

Holy Spirit Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

members present via Zoom meeting: Holly Swartz, Jocelyn Siler, Torian Donohoe
members present in the Parish Hall: John Crowley, Mark Dvarishkis, Kent Watson, Jeff Serviss,
Nancy Errebo, Mary Beth Jourdonnais, Kevin Borg, Warren Gartner, Caitlin Sherman

- 1) Opening prayer lead by Torian
- 2) Administrative/business matters
 - a. Consent agenda discussion put on hold while waiting for Mark to arrive to clarify some charges on the credit card statement.
- 3) No concern/correspondence from parishioners to discuss.
- 4) Old business
 - a. Kent has received 3 quotes for clean up on the big spruce, as in Jim's words "it needs to be spruced up"
 - i. Mountain Tree \$695 for the pruning + \$257.50 for fertilizing and could schedule the week of 7/19
 - ii. Treasure State \$1200 for pruning and could schedule sometime at the end of July
 - iii. Able Tree \$1600 and did not give a time frame for scheduling
 - iv. Kent was most impressed by Mountain Tree's quote and the time they spent looking at the tree.
 - v. **Motion to hire Mountain Tree to do the quoted work on the spruce tree in the courtyard, seconded, and approved.**
 - vi. Kent is going to mark off the area around the tree to deter people from walking under the tree.
 - vii. Kent is also still trying to get a time frame from the city about removing the dying/dead maple by the alley and replacing it.
 - b. Properties update
 - i. Jeff is working on coordinating with Temp Right to get the correct technicians out to do the water heater replacement for the office.
 - ii. A retired roofer came out and believes that the missing shingles are a cosmetic issue but not a structural issue. The style of shingle laying that was used mean that the areas that are missing shingles still have 4 other layers.
 - iii. Jeff was going to start work on the resealing of the bricks but then the weather turned. Now it's back to waiting for the weather to cooperate.
 - iv. Kevin has a call in to the fire marshal asking for recommendations on companies to contact about the fire alarm system.
 - v. Lance is working on the solar panel.
 - vi. Jeff is still working on finding someone to come do tests on the mold issue in the basement and has not gotten any calls back about painting in the parish hall.
- 5) Return to the consent agenda

- a. Holly was wondering about ~\$1200 in unclear charges on the statement. Mark explained that they were charges for the clergy conference in Polson and pre-paying the rental fee for Silver Park for the church picnic.
 - b. Motion to approve the consent agenda after this clarification, seconded, approved.**
- 6) The Memorial Board is working on drafting a request for proposal to send out to investment firms to get information on their services to compare to our current firm.
- 7) Finance report by Mark
 - a. Still looking good, ~\$12,000 better off than we expected to be.
- 8) Old business again
 - a. The Planned Giving committee met and has decided that Dick Daily will lead their efforts.
 - b. Mark is going to reach out to Doug Harris to look over the proposed lease agreement for the Montessori School.
- 9) New business
 - a. The audit report and recommendations were received and reviewed by all Vestry members. Judy and Connie worked extremely hard and did a great job. Lynn Anderson did a wonderfully thorough job as well and the Vestry will need to get a thank you card to her.
 - i. Motion to accept the audit report and recommendations and express our gratitude to Judy, Connie, and Lynn, seconded, and approved.**
 - ii. Jeff will begin working with Judy and Connie on a review of inventory per the auditor recommendations.
 - b. National Registry of Historic Places – The church and campus are part of the University District but is not on registered on its own. The work to register it was done 20 years ago but then stopped and it is unclear why. Kent is reaching out to parishioners who were on Vestry back then to try to gather more information.
 - i. Bob Wattenberg is working on going through all of the church’s archives and moving towards digitizing them.
 - c. Jim Hess has offered to continue is painting work and would like to move on to painting trim. He would volunteer his time to cover the labor and the church would supply the materials.
 - i. It was agreed to accept this offer and Mark’s idea of getting him some kind of gift certificate to show our appreciation**
- 10) Upcoming events:
 - a. The annual picnic is going to be July 11 at Silver Park at 11 am
 - i. The Vestry will be on hand to assist with cleanup after
 - b. A courtyard sale is scheduled for July 10, they’ve asked for no broken toasters.
 - c. Our next meeting is June 14th at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted

Caitlin Sherman
Clerk of the Vestry

June Rector's Report to Vestry

No report this month, since Rev. Terri is on vacation.

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger
Rector

June Assistant Priest's Report to Vestry

Spiritual Formation: In May I met twice with a new group, the Native American Task Force. The group is working on developing their goals. In the meantime they have begun some self-education and are reading *Braiding Sweetgrass*. I met with the Creation Care Ministry in May and they are interested in potentially collaborating on the development of book circles within the parish that might read this book (*Braiding Sweetgrass*) in small groups for discussion on the interweaving themes of: theology, Native American culture and history, and environmental education. I began some research about our church history. I met with the new Spiritual Formation Committee and we made plans for beginning a survey experience with groups within our parish. The goal of the survey is to assist members in recognizing their spiritual type.

Church School: I created three church school children's worship videos in May. Began publicity for the Last Day of School party. Began outreach to some parents. I began collaboration with Habitat for Humanity and the Carey family to determine the best ways to include our children in the Habitat project this year. I coordinated summer curriculum and organized volunteers to record church school lessons during the summer months.

Worship. I preached and presided at one worship service in May. I celebrated Eucharist at an additional service.

Communication: Provided a report for the Vestry, submitted information for the Spirited Times. Participated in a staff meeting and several small group meetings with Terri.

Pastoral Care: During May I provided pastoral care for 12 individuals/families.

Community. I have been working with Frankie at Habitat for Humanity. I attended the Mother's Day Tea for Mountain Home Montana. I met with members of Common Good to get an update on their changes and new directions.

Diocese: I continue to participate in the weekly clergy calls on Monday evenings. I participated in the May Clericus meeting of clergy in western Montana. I reached out to Rev Richard Tardiff in Stevensville. I collaborated with Rev. Ray Brown from Helena to learn more about the church's history in relationship to the forced removal of the Salish from the Bitterroot Valley.

Study & Self-Care: In May I met twice with my spiritual companion. I began to get outside more and do increased exercise. I took Memorial Day off and had a lovely mountain bike ride and picnic at Prim Meadow. I am thoroughly enjoying, *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Kimmerer. I highly recommend it.

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier, Assistant Priest

June Vestry Ministry Reports

A) Communications – Judy Parock, Chair

May and the beginning of June have been busy times with trying to maintain the sense of community at Holy Spirit and keeping folks informed about what is going on. We're also planning our move back to the church office on June 1. Here's what has been happening this past month:

- **Website Updates: Information about these events was also shared in the Weekly Spirited Times and on the church app.**
 - **Promotion of Creation Care Field Trip to Lee Metcalf Area:** We created a rotator for the homepage of the website that linked to an event page with detailed information about the field trip and how to sign up. This field trip was a success with 15 parishioners joining Karen and Warren Gartner on Saturday, May 22.
 - **Promotion of Creation Care Field Trip to Packer Meadows:** After discussion with Warren Gartner, we held off on the publicity for the Packer Meadows field trip until after the Lee Metcalf field trip had taken place. Again, we created a rotator for the homepage of the website that linked to an event page with detailed information about the field trip and how to sign up. These field trips by the Creation Care Ministry offer wonderful opportunities for members of our congregation to enjoy and take note of the beauty that surrounds us every day.
 - **Last Day of School Party:** As a way to reconnect with Church School families and to build community, Rev. Gretchen planned an end of school party in the church courtyard for June 9 with a giant slide, games, and snacks. We created a rotator for the homepage of the website with that information, along with a poster to use for the event.
 - **Change to Summer Schedule:** We updated the service time information on the homepage of the website to reflect the change to a 9 a.m. service time. The "Note from the Rector" from Rev. Terri, outlining the summer changes, was included on the Worship page of the website as well as on the news updates page and on the church app. The rotator on the homepage with the service time information leads you to an event page which will link you to the detailed summer service information as well.
 - **Wednesday Gatherings:** A rotator and event image were created for the Wednesday Gatherings. The rotator will link to the event image where information about the event will be available. It is hoped that folks who are reluctant to come to the in-person services will come to an outdoor Eucharist and fellowship time in the church courtyard.
- **Google My Business:** Currently we have the Wednesday Gatherings, our Summer Worship time, the last day of school party, the field trip to Packer Meadows, the Habitat workdays and Centering Prayer on this site. We receive reports each week from Google reporting the number of views and clicks that these posts have generated. This continues to be a useful, free tool to attract people to our church and website.
- **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. We sent out two "A Note from the Rector" emails, one alerting the congregation to an email scam purporting to be from Rev. Terri and the other outlining the changes planned for our in-person worship for the summer. An additional email was sent out prior to the Creation Care Lee Metcalf Field Trip, letting people know that it was not too late to join the trip.
- **Facebook Updates:** Thank you to Warren Gartner and James Gartner for providing us with photos from the Creation Care Ministry field trip to Packer Meadows. We've used them in the Spirited Times and as the cover photo for our church Facebook page. We've created Facebook events for the end of school party for Church School, the Wednesday Gatherings and the field trip to Packer Meadows. We'll send out invitations to church members as a way of encouraging participation in those events.

- **Signage:** At our last staff meeting we discussed having events/services at different locations around Missoula our church yard. The possibility of having signage to let people know who we are and to invite them to participate was raised. Coordinating with staff members Kirk Johnson, we are working on signage that could be for these “pop-up” events this summer. So far, Kirk has created a feather flag banner, and he will be working on generic and event specific sandwich board signs for us well.

After discussion with staff, it was decided to go ahead and order two of the feather flags with stands bags for a total of \$448.

- **Episcopal Asset Map:** I have updated the Asset Map our Summer Service schedule information.
 - **Printed Publications:** We have had a request for a large print service leaflet, so I am now including a few large print copies every Sunday along with the regular service leaflets.
- Judy Parock



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- 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 at this time.
– 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. Our thanks to John Hess for removing the storm windows from the parish hall and to Frank Sherman for installing the window air conditioners in the office.

- E) Rummage Sale – Holly Swartz (Marva Gallegos, Chair)
The Rummage Sale Committee met June 2 and discussed holding an outdoor “Courtyard Sale” this year. We are looking at July 10 from 8:00 to 3:00. This would be similar in format to the Farmer’s Market, just tables with the priced items for sale. Donations would be accepted July 6-7. We are hoping to have a fun, safe sale and add a little to the budget. Holly Swartz has more details if there are questions.
– Marva Gallegos, Chair

- F) Social Concerns – (Jim Wiley, Chair)

Social Concerns Committee Report From Meeting on June 1, 2021

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

- 1) Report on Borderland Ministry of the Diocese of Rio Grande

Audrey Murray summarized the Zoom call several Committee members had with the Borderlands Ministry and presented several suggestions for “next steps” Holy Spirit might take to become more involved in supporting this effort: Short Term/Now – additional financial aid and helping to collect stories, and Longer Term (after Covid/Border Opening – more opportunities for joint projects. It appears that Holy Spirit might be a “pilot” for partnerships with the Borderlands Ministry.

The Committee thank Audrey for her efforts (!) and discussed several options. Those of highest interest might include:

- A September congregational gathering (Tex-Mex dinner) combined with a Zoom call to inform more members of Holy Spirit and fund-raising
- Border visits by several HSP parishioners in the November or January-February time frame, possibly with video recording or write-ups of stories
- Participation in a Borderlands Ministry Conference scheduled for October 21-23

In all cases, it was agreed that the focus will be needs, not policy... helping those in need and fellow Episcopalians... ensuring that nothing should be taken “politically.”

The Committee is very enthusiastic that this should be an important Holy Spirit ministry beyond our immediate community!

Here are two links previously recommended by Audrey:

This link is to an April interview with Bishop Hunn of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande and Bridge Chaplain Ana Reza of Rio Grande Borderland

Ministries: <https://riograndeborderland.org/blog/interview-with-bishop-hunn-and-bridge-chaplain-ana-reza>

This link is to an interview Episcopal Migration Ministries did in February with Rev. Mike Wallin and Nellie Fagan, project coordinator for Rio Grande borderland

Ministries: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/an-interview-with-rio-grande-borderland-ministries-rgbm/>

2) El Golfo Student Scholarships

After a short discussion, the Committee agreed to continue supporting two high school students in El Golfo, Mexico, continuing the program started several years ago by Maggie and Chuck Teague.

3) Community Ministries

Dorcie Dvarishkis regretted missing the meeting and sent the following report via email (edited):

- Hellgate HS - no report
- Parenting Place - We had two successful work parties May 15 and 18, involving workers from the Parenting Place Board and staff, Holy Spirit, and the Missoula Exchange Club. Our focus was on laying down a new gravel parking pad on the alley side of the property (gravel gifted by Western Excavation), weeding and refreshing the boulevard and garden areas, window-washing, and some minor equipment repair. Donation Warehouse also reported that they have purchased their current

building, and will be working on improvements and expanded inventory into the future.

Parenting Place turns 40 in July, and the Board plans to host an awareness-building film screening and discussion, a get-together at Donation Warehouse, and an open house at Parenting Place. I'll provide the dates to our Holy Spirit family once they are confirmed.

- Missoula Interfaith Collaborative/Common Good - MIC/CG held a Delegates Assembly via Zoom on May 25th. We are invited to be a part of this fall's Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization, including completion of the forthcoming pre-work. Terri, Gretchen, a few members, and I also met with Lisa Davey and Casey Dunning earlier in May, and there is collective interest in engaging our Vestry and ministry leaders in instituting regular/annual listening sessions with our congregation to help us build relationships and evaluate ministries based on what is breaking our hearts and moving us as Christians in the community and world. MIC/CG will also be offering a few Leadership Intensives for community organizing training; if you have someone to recommend for the trainings, please let me know.

4) Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers for build dates on June 16 and 17 and July 14 and 15 have been scheduled. Gretchen has been exploring ideas for participation by Sunday School children and will "brainstorm" further with Lucia Work.

Gretchen will appreciate help with meals for the build days and, again, will contact Lucia to learn from her experience with this.

There was further discussion on how to emphasize support to the Carey family, HS parishioners who will receive of the 2021 Habitat homes; Gretchen is coordinating with the family.

5) Racial Reconciliation

Gretchen reported that the Native American Task Force has been reading *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, and highly recommends the book which combines Native American themes with creation care and science. The group is considering how HSP might approach racism reconciliation but has not yet reached a recommendation.

This book is also considered relevant and recommended for HSP's Creation Care Ministry.

6) Other Business

Warren Gartner reported on the success of the Creation Care Ministry's field trip to the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge. Approximately 15 parishioners participated, enjoyed the day and established new relationships! The June field trip will be to Packer Meadows, near Lolo Peak, on June 19, and additional field trips are planned for July and August.

The next Committee meeting will be Tuesday July 6, 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 Agenda

20 May 2021 noon via Zoom

Present: Karen Gartner, Warren Gartner, Gretchen Strohmeier, Sue Lowery, Willie Hoffer

1. Opening prayer

2. 4 areas of focus

a. Holy Spirit Sustainable practices

i. Solar power for church – no update

b. Getting info to members to help them live more sustainably.

i. Warren will do articles on field trips

ii. Container Garden feedback: it was great, good results

iii. Book Study? Gartners have been reading Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Maybe this might be a good book to do a book study on. Gretchen said a Native American group is discussing this next week and she will check with them about joining us somehow. Another book idea: Drawdown by Paul Hawken. Willie will send out a list of other books.

c. Community voice

i. MUD field trip in July

ii. We have already met with Faith & Climate – John Lund’s UM group

iii. It would be good to coordinate with the various groups in Missoula, maybe reach out to them in the fall to collaborate as it might be better to have a coordinated effort in the community

iv. Action before June meeting – gather a list of groups

v. Rogation Sunday - something to consider for the future (from Anglican Compass:

“Rogation Days are the three days preceding Ascension Day, especially devoted to asking for God’s blessing on agriculture and industry”). Similar idea: the Gartners will check with Terri about Season of Creation.

d. Fun opportunities

i. Virtual events

1. Switch to videos instead of field trips in the winter? We will need to be careful not to over schedule with other church activities.

ii. In-person events - Field Trips:

1. May - Lee Metcalf birding - this Saturday

2. June - Camas flowers at Lolo pass on June 19th

3. July - MUD

4. Aug. - SkyView Party at Gartner’s

5. Sept. - Sue will check with Garden City Compost about tour

Next meeting : Thursday, June 17, 2021

– Karen Simons Gartner