

# **Episcopal Church of the Epiphany**

## **Vestry Minutes**

### **April 19, 2026**

#### **In Attendance:**

Vestry – Jordan Moody, Cristin Davis, Kay Lee, Kathy Corcoran, Jacob Geiger, Tracey Laird, Beth Floyd, Nick Theyerl, Paul Hinson, & Kelli Gantt

Via Zoom – Cody Chaffins

Clergy - Amy Dills-Wright & Carmie McDonald

Ex officio - Sally Walker, Randy Shearin, & Sherry Wallace

#### **Meditation:**

Nick led a meditation on excerpts from St Francis de Sales' book, *Introduction to the Devout Life*. Francis advised busy people of the world to "retire at various times into the solitude of your own heart and pray, even while engaged in discussions or transactions with others." Nick ended with a prayer he had written based on St Francis's teachings.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

Approval of the minutes from the February Vestry retreat and the March 15, 2026, Vestry meeting was included as part of the consent agenda. There were no gifts over \$100 to include. All voted to approve.

#### **Rector's Report:**

Amy reported that Easton Davis is making welcome videos for the diocese. He will be here next Sunday to make one for Epiphany's website.

Amy received information from the Georgia DOT that they will be turning the Ponce/East Lake intersection into a roundabout. No timeline has been determined.

Sound system. The speakers in the nave and narthex were making noises. The contractor who examined them determined that the problem is in the amp and not the speakers. He told Julie what parts to order to fix it. Still, the actual speakers are over 40 years old and should be replaced in the reasonably near future. We will put this on the list of future capital improvements.

We discussed how the Easter services and breakfast went. Overall, things went well. Several suggestions were made for next year.

#### **New Business:**

Gift to DEAM

A parishioner made an anonymous gift of \$4,854 to be used for food insecurity. We'll use some for DEAM and Carmie will work with vestry liaisons for community engagement to determine what to do with the remainder.

CTB/Mortgage Payment Source

Citizens Trust has twice failed to make our monthly mortgage payment. We will transfer the money back to Truist and close the Citizens Trust account. There was a request to look at Bond Credit Union. Randy met with them and this will be considered by the finance committee. There is no recommendation to change for now.

#### Endowment Committee Recommendations

There were six grant applications this year totaling \$22,805, while the available amount for disbursement was \$12,164. The Endowment Committee made recommendations for allocation of the funds. After a discussion of the applications, the Vestry held a vote on the recommendations. All voted to accept.

#### Contract with The Mountain

Randy has reviewed the contract with The Mountain for the 2027 parish retreat. He recommended that they add a clause to notify us if they are undergoing construction, which they have done. Jordan made a motion to sign the contract. Cristin seconded and all voted to approve.

#### August Mid-Year Retreat

Jordan polled the vestry members to determine if they knew of conflicts with the mid-year retreat. Most people did not have a conflict, so we will keep the date as scheduled.

#### **Old Business:**

##### Vestry Updates

We will proceed with eleven members for the rest of the year.

##### Parochial Report—Reflecting on Responses and Group Discussion

We discussed our answer to the question on congregational vitality on the parochial report. A group of vestry members had written our answer during the March vestry meeting.

The meeting ended with Midday Prayer.

On March 24, Jacob moved via email that the Vestry approve spending up to \$5,000 for repair or replacement of the front door intercom and camera system. Kay seconded. There were 11 votes in favor and none against, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Wallace  
Clerk of the Vestry

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany is an inclusive community called to seek and follow Jesus Christ. We welcome all people in the Eucharistic fellowship of Christ's Body. We receive strength and encouragement at the common table to carry out Christ's work of reconciliation in our broken world. Nourished by worship and witness, learning and teaching, fellowship and service, we strive to live out the Gospel's radical values with gladness of heart.

## PARISH CORE VALUES

**Faith in God.** Our belief in a loving God is foundational to our faith. Faith brings us together for worship and sends us out in the world. We recognize everyone's faith journey as unique – wherever you are on your journey, there is a place for you here.

**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, LGBTQ+ and economic justice and equity.

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

**Intentional Welcome.** We are an inclusive community that strives to seek and serve Christ in all people. We believe God loves you – no exceptions.

## PARISH PRIORITIES

- 1) Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church
- 2) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- 3) Work toward environmental, racial, gender, LGBTQ+ and economic justice and equity.
- 4) Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances and those living on the margins of society.
- 5) Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.).

## Vestry Reports

### Adult Formation – Paul Hinson

Sunday, April 12th during the morning formation hour we began our new six session adult formation series exploring the biblical concept of Sabbath and what it means to embrace God's rest in the midst of our busy lives and restless world. Each week will consist of a video presentation by Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio followed by conversation facilitated by Epiphany clergy and lay leaders.

This series represents our first experiment with a video curriculum developed by the Candler Foundry at Emory. Prior to this we've engaged the Foundry to provide in-person teaching and discussion during the 11:30-12:15PM adult formation hour. Increasingly, the Foundry has offered its curriculum in a "time-shifted" video format. Many of the professors involved with Foundry have their own commitments on Sunday morning at their own churches so booking them for Sunday mornings can be problematic. I think our first session "experiment" with video was successful. However we still hope to engage the Candler Foundry faculty in live classes when they're available Sunday mornings and when they're teaching a curriculum that is topically something we'd like to introduce to the parish. Carmie returned recently from a meeting with Donnell Williamson at the Foundry to review some new offerings they're developing as a part of the Foundry program. We're contemplating those options for the program year which begins in the Fall.

A new Thursday morning Contemplative Book Group study began Thursday, April 16, with Elizabeth Oldfield's book "Fully Alive: Tending to the Soul in Turbulent Times." That class will meet for six weeks every Thursday morning at 11:00AM in Room 201. Author Elizabeth Oldfield will be the keynote speaker for the 17th Annual Spirituality Conference of the Cathedral of St. Philip October 17 (9:30AM-3:00PM), providing another opportunity later in the year for listening to and responding to the work of this talented thinker.

### Building and Grounds – Beth Floyd

- Jason resolved emergency plumbing issues Sunday 4/12 by renting and using a commercial snake. He returned a second time to clear the parish hall sink which seemed to be clogged by an unrelated issue
- Developing issue around sound system: large ceiling speakers in the nave and narthex began making noise on Maundy Thursday. Amy will most likely have more to report at the upcoming Vestry meeting
- Front door intercom system to Shea's office being replaced 4/16/26
- Jason is fully onboard cleaning the building and has been busy cleaning carpets and detailing other areas in need. He continues to organize cellar with mechanical/chemical things and Doughnut Den closet with light bulbs and ceiling tiles
- Solar committee working on outdoor signage and indoor commemorative plaque re recent solar panel installation

### Children + Youth – Kelli Gantt

From Taylor:

During April, our children and youth enjoyed the start of Eastertide and are looking forward to the end of the program year.

Our youth are excited to offer this month's art gallery. Six youth artists have offered a range of projects from watercolor to 3D printing to beaded harnesses for stuffed animals. Youth receive 50% of the funds raised from their projects and the other 50% goes to funds for our youth pilgrimage.

During Holy Week, many of our youth served in services as acolytes. Thank you to those who came to these special services. Youth participated in preparing the church for Easter including helping with the flower guild, setting up the cross for flowering the cross, and hiding eggs for the children.

Our children enjoyed an indoor Easter Egg hunt! Children 1-5 grade searched for eggs upstairs while the littles hunted for eggs in the nave.

Looking forward to the end of the program year, we have several special events coming up. This weekend, our youth and their families are invited to a family bowling night. Youth Sunday and our graduate recognition will take place on May 3, followed by the Diocesan graduation ceremony later that day.

Parents and families of littles are invited to attend a potluck dinner on May 8. We will enjoy dinner, bubbles, chalk, and the Epiphany bouncy house.

Formation will end on May 17 ahead of the May 24 picnic. The parish picnic will feature our annual Epiphany intergenerational field-day. Participants of all ages are invited to join in the fun.

From there, we will begin our summer schedule. Children's chapel will continue, but we will end formation until September. Youth group will adopt an abbreviated schedule meeting twice a month.

During the summer we will have special events for children and out including Vacation Bible School for our children and Pilgrimage for our youth. Registration for these events is live. I'm so excited for the months ahead and look forward to all that God is doing in the lives of our children and youth.

Addition from Kelli: Taylor and I met a few weeks ago and talked about ways to support the children and youth ministry, possible ways to engage more families in formation, and how to utilize volunteers to supplement with some administrative tasks. Kay Lee and I also had a call to discuss her Core Values work related to children and youth. I'm excited about these conversations and the shared vision for this ministry.

## **Community Engagement Partnerships – Kathy Corcoran and Tracey Laird**

### **Art Ministry Show – Epiphany Youth**

This month's Art Ministry Show features original works created by our Epiphany youth. Six artists submitted pieces in a variety of mediums and the response from this community has been positive. The artists will receive 50% of proceeds while the other 50% will support scholarships for our youth attending Camp Mikell this summer. Donations are also welcome!

### **ECW**

Epiphany's ECW continues their monthly sandwich making ministry for visitors to the Lokey Center at Emmaus House. This week the ECW welcomed guest speaker Tyese Lawyer, CEO of Our House, an organization providing a variety of services to children and adults experiencing homelessness. Our House received a grant from the Harvey Fund for their work in the community. We hope to have representatives from some of the organizations who have received Harvey Fund grants speak during the Sunday formation hour in the future so that more people will know about their work.

The ECW has elected to serve Sunday lunch at Holy Comforter on May 17<sup>th</sup> in lieu of their annual Ladies' Luncheon.

### **Gateway Meal Ministry**

Epiphany's partnership with Gateway continues despite a recent change in leadership within their organization. The new, earlier start time continues to work well. Volunteers now leave Epiphany shortly after 4:30 p.m., arrive by 5:00 p.m., and begin serving by 5:15 p.m. This adjustment appears to be allowing us to serve more people while also enabling volunteers to return to Epiphany and head home earlier in the evening.

### **Haiti Partnership**

Epiphany continues to support relief work in Haiti and we are now making our contributions through Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Ann Fowler is the new point of contact for our work with ERD.

### **Core Values and Parish Priorities – Kay Lee**

As I mentioned at our last Vestry meeting, I have been asked to focus my Core Values Liaison work this year on the Parish Priority of making “**necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.**” Since the adoption of this Priority much enriching activity has already taken place, but more can always be done.

I am in a due diligence phase of gathering information about what has gone well and where there are opportunities for further connection. I have recently been in conversation with Carmie and Kelli to understand what was learned from the Listening Sessions that took place in January and February. I plan to continue conversations with many including, of course, Taylor, all the members of the Vestry individually, and parents. Ideally, I also envision an opportunity for everyone at Epiphany to chime in on ways we can connect more deeply together with families.

I need to first digest the information already provided by Carmie and Kelli. Through the progression of more conversations with more people, I anticipate the development of a plan of possibilities. A few focus areas that have already jumped out of conversations are “the need for a community connection among youth/children and also among parents” and “intergenerational connections.”

I thank you in advance for your thoughts, concerns, and ideas when I reach out to you (or at any time).

### **Endowment – Jacob Geiger**

The Endowment Committee met Tuesday, April 14 to review the six grant applications received this year. This year's amount available for disbursement was \$12,164, and we received applications totaling \$22,805 in requests. Committee member Keri Geiger led the meeting because Karla Finnegan, the chair, had recused herself since her daughter was a grant applicant. The other committee members attending were Austin Stephenson, Peggy Palmiter, and Tracey Laird; Tracey shared recommendations in advance and then joined the end of the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. I attended as the Vestry liaison, and Amy attended in her capacity as rector, but we did not have a vote. The Committee discussed reconvening in June to think about how to solicit additional information during the application process, especially from individual scholarship applicants, and to potentially develop a scoring framework that could guide the Committee's work in future years when considering grant requests.

After discussion, the Committee recommends that the Vestry approve the following grants:

1. \$200 to a sandwich/feeding ministry that Susan Moody participates in with neighbors from a range of faith communities (Full funding).
2. \$885 to allow the Adult Education ministry to purchase blackout shades that will make it easier to hold film screenings and similar events in the Parish Hall (Full funding).
3. \$2,079 toward the refurbishment of the hand bells used by the Epiphany ringers (Partial funding of a \$3,720 request).
4. \$2,000 to support Phoebe McNeely in her ongoing veterinary school education (Partial funding of a \$3,000 request).
5. \$2,000 to support Callie Finnegan as she begins her undergraduate education at Smith College (Partial funding of a \$5,000 request).
6. \$5,000 to support the ongoing capital campaign at Camp Mikell, the Diocese of Atlanta's summer camp and retreat center (Partial funding of a \$10,000 request).

## Finance – Cody Chaffins

March operating results = surplus \$41,528, bringing the YTD surplus to \$84,828. March YTD 2025 surplus = \$85,999. Available operating cash now = \$313K.

March's surplus was due mainly to Contribution revenue: pledge giving was \$100,892 vs budget of \$62,815; non-pledge giving was \$6,785 vs budget of \$2,708. Total March revenues = \$112,548 vs budget of \$70,890, on average of \$41,658. March YTD total revenues = \$283,017. March 2025 YTD total revenues = \$283,866.

Total March expenses = \$71,020 vs budget of \$70,853. Total YTD expenses = \$198,188 vs budget of \$212,559. March 2025 YTD expenses = \$197,867.

Transactions / accounts of note:

At the end of 2023, Epiphany deposited \$100K with Citizens Trust Bank (CTB), instructed CTB to send the Diocese \$1,258.32 every month to service Epiphany's Diocese loan. In April, 2026, CTB advised us that the March payment (a check) had been returned due to wrong address, although we made no change to our 2023 instructions. With Amy and Randy's approval, Susie issued a Truist check to the Diocese for the March payment. For March, there was no payment - so no loan service release from account 8800 Capital Campaign to account 4945 (income) Capital Campaign, and no mortgage interest expense.

Account 6605 Computer and Office Equipment: \$2,425 vs budget \$833. In March, we had the intercom system replaced. The invoice was \$3,625; half of that (\$1,812.50) was charged to 6605.

Account 6606 Technology Platform Fees: \$1,444 vs budget \$775. Constant Contact annual fee = \$476; SignUpGenius annual fee - \$540.

Account 6800 Building Maintenance and Supplies: \$6,256 vs budget \$2,667. Half (\$1,812.50) of the cost of the intercom system replacement. \$2,591 to United Maintenance for annual HVAC inspection / maintenance. \$425 to American Elevator of Atlanta for annual inspection.

Account 7255 Worship: \$1,289 vs budget \$250. Paschal Candle was \$852.36. Easter traffic cop was \$195.

## Membership + Newcomers – Cristin Davis

Membership and Newcomers will be hosting the Spring Newcomers Gathering this Sunday afternoon (4/19). They would love to have any vestry members attend who are able.

Members of the committee met last week to write invitations to the eight households that have officially joined Epiphany this quarter. Others who have not officially become members were invited via the newsletter as well so there may be more in attendance. The committee continues to have greeters each Sunday morning looking for new faces and welcoming them. Welcome bags with information on the order of service and a few treats are offered to any new people as well as name tags. When someone fills out a pew card, Shea provides their information to Liefy and Page Love who reach out with a welcoming email and if they make the decision to become a member, they follow up by delivering a new member gift bag to their home. Gift bags include an Epiphany mug, welcome letters, a blueberry bread recipe card and a few other treats.

## Parish Life – Nick Theyerl

- Recaps:
  - Agape Supper
    - Felt a bit chaotic and overly social/festive rather than contemplative
    - Can we brainstorm a better way to order the meal/program/liturgy
    - Possibility for kids tables?
  - Easter Vigil
    - 60 people, nice turn out. Strawberries and champagne went well.
  - Easter Breakfast
    - Smashing success, but crowded. We should have set out all available tables and should brainstorm ways to accommodate more people for next year.
- Upcoming:
  - Parish Picnic
    - In the courtyard and parish hall, possibly with a tent for rain/sun?
    - Would it be possible to set up food in the gallery to maximize space for tables in the Parish Hall? We would need someone stationed to direct people and we need to consider how to temporarily remove the art ministry show
- Discuss with Revs Amy and Carmie:
  - Creative ways to accommodate and serve more people.

## Pastoral Care – Paul Hinson

The eight members of the pastoral care committee have continued to send cards to parishioners asking to be on the prayer list and set up a Meal Train for a parishioner who requested that it be shared also with the Community of Hope and the ECW.

The Community of Hope continues to meet monthly, deliver Communion to homebound parishioners, and call or visit individuals who have requested pastoral contact. At its March meeting, members reviewed pastoral encounters and discussed Joan Chittister's chapter on Interiority from her book, *Illuminated Life: Monastic Wisdom for Seekers of Light*. Carol Moser opened the gathering with a reflection on non-

attachment. Epiphany's Community of Hope members include Barbara Belcore, Jessica Burns, Lucy Davidson, David Draper, Laura Gary, Paul Hinson, Chris Miller, Carol Moser, Nan Ross, Annie Strahan, Nick Theyerl, Nancy Thompson, Larry Wilcox, and Suzanne Yoder. Ann Fowler and Lalor Cadley serve as co-facilitators of our Community of Hope chapter.

### **Stewardship – Jacob Geiger**

No updates at this time.