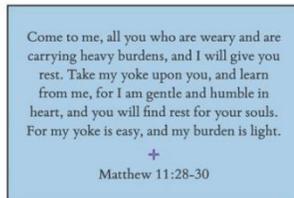
2. Back of card



3. Back of card



4. Back of card



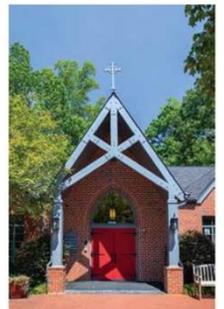
5. Back of card



8. Back of card



9. Back of card



10. Back of card

As we become better known to the Epiphany community, we hope to have more opportunities to serve, especially increasing our visits to parishioners in need.

We close this report with words from the Rev. Amy Dills-Moore. Permission has been granted to share this story.

*I had a parishioner call this morning who had a death in the family, and they were heading out of town for the funeral and asked if I could offer them communion before they left, to ground them in the midst of their grief. I was with Nicole [our associate priest] in an all-day staff planning meeting and could not accommodate the request, and I thought of Community of Hope as an option. I reached out to David [a Community of Hope member] who I knew was volunteering in the office and asked if he could give this person communion if they came by the church and he agreed. It meant so much to this parishioner and was a great example to me of how COH is such a meaningful part of our pastoral care at Epiphany. I'm so grateful for the work you all do!*

- Amy

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Fowler

Jessica Burns

David Draper

Lisa Daily