

Holy Spirit Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

members present via Zoom meeting: John Crowley, Mark Dvarishkis, Kent Watson, Torian Donohoe

members present in the Parish Hall: Holly Swartz, Jocelyn Siler, Jeff Serviss, Nancy Errebo, Mary Beth Jourdonnais, Rev. Terri Grotzinger, Kevin Borg, Caitlin Sherman

- 1) Opening prayer lead by Holly
- 2) Administrative/business matters
 - a. **Motion to accept the consent agenda withholding the ministry reports for further discussion and clarification, seconded, and approved.**
 - b. Ministry reports
 - i. What is the idea of “pop-up worship”? The staff have been discussing the idea of having services in outdoor spaces such as parks with signs that explain who we are and inviting passersby to join.
 - ii. Mark brought up some technical issues with missing info on the google my business site and possible confusion with how to access the service bulletin on the website. He will reach out to Judy with these issues and to give her kudos from the vestry on her fantastic work on the diocese asset map.
 - c. **Motion to accept the ministry reports, seconded, and approved.**
- 3) No concern/correspondence from parishioners to discuss.
 - a. Update on the pandemic from Bishop Marty: Data wise, Missoula is in a good place. It is ok to start relaxing spacing protocols but not masking. As a church we will not be checking vaccine cards just like we don't ask people if they are baptized before letting them in the church. Hopefully in August we will be getting closer to fully open but that will depend on what happens when tourism picks up.
- 4) The Memorial Board is meeting with other investment advisors to see if they want to change advisors.
 - a. The previously approved transfer of ~\$24,000 from the Memorial Board to the Vestry was completed last week.
- 5) Finance report by Mark
 - a. Financially we are still right around what was budgeted. There are still uncertainties about camps this summer and scholarships.
 - b. We will see if this summer will have a different pattern of giving from previous years since people have changed to sending pledges in instead of being able to put them in the offering plates or gotten more comfortable with giving digitally.
 - c. Now that in person services have resumed so has the need for counting. Mark will count with another member of the vestry each Sunday in May to start getting us back into the process.
- 6) Old business
 - a. Master plan: We will need to discuss the legacy of the spruce tree, the method it's coming down and what will we do with the salvageable wood. Kent will investigate getting core samples and to deal with the immediate problems.

- b. Properties:
 - i. Jeff will call to set up the replacement of the water heater and backflow preventor in the office.
 - ii. The sealant for the bricks requires that the temperature doesn't get below 40 so that is still on hold.
 - iii. Jeff had a meeting set up about the shingles, but he didn't show.
 - iv. Jeff has calls out painters and will email out any updates he gets. The refinishing of the floor is on hold until after the painting.
 - v. Jeff is looking into air quality testing in the basement.
 - vi. Everything has been submitted about the solar panels, but we haven't heard anything back yet.
 - vii. Jeff hasn't gotten any calls back about the fire alarms.
 - c. No update from the Planned Giving Committee
 - d. No updates on the Montessori school specifics
 - e. All members of the Vestry have completed the Safeguarding God's Children training.
 - f. Re-opening steps: It has been decided to have one service at 9 am for now. The hope is that we will return to two services in September. The Wednesday gatherings in the courtyard offers variety. The staff is moving back on site. Terri will send a letter out to the congregation with updates soon.
 - g. There is a meeting set up for the morning of May 18 with Jake from Acoustic Visions to explore improvements to the audio and visual set up at the church. Jeff asks as many members as possible of the Vestry that are able to attend.
 - h. Terri needs to speak with Nancy again now that she has spoken with her dean at the University regarding the future of the organist relationship between Holy Spirit and UM.
- 7) New business
- a. What month would the Vestry like off this summer? It was decided that the Vestry will not meet in August.
 - b. Zara Renander has requested space at the church to use for a grief group run by hospice. The group would meet once a month on a Monday evening. We would need to have an agreement in place on use expectations and a set time frame but would waive the fee. We will need to formalize the usage agreement that the Vestry finalized last year.
 - i. **Motion to ok the group meeting in the Parish Hall with a hospice chaplain starting with a 4-month probationary period, seconded, and approved.**
 - c. The rummage sale group is meeting next month to discuss ideas about having different sales this year and how that might look.
- 8) Our next meeting is June 9th at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted

Caitlin Sherman
Clerk of the Vestry

May Rector's Report to Vestry

We are definitely still “on the move” with some beginning to return to in-person worship and others gradually making their way back as the community vaccinations increase and confidence returns. This past month saw us open up for in-person worship with the Bishop's visitation and Baptism, and a few Sundays since where we have continued to try adjustments and see how things work. As of today, Thursday, May 6, we are on the verge of having a way to livestream as a first step to broader more integrated technological support that will come over summer if vestry approves it.

The Staff and I have met twice in the last two weeks to look ahead to summer and next steps. Creative ideas are flowing, clergy and laity all, and decisions are being made to meet the goals of continuing to try new things in worship and ministries of all kinds as we come back with new experiences and different perspectives on our vocation as a faith community. Laity are interested in helping spawn new, smaller, and more intimate worship services to help folks experience corporate prayer in forms they may not have known were even present in the Book of Common Prayer. We are looking at being more visible with potential “Pop-up worship” opportunities, a Wednesday 12:15pm intimate outdoor very brief Worship with Eucharist followed by fellowship/lunch in the courtyard where some creativity may abound, and a number of other smaller group opportunities to help build new friendships and comfort in gathering. The staff and I are looking to keep things simple, encourage lay leadership in ministries where energy is present, and keeping a willingness to try new things to help us reach out broadly to needs around us in Missoula, the diocese, and further still.

I have been responding to requests for various services that were delayed during the height of the pandemic: memorials and baptism as examples. Pastoral visits are on the rise now with vaccinations increasing. I am weighing the pros and cons of how to reopen and when with prayer, conversations with staff, diocesan clergy and the bishop, and general conversations with parishioners. The transition from wilderness to in-person will be gradual, patient, and fluid as circumstances change. I want to thank all the leadership of the parish, lay and clergy alike, for the concerted effort that all are making to reopen with care and understanding.

I helped prepare the program and offer the diocesan Clergy Conference held with Bishop Marty at Camp Marshall the week after her visitation with us. It was a hybrid of in-person and Zoom gathering and continued to grow our collegiality across the diocese. We are all currently responding to a questionnaire about how things went so that we can improve on it next year. One thing is sure: our desire to develop closer relationships with our peers and the congregations across the diocese is happening, and the bishop deserves much credit for nurturing this on Monday evening calls with the clergy and the willingness to allow a team of us to design and offer this year's Conference.

That's all for now. The sun is shining, and it should hit 80F today...just in time for cooler weather this weekend. Thank you all for your vestry leadership and care of the parish! It is an important ministry that you do and often behind the scenes. Thank you!

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger
Rector

May Assistant Priest's Report to Vestry

Spiritual Formation: In April Dorcie and I completed the Way of Love series with adults from Holy Spirit and Hamilton. I worked with the new Spiritual Formation Committee, to continue our plans for meeting. Spoke with Dave Campbell at Camp Marshall and did outreach to recruit staff for camp from our college-age kids. I also met for the first time with the Creation Care Committee for enhanced communication and consolidation of planning. I met with Lindsay Iudicello and Glenn Hladek to discuss curriculum for their anti-racism course to be offered in the fall.

Church School: I led one church school service (virtually) in April and I began plans for a Last-Day-of-School party. Began plans for providing church school videos over the summer.

Worship. I participated in our first in-person worship service on April 18 when the bishop was here. I continue to brainstorm with Terri and Dorcie and James about technology and COVID protocol related to worship.

Communication: Provided articles for the Paraclete, and a report for the Vestry, submitted information for the Spirited Times. Participated in a staff meeting and individual meetings with Terri.

Pastoral Care: During April I provided pastoral care for 8 individuals/families.

Diocese: I participated in the quarterly cluster ministry zoom meeting for clergy who serve multiple parishes, building rapport with Rev. Kristen Orr and Rev. Theresa Kelly. I continue to participate in the weekly clergy calls on Monday evenings. I met with the bishop and other clergy at Holy Spirit to share a meal when the bishop was in Missoula. I participated in the annual clergy conference at Camp Marshall (April 20 -22).

Study & Self-Care: : In April I met with my Spiritual Direction Group and I met individually with my spiritual director once and with my Spiritual Companion once. I took a week off after Easter and had some time away with Dave. I have continued my reading about the history of our area and the interface between whites and Native Americans.

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier, Assistant Priest

May Vestry Ministry Reports

A) Communications – Judy Parock, Chair

The pace of parish life has not slowed down after Easter. In fact, a number of events and changes in worship have kept us quite busy. Here are the highlights of what has been happening during this time:

- **Website Updates:** Several updates to our website have taken place this past month. They include:
 - **Promotion of Creation Care Container Gardening Workshops, parts 1 & 2:** The success of the first Container Gardening Workshop on April 25 and the abundance of materials leftover prompted the Creation Care Ministry folks to do another workshop on May 2 following church. We updated the rotator on the homepage of the website to reflect the new date and linked it to an event page with the information regarding the paired-down workshop. Information about the workshop was also posted on the Creation Care Ministry page of the website.
 - **Way of Love:** The participants in the Lenten Program, “Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent,” found the information posted on our website regarding the Way of Love resources to be very helpful. Rev. Gretchen asked that we leave that information available for a while and indicated that they may add to it. We created a new rotator and header for the page to give it a fresh look. The page has been renamed “The Way of Love” and can be found under the “Worship” tab on the website. We also, per Rev. Gretchen’s request, created a poster to display in the parish hall as a reminder for those who participated and as a curiosity builder for those who haven’t done the program yet.
 - **Updates for In-Person Worship:** With the return to in-person worship on April 18, information about how our in-person services would be conducted was posted on the “Worship” page of the website. Rev. Terri’s updates regarding worship were also posted on the website.
 - **Upcoming Events:** The rotators for the field trip to the Lee Metcalf Refuge and the Habitat for Humanity workdays connect to event pages with information about both of those upcoming events. An article about the field trip was also included in this monthly newsletter *Paraclete* for May. Both of these events will offer opportunities for community building in the congregation.
- **Google My Business:** Currently we have the field trip to the Lee Metcalf Refuge, the Container Gardening Workshop, part 2, Centering Prayer, and information about our return to in-person worship on this site. I will add the Habitat for Humanity workdays this week. This continues to be a useful, free tool to attract people to our church and website. We’ve gotten a number of views for our events this way.
- **iContact Newsletters:** We continue to use iContact to send out our weekly e-newsletter, the Spirited Times, to the congregation and for our weekly service announcements. With the return to in-person worship, Rev. Terri used iContact to send out several “A Note from the Rector” with information for folks about how the in-person services would take place. She has received a lot of feedback regarding different aspects of the service. As Rev. Terri noted, it is going to be difficult to meet the diversity of expectations while the pandemic still remains, and communicating with the congregation about what is possible is going to continue to be very important.

With the change to in-person worship, we now send out a weekly service announcement on Saturday with the general information regarding the service, and on Sunday

after the service is posted to YouTube, I send out a service announcement with the direct link to the service included in it.

- **Facebook Updates:** Thank you to Warren Gartner and Lucy Deaton for the great photos they took for the Container Gardening Workshop on April 25. I posted those photos to the church Facebook page and used one of the photos for the cover for the Facebook page. We also used some of the photos in the weekly Spirited Times to highlight the second workshop on May 2. Facebook events were created for the Container Gardening Workshop, part 2, for the field trip to Lee Metcalf and for the Habitat for Humanity workdays. Invitations to the second Container Gardening Workshop were sent out to parishioners on Facebook to create interest in the event.
- **Church App Updates:** We have created homepage images for In-person Worship, the Container Gardening Workshop, part 2, the field trip to Lee Metcalf, and the Habitat for Humanity workdays. We coordinate these images with the images that we are using on the website and on Facebook so that everything has a cohesive look. The direct service link and the Sunday service leaflets are also posted on the app. We have included Rev. Terri's information from her "A Note from the Rector" on the app as well as links to the current month's *Paraclete* and the diocesan e-newsletter.

We also use the app to send out push notifications on Sunday afternoon with the direct link to YouTube for the Sunday service as a reminder to the congregation.

- **Episcopal Asset Map:** After the updates I made this past month to the Holy Spirit listing on the Episcopal Church Asset Map, I found out from Barb Hagen in the diocesan office that our listing was used as an example in their asset map training by a national church representative of what you can do with the asset map. According to Barb, "Just wanted to let you know that we finished the asset map training and Tamara showed the Holy Spirit map and she was SO impressed!...Once again Holy Spirit is a shining star of the diocese! So grateful for all that you do there...and you do it all so well!" That was nice to hear!

The rep did mention that we need to update the information in the disaster preparedness section of the asset map. The national church and Episcopal Relief & Development use this information as a resource during times of disasters to locate resources in a particular area with their church partners on the ground. We don't currently have a disaster preparedness plan and don't list which assets we have which might be of use in a disaster.

- **Printed Publications:** We sent out the May *Paraclete*, our monthly newsletter, to 389 households. This will be our last printed newsletter until the fall. Paper copies of Rev. Terri's "A Note from the Rector" were mailed out to parishioners without email.

– Judy Parock

- B) Holiday Market – Caitlin Sherman (Bob Wattenberg, Online Sale Coordinator)
No report.

– Bob Wattenberg, Chair

- C) Parish Life – Don Gisselbeck (Kathy Swannack, Coffee Hours; Anne Cohen, receptions)

Reception committee report: There were no receptions this month.

– Anne Cohen

Coffee Hours: An informal visiting time is taking place in the church courtyard following our in-person service, but no refreshments are being served.

– Kathy Swannack, Coffee Hour Coordinator

- D) Properties – Kevin Borg and Kent Watson (Margaret Borg and Kevin Borg, co-chairs)
Properties/Buildings Report: Please refer to Jeff Serviss and to the items that he is overseeing.

- E) Rummage Sale – Holly Swartz (Marva Gallegos, Chair)
Rummage Sale Committee members have submitted various ideas on when and how the rummage sale might happen this year. These suggestions will be discussed and potential planning could take place in June. For now, we email, talk on the phone, and proceed cautiously with planning.
– Marva Gallegos, Chair

- F) Social Concerns – (Jim Wiley, Chair)
**Social Concerns Committee Report
From Meeting on May 4, 2021**

The meeting opened with prayer led by The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier.

- 1) Report on Ojinaga, Mexico Shelter

Audrey Murray reported on conversations with the Diocese of Rio Grande about how Holy Spirit might become more involved in supporting the refugee shelter in Ojinaga. She spoke with the Rev. Mike Wallins, who works with the Borderland Ministry of this Diocese (see their website). The Borderlands Ministry coordinates with both the Mayor of Ojinaga and the US Border Patrol, to assist refugees who have an identified sponsor in the US. The shelter has a capacity of 150, and typically over 50% is occupied by unaccompanied children, aged 6 to 18. They typically stay 6 to 7 days.

The shelter is one of several that the Borderland Ministry maintains along the West Texas/New Mexico. They also have a distribution center in El Paso, TX.

The Borderlands Ministry is trying to figure out how it could “partner” with churches or dioceses, and is considering opportunities for education/learning, visiting/a pilgrimage, volunteers at the El Paso facility, financial support and prayers. Several Committee members feel that this might be an excellent opportunity for a parish-wide effort, especially as it supports children and an Episcopal Church effort.

Audrey will organize a Zoom conference with the Borderlands Ministry to explore ideas and options.

- 2) Habitat for Humanity

Build dates have been scheduled for June 16 and 17 and July 14 and 15. SCC members interested in volunteering are asked to contact Bob Deaton directly. Gretchen will appreciate help with meals for those dates and may try to organize a visit by Sunday School children. All agree that we should try to ensure that we work primarily on the Carey home. Given Warren’s report on Abigail’s interest in a garden, Clem Work suggested that we might consider a gift of a raised gardening bed.

- 3) Community Ministries

Dorcie Dvarishkis confirmed Parenting Place work parties for May 15 (2:00 to 4:00 PM) and May 18 (from 5:00 PM on), and an annual meeting for May 25. Parenting Place Sunday at Holy Spirit will be June 6.

For Hellgate High School, we will be looking for a “re-boot” of our efforts with the 2021-2022 school year, which will hopefully be reasonably normal. In the interim, A’Lisa Scott continues to focus efforts on helping homeless students.

Missoula Interfaith Collaborative (MIC) and Common Good are engaging with all their member organizations, and we have been invited to a meeting with Casey Dunning and Lisa Davey at our Holy Spirit Parish Hall on Thursday, May 13th at 2PM. Dorcie will forward an email to all of us. Common Good Missoula will hold a Delegate Assembly on May 25; contact Dorcie if you are interested in attending. They will also be providing Leadership Training in June.

4) Racial Reconciliation

Glenn Hladek reported that he and Lindsay zoomed with a staff member from an Episcopal church on Banbridge Island who did the Episcopal Series - Sacred Ground. She felt it was excellent and those who participated found it thoughtful and helpful addressing racism across the spectrum. Lindsay and I will be meeting to review the curriculum and attempt to combine it with some other resources, including True Colors, to develop the program for the Fall. Warren Gartner briefly described that May 1 program at Traveler's Rest and recommended we all listen to several of the talks given there. Recordings are available at:

<https://travelersrest.org/events/winter-storytelling/>

Gretchen Strohmaier thanked all who had written to the Department of Transportation regarding the renaming of the Higgins St. Bridge, which will in the future be known as the Beartracks Bridge, in honor of the Salish people who crossed there as they were driven to the current reservation.

5) Other Business

Clem Work thanked all who had contributed to the school building program in Myanmar, which is near its fund-raising goal.

Dorcie Davrishkis reminded all about the Missoula Gives program, and encouraged donations. Warren Gartner summarized the activities of the Creation Care Ministry, including the proposal for solar power at Holy Spirit (approved by the Vestry and submitted to Northwestern Energy), two Sundays of community gardening help and plans for nature trips in May, June and July.

The next Committee meeting will be Tuesday June 1st, 2021 at 5:00 pm, in the Parish Hall.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

– Jim Wiley, Chair

G) Spiritual Formation – Glenn Hladek (Gretchen Strohmaier, Chair)

See Assistant Priest's report.

– The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier, Assistant Priest

H) Stewardship – Torian Donohoe (Barb Hosier, Chair)

No Report.

– Barb Hosier, Stewardship Chair

Torian Donohoe, Stewardship Committee Vestry Liaison

I) Creation Care Ministry – Warren Gartner (Karen Simons Gartner, Chair)

Creation Care Notes
15 April 2021 noon via Zoom

Present: Lance Collister, Tracey Gage, Karen Simons Gartner, Warren Gartner, Kate Laney, Gretchen Strohmaier

1. Opening prayer
2. 4 areas of focus
 - a. Holy Spirit Sustainable practices
 - i. Solar power for church - Lance and Warren
 1. Lance is sending a letter to NW energy for a grant
 2. SBS solar are preparing additional info to NW energy
 3. We will involve the community in the importance of using renewable energy as well as demonstrating the use of renewable energy
 4. May hear from NW Energy in May
 5. There are questions with a roofer that need to be answered first.
 - ii. Master plan for grounds - Kent
 1. Currently on hold
 2. Base map almost completed
 3. 4 volunteers ready to help
 4. Will meet bi-weekly
 5. Sue and Kate would like to be part of the committee
 6. We suggested using primarily native plants
 7. Blue spruce in courtyard will have to be removed, which will increase the amount of solar energy we can produce as well as increase the safety of the building and people!
 - b. Getting info to members to help them live more sustainably.
 - i. Container garden workshop update
 1. Logistics
 2. Supplies still needed
 - a. Sue, Kate and Tracey meeting at church on 21st to drill holds and organize.
 - b. Sue will call Bob Deaton about trucks.
 - c. Lori Cordis will meet with us at 11 to set up tables.
 - d. The only other needs are some plants other than tomatoes. Tracey and Kate will work on.
 3. Do we need more PR - no
 4. Creation Celebration Service - Warren
 - a. 50 people limited
 - b. Not live streamed yet.
 - c. Warren will do a "commercial" during the service to explain to the parish what we do.
 - c. Community voice
 - i. Suggestions -
 1. Kate - St. Paul's.
 2. Jim is working with a local rabbi and UCC church
 - ii. Next year do an earth day activity
 1. River clean up - this year's is over several days and folks are working on their own. We can get planning on it earlier next year.
 2. T-shirts? - group liked the idea to do for next year
 - d. Fun opportunities
 - i. In-person events

1. May 22- Lee Metcalf birding - Gartners organizing - information coming out in Spirited Times
 2. June 19- Camas flowers at Lolo pass - Gartners
 3. July 10 - visit to MUD (Missoula Urban Demonstration- <https://mudproject.org>) - Gartners
 4. August - sculpture park – Trac3y
 5. Labyrinth - Victor - Karen
 6. Star gazing - Blue Mountain (Gretchen)
3. Other
- a. Spirited Times - series of articles on field trips - Warren will do.
 - b. Kate will work on articles based on the book Drawdown
 - c. Jari Davis - suggested an award based on what people have done to change anything they are doing?
 - i. How do we find out?
 - ii. Not many people participated in Jim's survey.
 - iii. Gretchen will check to see if we count how many are looking at the Creation Care page.
 - d. Church picnic -send location ideas to Gretchen.
 - i. Possibly Pattee Canyon - done in the past.
 - ii. Could we have the service at the picnic?

Next meeting : Thursday, May 20, 2021

In addition, the container workshop went well. Having it later after the service might have caused fewer people to attend, so the group is going to have another workshop right after the service on May 2nd. Community businesses were involved in donating supplies, and some members of the community came by to make their own gardens. The committee answered lots of questions and moved a load of compost to mulch the church gardens as well.

– Karen Simons Gartner

April 29, 2021