

**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**  
Greenville, North Carolina  
Vestry Minutes  
July 9, 2023

The Vestry of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church held a meeting on Sunday, July 9, 2023, in the multi-purpose building.

**Members Present:** Steve Callender, Ray Franks, Ashton Johnson, Sharyn Lennox, Angela Mallette, Marty Michaels, Barbara Shreve, Debbie Strickland, Mary Vincent, Chip Williams, and Malcolm Williams

**Member(s) Absent:** Heather Tepper,

**Others Present:** Tommy Tucker

The senior warden opened the meeting at 11:47 am. Mr. Franks welcomed the rector who is back from sabbatical. A quorum was present.

**Prayer:** Ms. Lennox

**Senior Warden Report:** Mr. Franks spoke on the following:

- **Welcome Barbara Shreve:** Ms. Shreve was welcomed as a new member of the vestry.
- **Email Blast Articles:** Ms. Franks said that there has been very positive feedback from the congregation for the articles included in the Blast. He indicated that transparency continues. Vestry members were urged to keep sending articles to the church office.

**Accomplishments:**

- **Awards:** The Rev. John Porter-Acee presented the "Spring Training" award (intended to be given in May) to Ms. Strickland for making a positive impact for the church.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Ms. Lennox gave an update. VBS is a joint effort among St. Paul's, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, and St. Timothy's. There are several volunteers who have offered to help. Right now, there are 36 children who have signed up. The three (3) churches will have a meeting tonight.

**Challenges:**

- **Formation Committee:** Mr. Callender and Ms. Johnson gave an update from a recent meeting attended by Martha Whitesides, Peter Woodruff, and themselves. The ideas presented include having Sunday afternoon services, evening prayer, EYC, confirmation class, and meal. EYC and confirmation classes would potentially be alternated on different weeks. There were suggestions to have special music, focus on attracting members who don't regularly come to church, former members, and potentially new members, those who may prefer an alternative to the morning services, be

intergenerational, perhaps incorporate teams from the dinner groups to coordinate the meals, etc. There are several factors to consider, e.g., how often, (weekly, monthly, or around major events), when to start, (September 2023 or later), type of service and music, etc. The rector said that the current formation program is not working as effectively now as he desires. He has a planned meeting with Ms. Whitesides on Tuesday.

The vestry agreed to support the concept to develop Sunday evening worship and formation. The importance of having good leadership, the necessary core level of participation from teams or groups giving input and direction to ensure sustainability, clear communication, and programming, was expressed. There was discussion about a potential start date. September 17, 2023, was mentioned. An idea was posed to have the September 10, 2023, Homecoming in the evening. Discussion followed.

**Action:** The rector will meet with church staff to further discuss the concept of an evening Homecoming event and communicate to the vestry.

- **Sunday Recognition of Committees, Groups, and Ministries:** The senior warden spoke about the possibility of recognizing committees, groups, and ministries to attract more parishioners to Sunday services. He raised the idea, discussed in the Executive Committee, of having these groups, on different days, to come together for communion and perhaps have a blessing. Discussion followed. Comments were made to recognize these groups at another time during the service rather than at communion.

**Action:** The rector and Senior Warden will meet and formulate a plan.

- **Churchwide Projects:** Mr. Franks asked the vestry to consider projects to serve the community in a meaningful way. There was vestry consensus. He asked Ms. Lennox to take the matter to the Outreach Committee.

**Action:** Ms. Lennox will communicate with outreach. Ms. Strickland offered to assist.

- **Diocesan Convention Co-Chair:** St. Timothy's was asked to name a co-chair to handle certain local duties at the 2024 Diocesan Convention that will be held in Greenville. Ms. Strickland has agreed to be St. Timothy's representative along with a representative from St. Paul's.

### **Junior Warden Report:**

- **HVAC Replacement:** The HVAC unit has been replaced as well as other smaller projects. The funds were taken out of the capital repairs account.
- **Handrails in Church:** The project to install handrails in the choir loft and at the ambo is proceeding. Installation is expected to begin soon.
- **Church Insurance:** Over the past two (2) years, the premiums for church insurance has risen about 40%. The Executive Committee felt it would be prudent to try to obtain comparable coverage at a reduced rate. Conversations have been held with the Clement Company. Mr. M. Williams said he is expecting a report soon.

- **Fraud Protection:** Southern Bank representatives recently met with the Executive Committee about the industry-wide problems regarding bank fraud. The bank has offered fraud protection for a monthly fee of \$53. St. Timothy's has not experienced any problems in this area. He distributed information to the vestry explaining the protection.

**Action:** Mr. M. Williams said that Megan Roberts will talk to the Diocese, and he will contact St. Paul's to obtain further information.

**Rector's Report:** The Rev. Porter-Acee thanked the vestry for their hard work while he was on sabbatical.

- **Vestry Dinner:** The dinner for present and past members, and their significant others, will be held on July 30, 2023, in the parish hall. Invitations have been mailed. More responses are expected. He described the plans for the program at the dinner. He asked the vestry for any comments or concerns that should be included in the meeting. He emphasized the continued need for transparency and effective communication.
- **Formation:** He and Ms. Whitesides have been meeting to plan formation for the coming year. He is excited to have her as Director of Christian Formation.
- **Rector Vacation:** He will be on vacation from July 15-22, 2023.

**Approval of Minutes:** The June 19, 2023, vestry minutes were *approved by acclamation*.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr. C. Williams reported on the following:

- **Pre-School:** The revenue for the school will likely be lower this year.
- **Blast Communications:** The financial announcements and graphs in the Blast are helpful for the congregation to know more about the church fiscal situation.
- **Fundraising:** The treasurer and junior warden are forming a committee to look at internal and external fund raising to support the operating budget. Riley Roberts will be on the committee. Other members are being sought. There was discussion about fundraising opportunities.

*The report was accepted by acclamation.*

- **Stewardship Campaign:** Mr. C. Williams asked for vestry help during the upcoming stewardship campaign.

See submitted report.

**Appreciation to Senior Warden:** Mr. M. Williams expressed his thanks to Mr. Franks for his work during the rector's absence. The vestry concurred.

## Upcoming Events:

- **Vacation Bible School:** Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will join St. Paul's and St. Timothy's this year. VBS will be conducted July 18-21, 2023, from 5:00-7:00 pm at our church.
- **Vestry Dinner:** July 30, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the parish hall.
- **String Summer Camp:** The camp for string students will be held on August 9-11, 2023, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- **Slide Into the School Year:** August 20, 2023, from 4:00-7:00 pm at the church along with St. Paul's.
- **Fall Kick Off/Homecoming:** September 10, 2023

Closing prayer: Mr. Franks

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

The next scheduled vestry meeting is August 20, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the multi-purpose building.

Respectfully submitted:

*Tommy Tucker*

Tommy Tucker  
Clerk to the Vestry