

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY**  
**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA (Via Zoom & In Person)**  
**March 21, 2024**

**VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden  
Julia Greene, Junior Warden  
Sue Bowron  
Kimberley Boyd  
Jim Brim - ZOOM  
Steve Carlson  
Cheryl Kelley  
Beth Neidenbach  
Frank Rinker  
Anita Smith

**ABSENT:**

Sally Pittman  
Helen Scovill  
Amy Munn, Treasurer

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham  
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham opened the meeting with a prayer.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Approval of February minutes and Approval of distributed Treasurer's Report and Financial Report. Neidenbach/ Rinker. Unanimous.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Junior Warden Julia Greene gave an update on the construction:
  - The bathrooms in the greeting area should be ready for Easter Sunday.
  - The HVAC system will soon be reconnected in the Grace Center.
  - The St. Francis Garden and Grace Center have been landscaped and the pine straw will be replaced by mulch. Two new benches will be arriving for the garden.
  - Mary Lynn Coyle has been working on signage, which will be black with gold lettering and will contain the shield. A picture was passed around to show the new signs that will be placed in front of Children of Grace, the Grace Center, the front and back of the church, and a smaller sign for the chapel.
  - There will be 6-to-8-foot awnings at the front and back of the Grace Center. And a new mailbox.

- Reba Page and Rev. Dr. Higginbotham met with the auditor prior to the audit, which is slated for the week after Easter. This year, an auditor will be on site for five days.
- In Maintenance and Repairs, Mike Thibedeau will be replacing Jeremy Landers on set-ups for the parish hall. Additionally, we have additional funds to provide outside help with some of Jeremy's responsibilities for maintenance upkeep; Jeremy has devised a spreadsheet to bring in contractors to facilitate necessary repairs.
- Cheryl Kelley gave an update on the Women's Retreat for 2025. Once again, it will be held at Montreat Conference Center and the dates will be January 17-19. Becca Stevens has agreed to be the featured speaker and will be joined by her husband, Nashville musician Marcus Stevens. Another upcoming program for women will be a salad supper, possibly after Evensong on April 21.
- **Outreach:** Good conversations have been held as we look at the enormous needs from 17 organizations. There will be a luncheon on April 28 for 30 people who are looking at the teams: Mental Health, Housing and Education. All vestry members who are working on the Compassion Team should attend this luncheon.
- Rev. Dr. Higginbotham explained the function of a vestry, which provides for the life of the parish. Grace has historically had a hands-on vestry. New vestry members asked for clarification on how they can contribute to each of the clusters and for more specific job descriptions. They were advised to read the annual report from January and to look at the vestry page at the bottom of the Grace website.
- Tulsa King will be filming a Sylvester Stalone movie in Gainesville and asked to rent our parking lot for when they film. God presents sources of revenue in unexpected ways...
- Senior Warden Stuart Deaderick reported on Children & Youth at Grace:
  - Four youth were confirmed at the Cathedral of St. Phillip on Sunday.
  - Some of our Youth are involved at the Diocesan level with New Beginnings.
  - On April 28, there will be a meeting after church with parents to discuss the direction for the Youth Program. The Outreach Committee will meet on the same day and have a combined luncheon.
  - Vacation Bible School will resume this summer. A date is yet to be determined, and it is estimated that up to 50 volunteers may be needed. There is \$3500 in the VBS fund.

The meeting was closed with a Collect for Palm Sunday by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry