

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

Vestry Minutes

April 27, 2025

In Attendance:

Vestry: Matthew May, Judy Jarady, Carol Bartlett, Cristin Davis, Jordan Moody, Kathy Corcoran, Cody Chaffins, and Tracey Laird (Sally Walker and Andra Strahan via Zoom)
Clergy: Carmie McDonald (Amy Dills-Wright via Zoom)
Ex officio: Kaylie Gibbs, Randy Shearin, & Sherry Wallace
Absent: Kay Lee & Jacob Geiger

Meditation:

Carmie opened with prayer. Then Jordan led the vestry in a meditation on dreaming.

Introduction to Tracey Laird:

This was Tracey's first vestry meeting. The vestry members introduced themselves and their areas of responsibility.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of the March 2025 vestry minutes was included as part of the consent agenda. Carol motioned to approve, Cristin seconded, and all voted to accept.

Preparedness Manual:

The final version of the Preparedness Manual was presented. Kathy motioned to approve, Jordan seconded, and all voted in favor.

Associate Rector's Report:

Carmie reported that we had an attendance of 472 for Easter services. Attendance was up for all the Holy week services. Attendance at the workday was up, especially in the young adult group. This was welcomed.

The solar panel project is well on the way. We have over \$37,000 toward our \$50,000 goal. Today's Adult Formation was the first of three sessions focused on refugees, both on a national level and our Epiphany engagement. We will be able to work with Inspiritus on refugee issues in the future. Alix Janke will be Epiphany's liaison.

New Business:

Endowment Grants -

The Endowment Committee presented the 2025 Endowment Grant requests for approval by the vestry. Sally motioned that the vestry approve a grant of \$1,500 to Phoebe McNeely to support her veterinary medicine schooling. Matthew seconded and all voted in favor. Sally then motioned that the remaining \$9,871 in available funds be granted to Camp Mikell to support its capital campaign. Jordan seconded. All voted in favor.

Old Business:

Solar project update –

Matthew gave an update on the solar panel project. Various panel members will speak at the next two Sunday services. Jordan and Jacob will speak next week, while Brian Gross will speak the following week. Epiphany representatives met with the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission last Monday to request the necessary certificate of appropriateness. They commission voted to approve the project.

Epiphany preparedness update -

Sally stated that April Maa and Amy are asking individuals to be on the medical response team. Their names and pictures will be on a chart in the usher closet so they can be more easily identified if needed in an emergency. Sally also asked if anyone is interested in a CPR training class.

There is a Newcomer Reception next Sunday afternoon.

Midday Prayer

The meeting ended with Midday Prayer.

After the meeting ended, Matthew led a tour of the locations of preparedness equipment in the building. At a later date, Sally will lead another tour for those not in attendance.

On March 16, Sally circulated via email Proposal FQ2503100967 from Atlanta Sprinkler Inspection to provide a Hydraulic Nameplate and complete related work for a cost of \$2,875. The item was not discussed in the vestry meeting that day. Sally made a motion to accept the proposal and approve the cost. Kay seconded. There were nine votes for the motion and none against, and the motion passed.

On April 10, Sally proposed via email that the vestry accept Tracey Laird as a vestry member. Jordan seconded the motion. All eleven members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Wallace
Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry Reports

Adult Formation — Carol Bartlett

We had great turnout and response to Ryan Bonfiglio's class on Seeking Shalom which concluded last month.

Going forward, Peter Habib and Alex Janke will offer a multi-session class related to the current state of immigration ministries here in Atlanta and in the United States broadly and how those ministries have been forced to struggle in the face of an administration that is hostile to refugee resettlement. Also in the works re refugee ministries is a book study which will be offered by Jacob Barber on Karen Gonzalez's book *Beyond Welcome* — that offering is likely to be scheduled for next formation year, perhaps in the Fall.

Currently, we're about to embark on a new Thursday morning book study led by Paul Hinson and Suzanne Yoder on Marianne Budde's book *How We Learn to be Brave*. That book study will run for five sessions.

Ideas are percolating for the new formation year which will begin again the Fall — stay tuned!

Building and Grounds — Matthew May

No updates at this time.

Children + Youth Formation — Jordan Moody & Cody Chaffins

Throughout Lent, our children and youth were active participants in the communal life of our parish. The youth sold over 100 tickets for the annual pancake supper, and both children and youth contributed to our Lenten worship by decorating the Alleluia banner and helping to “bury the Alleluias” during the Liturgy of the Palms. We were also grateful for a youth reader at the Maundy Thursday supper and for the faithful service of our acolytes throughout Holy Week.

This year's Epiphany Egg Hunt was egg-celent with over thirty children participating. We are especially thankful for the ECW who packed the eggs, all who donated candy, the youth who served as egg hiders, and of course, our enthusiastic egg seekers.

Upcoming events:

- Epiphany's Annual Youth Sunday will be Sunday, May 4th during the 10 a.m. service.
- Join us for our annual Car Wash to support the Youth Pilgrimage! Swing by on Saturday, May 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to get your car sparkling clean and support a great cause.
- Vacation Bible School is planned for June 16-20. The theme this year is Compassion Camp: Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You.

- This year's youth pilgrimage will take place Sunday July 20th - Thursday July 24th. Our pilgrimage group will be traveling to Sewanee, TN for a time of contemplation, prayer, and engagement with an area rich in Episcopal tradition. We will tour the University of The South, serve the local community, and reflect on the relationship of the Episcopal Church to slavery, Civil Rights, and the Indigenous People's Movement.

The Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries and the Youth + Children vestry liaisons are continuing to brainstorm around Sunday morning acolyte coordination. As we continue thinking about this, we welcome your thoughts, input, and - of course - your willingness to serve. If you're interested in being an acolyte or working with the acolytes, please reach out to Taylor, Cody, or Jordan.

Community Engagement Partnerships — Kathy Corcoran

No updates at this time.

Core Values – Kay Lee

As Core Values Vestry Liaison my role is to assess how we are aligned with and staying faithful to our Mission and Core Values, advancing them in Parish activities, volunteering and participation. Amy asked that this year we focus on the Parish Priorities of environmental (a/k/a creation care) justice and racial justice in the wider community. Toward that purpose, I created the below questionnaire. To start, I have submitted the questionnaire to the leads/chairs of the Community Engagement Ministries; being the Earth Guild, the Art Ministry, DEAM, Holy Comforter, and the Meal Ministry.

The plan is:

- to allow time for recipients to sit with the questions and possible answers;
- to schedule a time in May or June for Carmie and I to meet with the ministries so as to discuss and brainstorm about possible answers; and thereafter
- to request that the particular ministry's written answers be returned to me with a copy to Carmie by no later than July 15th.

The results will be consolidated and reported to the Vestry for discussion at the August 17 Midyear Vestry Retreat. Successes will be celebrated with the Parish.

I welcome any thoughts or questions you may have. Kay

Endowment — Jacob Geiger

The Endowment Committee, chaired by Karla Finnegan, met in late March to review two grant requests -- one for \$1500 in scholarship support at vet school from Phoebe McNeely, and one for \$17,000 from the Rev. David Wagner on behalf of Camp Mikell, our diocesan camp, to support their \$7 million capital campaign ([you can read more about the campaign here](#)). We are likely to receive further requests for support from Camp Mikell in the next two or three years.

The Committee felt that both requests fall squarely in the Endowment's mandates (see a description of the restricted endowment fund below).

The Endowment distributes 5 percent of the average value of the fund in the preceding 12 quarters, which this year would be the quarters from 2022, 2023, and 2024. This year's spendable amount was \$11,371.

After discussion, the committee voted to recommend that the vestry meet Phoebe McNeely's request in full and then use the remaining funds to make a grant to Camp Mikell's campaign.

Finance — Andrea Strahan

March 2025	Budget	Actual
Income	\$68,323.16	\$66,417.36
Expenses	\$68,235.64	\$48,845.31
Net	\$87.52	\$17,572.05

The Finance Committee is glad to report that Philip continues to recover and joined the April meeting.

March month-to-date (MTD) total revenues were close to budget (\$66, 417.36 actual vs \$68,323.16 budget). Year-to-date (YTD) total revenues for 2025 were \$284,406.36 (compared to budgeted \$204,969.48). Last year YTD total revenues in March 2025 were \$256,686.97.

March 2025 had a MTD surplus of \$17,572, bringing the 2025 YTD surplus to \$86,539. For comparison, last year the YTD surplus in March 2024 was \$76,543.

March MTD expenses were \$20K below the monthly budget due to adjustments with payments to the Church Pension Group (that administers clergy pensions and employee health/life/disability insurance); office and administration / building and grounds expenses are under budget due to delays in credit card expense reporting; and Georgia Natural Gas did not autodraft a March payment (these last two will be caught up in April).

Designated donations:

Membership + Newcomers — Cristin Davis

The Membership and Newcomers group met this week to hand write invitations for our spring Newcomers Welcome. Invitations will be sent to all who have joined Epiphany this quarter.

The Newcomers Welcome will be Sunday, May 4th at 4:00. Everyone is welcome to come and mingle.

Parish Life & Pastoral Care — Judy Jarady

Agape' Supper

On Maundy Thursday the Parish Life Committee planned well and prepared a wonderful setting for our cherished tradition of our shared Holy Meal. Thanks to the entire committee and especially to Joel Fowler and company for the delicious fish. We are always grateful for Polly Nodine's great leadership. Also, many thanks to all who helped with clean up.

Easter Breakfast

Another wonderful Easter Breakfast! The congregation did its part by providing many breakfast items to be added to the ham and biscuits served by Parish Life. We estimated that 160+ folks were served food and drink.

Stewardship — Jacob Geiger

No updates at this time.