

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, Scottsboro, Alabama  
Minutes of September 11, 2023, Vestry Meeting

Attending the meeting were the Reverend Polly Robb; vestry members Brett Bell, Jared Dovers, Sherry Holland, Deb McBride, J.P. Parsons, Everett Reed and Janet Sage; Charles Heath, Chairman of the Finance Committee. Ann Moody, clerk, was absent.

Polly *opened the meeting* at 5:15 P.M. with prayer.

JP moved the *minutes of August 14, 2023* be approved, Janet seconded, and all voted in favor.

Charles distributed *financial* information and reviewed it. He pointed out it is generally a good report. Charles presented his preliminary work on charting a financial path forward for getting St. Luke's salary compensation for a rector up to the diocesan minimum and beyond. The vestry will discuss this further when it is complete. Charles also reported on his research into investing the money in our savings account, rather than it sitting in a low interest bank account. He met with David Nicolas financial planner, who recommends the vestry transfer this money into our diocesan shared fund. The vestry asked Charles to investigate how money is requested from this fund when needed and the time it may take to acquire our funds. Charles left the meeting at 5:28 following his report.

*Polly led the vestry in a bible study* to begin a discussion on Stewardship. After the study, she presented the theme for this year's stewardship theme which is **Rooted in Abundance**. A timeline for the stewardship campaign was presented and discussed and will be added to the minutes. The vestry approved the timeline. Jared suggested that we find a way to tie in the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the theme as it lends itself well to remembering those who gave much in the past to begin and sustain Christ's Church here in Scottsboro.

In his *Senior Warden's report*, Jared reviewed the report sent from Geoff Evans at the diocese. The report is attached to the minutes. Three goals were suggested for our adoption: planned giving campaign and clergy compensation, committee structure to ensure the vestry can function as leaders in the church in the absence of a rector, and building a youth ministry. Jared added that his experience learning about planned giving can be a positive cultural change within a parish that leads everyone to embrace a role in sustaining this parish for future members.

Brett's *Junior Warden's Report* is attached to the minutes in the clerk's notebook. In addition, Brett reported on a second quote for the roofing needed to fix the leak over the sanctuary. It is less than our first quote, and the roofer's reputation is very good. Janet moved that we accept the second quote, and Sherry seconded it. Brett will contact the roofer to make sure the timing of the roofing does not conflict with the anniversary celebration and bishop's visit. Brett noted that the Clean up Day is planned for September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

J.P. reported on the upcoming work to be done in the area around the *columbarium*. The report, including plans for landscaping, lighting, and general clean up is attached to the minutes.

Janet reported on the work of the committee on *Parish Life*. She outlined preparation and plans for the 145<sup>th</sup> celebration on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. A work day, with volunteers needed, is planned for October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Paul Holland has offered to find and pay for a plaque to be placed in the parish hall recognizing all the former rectors, seminarians, and missionaries who've led St. Luke's over its history.

Polly reported on **Youth**, as she is volunteering her time to lead this group this fall. The lake party was a success, with 7 teens attending. Regular meetings will begin on September 17<sup>th</sup> and Polly will ask the parish to help again with meals for the EYC.

Reporting on **Mission and Evangelism**, Everett reported that the Canterbury Club has been officially approved to meet at Northeast Alabama Community College. A preliminary meeting took place on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. The club will meet on first and third Thursdays, with Polly or Everett bringing snack and drinks. The group will read C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters* to begin. Everett also reported that the diocesan committee on Creation Care has new leadership and he is engaging in the discussions as a representative from St. Luke's. He will follow up on our commitment to plant a tree (in this community) each time someone is baptized at this parish.

Deb reported on **Outreach**, noting the Food Pantry served 70 families at the last pantry. The next pantry is October 7<sup>th</sup>, which coincides with the anniversary celebration. The Parish Life committee kindly asks the party group to keep this in mind as they clean up after Saturday morning pantry, particularly in the parlor.

In her **Rector's report**, Polly reported the Choral Music Academy has begun. The Red Mass date is now December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. with a program of Lessons and Carols. The nursery worker has begun and Melody Reed is coordinating with her regarding Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. The office will make sure the new worker has a background check and Safe Guarding coursework done. The vestry agenda lists all the ongoing Christian formation. The date for the instructed Eucharist is changed to October 11<sup>th</sup>. Polly will no longer be away for continuing education September 26-28, but will be away for Clergy conference on October 4-6. In October, the vestry needs to consider delegates for convention in the coming year, and new vestry persons.

The vestry **closed the meeting** at 6:50 with the Lord's Prayer.

Polly Robb