

Holy Spirit Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Members present via Zoom: Clem Work, John Crowley, Mark Dvarishkis, Kent Watson, Jeff Serviss, Nancy Errebo, Mary Beth Jourdonnais, Terri Grotzinger, Warren Gartner, Torian Donohoe, Caitlin Sherman.

Guest: Audrey Murray

- 1) Opening prayer led by Terri
- 2) Consent agenda
 - a. **Motion to approve, seconded, approved.**
- 3) No correspondence/concerns from parishioners
- 4) No report from the Memorial Board Foundation
- 5) Financial report
 - a. Currently we are sitting ~\$22,000 over our budgeted income and ~\$19,000 under our budgeted expenses. Our DA Davidson investments are showing a ~25% return. At this point we have not needed to tap into our investments to cover any shortcomings this year.
 - b. We have not been paying a youth minister yet this year but hopefully one will be hired soon.
 - c. Funds from the Mary Blair estate, which are not included in the budget, have been used for building maintenance.
 - d. Mark is going to look into an investment report for the Vestry account. Our investments should reflect who we are as a church community, and we need to understand what our goals for our investments are.
- 6) Old business
 - a. Rio Grande Border Ministry
 - i. The annual Border Migration Summit is in October.
 - ii. Members of the RGBM will be here on Thursday 9/16 for a dinner and presentation. There are about 30 people signed up to attend. There is a raffle fundraiser as well.
 - iii. A major part of the ministry is storytelling. Going to the border and learning the stories there to take back to our home communities. A pilgrimage is being planned for January.
 1. Hopefully we can send James on that trip, and he can use his expertise to support the ministry.
 - iv. The bishop is very supportive and other parishes have already expressed interest in following our lead.
 - v. Covenant Document
 1. We are currently making donations, have people volunteering, and have integrated the ministry into our Prayers for the People.
 2. This is a working document to formalize our commitment and relationship with RGBM. They have invited us to revise it and make any changes to make it fit us better.
 3. The agreement will be revisited annually.

- c. Clem will have Judy send out a link to a Parish vitality questionnaire that he would like the members of the vestry and some parishioners to complete by next Friday.
 - d. With the rise of Covid cases again there is need to reboot our outreach phone calls. Warren will reach out to Gretchen to get the calling lists and any information she has.
- 8) The next vestry meeting will be October 13 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Caitlin Sherman
Clerk of the Vestry

September Rector's Report to Vestry

This has been a busy summer and I can hardly believe it is September already. I will give a very brief summary of my July and August ministry for the parish.

- 1) Covid 19 has resurged with the D-variant. With the University and public schools opening while fall tourism continues, we are following the Missoula County Health recommendations for gathering at Holy Spirit. We've returned to requiring masks and 6 ft. spacing for worship and any indoor gatherings. On September 12 there will be a return to pre-recording The Liturgy of the Word that will be available on Sundays via YouTube at 8 am and after for those who cannot attend in person. The in-person worship service with Eucharist and music will move to 10:15 am and will not be recorded. We'll re-evaluate the Covid situation and this plan at about six weeks.
- 2) In-person pastoral visits are happening again with masking and short visits. There have been seven over the past few months. Hospital visits are limited to 1 clergy visit/occurrence of an individual.
- 3) I worked with Vestry to prepare a Lease for the Christian Montessori School who will be using the basement of the Parish Hall and Tower Room, Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm, as well as the outdoors, and the Kitchen for a cooking class occasionally. The school opened Sept. 1, 2021, and hopes to be here a couple of years until they can build a school on recently purchased land for that purpose. More to come!
- 4) A Memorial was held for Jim Cole, and a Committal of ashes for Jon "Jack" Jourdonnais in our Columbarium Wall. May they rest in peace and their loved ones know the presence of God.
- 5) I worked with Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier to find a new Youth Director to care for Jr. High and High School Ministries. As I write, an offer has been made and accepted to Lewis Myers and the paperwork is being prepared for signatures.
- 6) I attended online Zoom meetings every other Monday with the Bishop and the Clergy of the diocese, a practice begun at the start of the pandemic and a great way to get to know one another better, share ministry ideas, and know how the various areas of the diocese have handled specific Covid-19 challenges. I consider these to be very valuable.
- 7) I finally met in person with the Standing Committee of the Diocese, and it was wonderful to experience that again. Even with the masks, it was well worth a visit to Diocesan House.

I consider us to be back at "day to day" regarding how we'll adjust to spikes of Covid in the wider community, but we know more than we did 2 years ago and that should be of help along the way. My thanks to the Vestry for the many ways each member has helped to lead the parish during the on-going pandemic. It is much appreciated and valued!

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger
Rector

September Assistant Priest's Report to Vestry

Spiritual Formation: Worked with Terri on outlining our needs for a youth director position. Met with Valerie Hess to discuss a potential plan for Lent 2022 education. Finalized details for fall class on the book of Mark. Communicated with Lindsay and Glenn about details for their anti-racism class, Sacred Ground.

Church School: I met with Church School leaders to make a safety plan for children to return to in-person worship. Began coordinating curriculum, calendar, and volunteer leadership for Church School. Began recreating a paid "childcare position."

Worship. I preached at one worship service in August. I facilitated one Wednesday noontime, outdoor Eucharist services.

Communication: I wrote articles for the Paraclete. Participated in a staff lunch.

Pastoral Care: During August I provided pastoral care for 7 individuals/families.

Community. I reached out to John Lund at the UM and we discussed ways to connect with Episcopal students.

Diocese: I participated in 2 zoom meetings with other clergy from around the diocese. I communicated within the diocese about our anti-racism work. I reached out to make contacts with kids from around the diocese who may be coming to the UM for school.

Study & Self-Care: I took a couple of days in August as personal spiritual retreat time, spending time in prayer, study, and journaling. I spent one afternoon at the labyrinth in Victor. I had one weekend away with my family for a camping trip. I had a session with my individual spiritual director and I met once with my spiritual direction group.

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier, Assistant Priest

September Vestry Ministry Reports

A) Communications – Judy Parock, Chair

I wish to thank Connie Gerke and Elizabeth Serviss for taking care of the communication needs of the parish while I was on vacation. Connie updated the information on our church app, created the push notifications for Sunday services, and took care of our online Sunday service announcements.

Elizabeth oversaw finalizing the Sunday service leaflets and taking care of our online communications in the *Spirited Times*. She also posted events to our church Facebook page. They both did a wonderful job.

Since returning from vacation a great deal of work has gone into getting the church ready for our fall start-up, in-person and online, and communicating our plans to the congregation. Here's what has been happening this past month:

- **A Note from the Rector to the Congregation:** After much discussion and planning Rev. Terri made the decision to return to our 10:15 a.m. Sunday service time with Eucharist and with choir. This service will not be recorded. We will have an online Sunday service that will be pre-recorded, and this will be a said service with no music and will be the Liturgy of the Word. This service will premiere on the church YouTube channel at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning and will be available to view at any time after that. The pastoral letter with that information went out to the congregation electronically, and a shorter version of the Sunday service plans was also included in the weekly electronic newsletter, *Spirited Times*. A print version of this pastoral letter was mailed to parishioners without email, and a condensed version of the note was also included in the September *Paraclete*, our monthly paper newsletter. We hope that using both the print and electronic means of relaying this information will keep more of the congregation informed and in the loop regarding what is happening here.
- **Weekly Online Communications:** The weekly electronic *Spirited Times* continues to be our main form of communication with our congregation. It is our online method of communicating events and news to the parish, and with circumstances changing weekly in our community with regard to COVID, this is the most responsive way we have of keeping folks in the parish up to date with the changing service safety requirements. We continue to use our two other weekly email communications to provide the information for our Sunday service and the direct link to the Children's Message which is sent out on Saturday and the other email which goes out on Sunday afternoon with the direct link to the service after the Sunday morning service is posted to YouTube.

We use the *Spirited Times* to continue to promote the events taking place this fall: the Creation Care Garden City Compost Field Trip, the evening for the Rio Grande Borderland Ministries, the kick-off for Church School on September 12 and this year's theme, "All God's Children," the fall Red Cross Blood Drive, a new fall class called "The Restless Jesus of St. Mark" led by The Rev. Steve Oreskovich, Parenting Place Sunday on September 19, the resumption of in-person Centering Prayer on September 21 and the new Adopt-a-Need. We have created materials to promote these events on our website, church app, Facebook and the Google My Business page.

- **Website Updates:** With the start of our fall programming, our website needed to be updated to show all that is happening at Holy Spirit. The Homepage has new rotators which link to more detailed information about the event or topic on the website. With the resumption of in-person gatherings we retired the "Online Community Life" page of the website. Information that was on that page has been included on other pages of the website. We reviewed a number of the website pages to make sure that their information was up to date, but we can always use another pair of eyes to look at it. Please check out your area of interest on the website and let us know if there is information that needs to be updated.
- **Hellgate Ministry:** I met with The Ven. Dorcie Dvarishkis to discuss the Hellgate Ministry's needs for this fall. One item that Dorcie mentioned that would be of help in this ministry

would be to have a rack card that could be displayed in the Family Resource Center at Hellgate High School outlining the services that we can supply to the students. I created a draft version of the rack card for Dorcie and Hellgate Ministry Coordinator A'Lisa Scott to refine. We wanted to be sure that we included branding from the church on the card so that the students would recognize the church and become a little more familiar with it.

- **Church App:** We continue to use the church app as another way to keep us connected as a Holy Spirit community. We now have 317 downloads of our church app, and most are opting in to receive the push notifications which allow us another way of getting out information to the congregation quickly. 27% of our current giving is coming through our app. We continue to utilize the email quarterly statements available through Pushpay, saving us both time and postage.
- **Stewardship Ministry:** Kirk Johnson of the Stewardship Committee let me know that Stewardship mailings this year will again use a four-panel letter that fits in a business envelope along with the pledge card and return envelope. We will also be using two postcards for Stewardship this year hoping that the information on the postcards will be more readily accessible to the person receiving it.

We have sufficient pledge cards and bulk mail envelopes on hand for this year's campaign. Using November 7 as Stewardship Sunday, the potential timeline for the mailings and follow-up was also discussed.

– 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: No return to after church hospitality is planned 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.

John Hess is performing maintenance on the exterior building doors on the church and the parish hall.

E) Rummage Sale – Holly Swartz (Marva Gallegos, Chair)

No report.

– Marva Gallegos, Chair

F) Social Concerns – (Jim Wiley, Chair)

Social Concerns Committee Report From Meeting on August 3, 2021

The meeting opened with prayer led by The Ven. Dorcie Dvarishkis.

Paul Nelson from St. Paul's Hamilton and Maggie and Chuck Teague joined the Committee for this meeting, especially interested in the first topic discussed.

- 1) Report on Borderland Ministry of the Diocese of Rio Grande
Audrey Murray provided an update on:

- RGBM's positive response to our suggestions related to their proposed "Partnership Agreement," now called a "Covenant" and clarified that all partners will be considered "equal" independent of the level of financial support
- Based on this, Dorcie Dvarishkis will discuss with Terri including a monthly prayer for the RGBM (which they will provide), also printing this in *The Paraclete* and circulating to the Diocese
- Planning for the **September 16th** congregational gathering combined with a Zoom call to inform more members of Holy Spirit and St. Paul's Hamilton is definitely on (these notes reflect discussion from the August 4 organizing committee meeting):
 - Including a Zoom link (covering only the awareness-building call with RGBM and the raffle) ... note that sign-ups, which will begin August 22, will include both "Present" and "Zoom Only"
 - Also inviting St. Stephen's from Stevensville and others in the Diocese
 - Focused primarily on awareness-building in a completely non-political manner
 - With refreshment (including tamales, chili, chips and salsa, salad, Mexican and local beer, typical Mexican beverages – jamaica and tamarindo "aguas frescas")
 - With limited fund-raising, limited to voluntary donations to cover meal expenses and a raffle; items to be raffled will include a "story cloth" from Multicolores in Guatemala, a modern migrant-focused icon from Kelly Latimore (recently featured in a Zoom discussion with Bishop Michael Curry) and a dozen tamales; also including voluntary donations and, possibly, used shoe donations (see the video from Rev. Mike Wallen, available in the *Spirited Times*)
 - With two screens in the Parish Hall to facilitate viewing (coordinated by James Gartner)
- Other activities planned include:
 - Participation in a Borderlands Ministry Conference scheduled for October 21-23
 - Border visits by several HSP parishioners in the January-February time frame, possibly with video recording or write-ups of stories
 - Several SCC members and the Nelson's expressed interest in a visit
 - Audrey will advise RGBM that we can likely plan two visits (6-8 people/visit)
 - Future fund-raising at one or both parishes

As noted above, 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."

Announcements of the September event will continue in the *Spirited Times* and *The Paraclete*, and sign-ups will be after Church Services on 8/22, 8/29 and 9/5.

2) Community Ministries (Dorcie Dvarishkis)

- Parenting Place – Events to celebrate the organization's 40th Anniversary have been well attended and joyful. Reminder about the August 5 showing of the movie *Jacinta*, at Paddleheads field. Parenting Place Sunday at Holy Spirit will be September 19th.
- Hellgate High School – A planning session for the start of school is set for August 16 or 17.
- Common Good – Dates for the next delegates assembly as well as getting leaders to training and Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization are available at: <https://commongoodmissoula.nationbuilder.com/events>

3) September Blood Drive (Audrey Murray)

The Red Cross urgently needs blood! Our fall blood drive is scheduled for September 23 and SCC members are urged to encourage parishioner participation. A few volunteers will be needed to staff the event and Audrey will check with Terri/Red Cross on how to handle the “recovery” area.

4) Budget Update (Jim Wiley)

SCC members are urged to consider how we can best take advantage of our remaining budget for 2021. A current summary of budget status was attached to the agenda for this meeting; please bring ideas to our September meeting.

5) Racial Reconciliation

Glenn Hladek reported on plans to start Sacred Ground training on October 27, the first of two f-week sessions which will run every two weeks and be supplemented by both books and movies. For these first sessions, Glenn and Lindsay Iudicello are planning on a group of 12 to 14 participants.

The two books they will be using are:

- *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman
- *Waking up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving

6) Habitat for Humanity

Bob Deaton could not attend our meeting, but Dorcie Dvarishkis gave an update received from Bob Brewer. The walls of the Carey house are finished, and Holy Spirit volunteers have been well received!

Warren Gartner mentioned alternatives (planters, a tree) that Creation Care Ministry is considering for the Carey home.

7) Other Business

Jim Wiley reported that Holy Spirit contributions to the Back-to-School Clothing Drive had been delivered on-time to St. Paul’s Lutheran.

Dorcie Dvarishkis asked the Committee to come up with creative ideas as to how Holy Spirit can fulfill Canon III.9.6 of TEC:

The Alms and Contributions, not otherwise specifically designated, at the Administration of the Holy Communion on one Sunday in each calendar month, and other offerings for the poor, shall be deposited with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge or with such Church officer as the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall appoint to be applied to such pious and charitable uses as the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall determine. When a Parish is without a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry shall designate a member of the Parish to fulfill this function.

One idea discussed was re-starting monthly “Minutes for Ministry” on Sundays and creating a special Sunday for each of our ministries (building on “Parenting Place Sunday” and “Hellgate High School Sunday”).

Warren Gartner gave an update on Creation Care plans. These included possible observation of the Perseid meteor shower in mid-August (which has been cancelled, due to heat and smoke conditions), a visit to Garden City Compost on August 28 to tour their facility, and a visit to the Bison Range and their Bison Round-Up which will be scheduled as soon as the date is set by the Salish Tribe. Also highlighted was The Episcopal Church’s plans for a “Season of Creation” from September 5 to October 3, 2021.

The next Committee meeting will be Tuesday September 7, 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)

The Stewardship Committee met via Zoom on August 12 and on August 17. The pledge campaign for 2022 was discussed, including the financial health of the parish and the wonderful support the parish has continued. "Take heart, take part" combined with Psalm 104 will be our theme for 2022. In our messaging we hope to include information about the exciting ministries that continue at HSP, such as the plan for solar panels and our involvement in the border ministry.

Kirk Johnson is working on layouts for two postcard mailings to be sent and the letter that accompanies the pledge card. Probable dates for mailings are October 4, 2021 first post card; October 14, 2021 second post card; October 25, 2021 letter and pledge card; November 7, 2021 in-gathering.

– Barb Hosier, Stewardship Chair

Torian Donohoe, Stewardship Committee Vestry Liaison

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

Creation Care

16 May 2021 noon at Holy Spirit

Present: Tracey Gage, Warren Gartner, Karen Gartner, Kate Laney, Sue Lowery, Gretchen Strohmaier, Kent Watson

Opening prayer

4 areas of focus

1. Holy Spirit Sustainable practices

Solar power for church - need to arrange a meeting between Lance and Jeff Serviss

- Karen has emailed Lance
- We did not get an Episcopal church grant
- Because of warranty issues the shingles will have to be replaced by the installer.

Responsible investing

- Memorial board looking into investing in socially and environmentally responsible investments
- Note to Mark supporting what they are doing – Sue

Concern about tree coming down

- Getting treated
- Getting trimmed

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

Spirited Times and Paraclete articles - authors & topics - Sue to do next one.

Minute for ministry - Kate to contact Terri and speak during church

- Print up articles and put in pews?
- Kate to look into printing

Recycling containers in the narthex - Kate will find out what this entails.

Weeding weeks - adopt a need - needs a coordinator.

- Warren will bring up to Stewardship committee on August 12.

- Margaret Borg traditionally has been in charge.
- Judy is most knowledgeable about it.
- Warren will contact Kevin.
- Tracey will write up blurb.

3. Community voice

General convention proposal - think about. Look at existing CC proposals. Karen to research and to invite Terri to next meeting.

Trees/raised beds for Carey home? Happens in the city, but Gretchen will see if the county will support a tree planting, Sue will check with the city to see if city will extend it to East Missoula. Fall - gathering of all the organizations and community groups. MUD does something similar. - try to see what we can move forward better as a big group.

- Faith and Climate groups - Gretchen will find out more about John Lund's group and the dioceses group.
- Start a list with MUD
- Karen will start spreadsheet on Google Drive

Climate Smart Missoula

4. Fun opportunities

Field trip updates

- Great MUD tour
 - Works with lots of other groups.
 - 9 people went
- August night sky field trip to be cancelled because of the smoke.
- Blackfoot pathways
- Sculpture gardens
- Observatory on Blue Mountain
- National Bison Range round up in September - Warren will check into it.
- August - city compost? Sue will check into August 28.

Next meeting : Thursday, August 19, 2021 at church.

Creation Care Agenda 19 August 2021 noon Via Zoom

Present: Lance Collister, Karen Simons Gartner, Warren Gartner, Sue Lowrey, Kent Watson

1. Opening prayer: In Jesus, God so loved the whole world. We follow Jesus, so we love the world God loves. Concerned about the global climate emergency, drawing from a range of approaches for our diverse contexts, we commit to form and restore loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with all of Creation.
2. 4 areas of focus
 - a. Holy Spirit Sustainable practices
 - i. Solar power for church - HSP received a \$70,000 grant to install the solar panels. A special vestry meeting approved the additional \$15,000 needed for the solar panels from the memorial fund. Should see savings in 5 years. The grant requires that we offer educational information about solar power. We need to communicate to members in a positive way. Lance will write a Paraclete article for October.
 1. Lance met with Ralph at the church Tuesday and found places for converters on the alley wall.

2. We will also have to attach the solar system to the router in some way
 3. The company is blocking out the last week in October to get started.
 4. We need a roofer to repair the shingles by then. Lance will email Jeff Serviss to find out where shingle replacement stands.
- ii. The blue spruce tree is in much better shape than we thought. It was pruned in mid-July, and not in imminent danger of coming down. We will try to keep activity out from under the “drip line” to protect the roots.
- b. Getting info to members to help them live more sustainably.
- i. Lance will write about Solar Power for October in Paraclete. Sue will write about food waste for November.
 - ii. Minute for Ministry - Kate to contact Terri and speak during church and printing up articles to put in pews. Kate will look into printing. (Kate absent so no update)
 - iii. Recycling containers in the narthex - Kate will find out what this entails. (Kate absent so no update)
 - iv. Weeding Wrangler - Warren wrote an adopt a need request looking for someone to coordinate the landscaping care. Kirk designed the announcement and Judy has added it to various communications.
 - v. HSP will be participating in a Season of Creation, Sept. 5 through Oct. 3. - 5 Sundays to focus on Creation at church.
 1. Warren is working on a prayer calendar to be shared in the newsletter.
 2. How to get more kids involved? Check on the Hellgate Highschool Environment Club. Partnership? Karen will contact them.
- c. Community voice
- i. General convention creation care (CC) proposal - members are to think about what we might want to see adopted. We need to look at existing CC proposals. Karen will start researching and invite Terri to the next meeting.
 - ii. Trees/raised beds for Carey home - Sue and Gretchen.
 1. Talk to Careys - Sue will contact them to see if they are interested.
 2. Butterfly grant funding - perhaps next year
 - iii. Proposed fall gathering of all the environmental organizations and community groups to see how we can move forward better as a big group.
 1. Wait until next year
 2. MUD hosts a gathering of groups on Earth Day. We can attend to get ideas.
 3. Add to the Faith and Climate groups spreadsheet that Karen has started on Google Drive.
- d. Fun opportunities
- i. Field trip updates
 1. Ideas
 - a. Blackfoot pathways
 - b. Sculpture gardens
 - c. Observatory on Blue Mountain
 - d. National Bison Range roundup in September/October- Warren - still trying to get a date - BR hasn't set a date yet.
 2. August - Garden City Compost - no email RSVPs yet.
 3. Lance suggested we consider using his friends Matt Arno and Melissa Anderson who live off the grid near Potomac as great speakers for a workshop. Possibly through a zoom workshop first and then a field trip to see how they live sustainably. Lance will contact them.

Next meeting : Thursday, September 16, 2021 location TBA
– Karen Simons Gartner