

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, Scottsboro, Alabama  
Minutes of October 9, 2023, Vestry Meeting

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

Polly *called the meeting to order* at 5:17 p.m. and opened with prayer.  
Minutes previously sent via email to vestry members. Jared Dovers made a motion to accept the minutes and JP Parsons seconded the motion.

Charles Heath reviewed the **Finance Report**

- Choral Academy is a new item
- Most expenses for this year were expected and planned well for.
- Facilities expenses are on track.

**Unfinished business from September:**

Charles advised the vestry to look at opening a stock account. While the parish does not intend to hold stock, this account would allow it to receive donated stocks. Raymond James said they would not charge fees to a church for this type of account.

Charles asked for a motion to allow us to pursue a stock account. Sherry Holland moved we pursue this, and Jared Dovers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jared noted that there would possibly be a minimum dollar amount needed to maintain the stock account. Charles agreed to discover the minimum amount needed for this new account. Charles will also work with the finance committee to determine the best type of account and broker to use and report to back to the vestry.

There was discussion, separate from the stock account, about how to allocate the approximately \$47,000 in the parish's "savings" account. After a discussion of various options, there was a motion to invest our savings of approximately \$47,000, minus the amount needed to maintain a stock account the, into the diocesan pooled investment fund.

Jared made the motion, Janet Sage seconded, and the motion passed.

Polly reported back on last month's question regarding ease of withdrawals from investment St. Luke's has invested in diocesan fund. The new diocesan financial officer said the process takes at most two to three days.

Janet Sage followed up with Charles on the question of a salary increase for our rector. Charles suggested at least an increase to the diocesan minimum salary. For next year's budget those figures will be set. Budget committee meets in November. Jared asked if Charles will get the committee together before next vestry. Then, meet after November vestry to finalize recommendation for 2024 budget.

Polly opened a discussion about the rental houses the church owns. Charles noted they were purchased as a “room to expand.” Polly wants the finance committee to keep an eye on their upkeep, as the houses are aging and in need of improvements. The group noted several options:

Put them on the market

Bulldoze houses and keep the land.

Everett Reed noted to the vestry the need to consider the lack of affordable housing options in Scottsboro.

**Sr. Warden report:** Security committee needs to meet and will have more next month. Jared Dovers, Paul Holland, Don Word, Parker Edmiston re: cameras for church. Johnny Cantrell says an inexpensive camera will deter most anyone. Everett could be the person watching live stream also watch live cameras.

**Jr. Warden report:** (Polly for Brett Bell): Parish clean up went vry well. State of the roof – can see damage now without the crepe myrtles. Everett Reed asked if we replace the entire roof. Polly stated the shingles should be “lifetime” but we don’t know what is under them. Could be more than one leak. We’ll trim the trees that are still on the roof. Everett will contact roofing person this week as to when they will begin reroofing the approved portion of the roof over the altar area..

We’ve spent extra to spruce up the property out of buildings and grounds for the 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary so we’re a bit over budget.

**Columbarium report:** JP and Emily Parsons visited Charleston historical society. Saw a replica of St. Philip’s gate. Sherry Holland made a motion that memorial funds be spent for the St. Philip’s cross. Jared Dovers seconded. Motion passed. JP purchased this for our columbarium. Funds came from Janet Sage’s daughter’s memorial fund for total of \$122. This was installed prior to our 145<sup>th</sup> celebration.

There is a plaque to add a commemoration of the cross in the columbarium, this will be approved later as we know more. Columbarium committee will send a recommendation for the plaque.

Phil Dutton donated his landscaper help on the property for stepping stones. Danny Bridges and Tom Brewington working on outdoor lighting.

**Parish Life:** Janet Sage – Polly will send thank you notes to donors for 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Committee can note what worked well to begin planning our 150<sup>th</sup>.

This weekend Bishop Pryor comes. Sherry Holderfield is catering meal. Janet needs help Sunday deconstructing the set up.

**Youth/EYC:** Polly – 5 High Schoolers. Talked about planning for outings. Polly putting a calendar together for outings.

**Outreach:** Deb McBride. After some discussion on Christmas charities for this year, the vestry agreed to adopt children from the DHR Angel Tree this year. We’ll let the Chamber

know how many we can adopt. We spent \$2500 in 2022. \$1700 in donations. We budgeted \$3000. The group agreed to adopt 15 children.

The Food Pantry – Served 87 families in October. Don Traut was in charge. The group is working well together and seeing continuing need for this ministry.

**Missions:** Everett Reed reported that the Canterbury Club is up and running. Have met 3 times and have 3 students. Over time we will see more.

**New Business.** Parlor – Becky Bridges has asked about overhead lights. Jared said we need to think about what room will be used for going forward. Brett will get an estimate for lighting.

**Rector's report:**

Still need someone to work our Nursery on Sunday mornings.

Margie Ford, our Admin assistant is retiring and has agreed to stay until end of December.

Polly advertise for Administrative Assistant. \$15/hour, 16 hours/week.

Courtney Bell and Polly have discussed her plans after graduation this December. James is an option for doing some graphics. We pay this position currently out of our communications grant – that account is now at \$2900. 5-6 hours/week at \$15/hour.

**Christian Formation:** The inquirer's class is concluding. Polly invites all to the final calss which will be an instructed Eucharist. Wed. night Eucharists will continue without dinner afterward through Advent.

Last Women's Wednesdays book study was this week. Will start again in Advent, and continue to offer an evening class online.

December 20th is **Lessons & Carols**. The morning service will be community Red Mass. There are not yet plans for reception or speaker. In the evening we will repeat this service without prayers for judicial system. This will be in place of the Advent Journey this year.

Adult formation in November will accompany our **Stewardship Campaign**. Michael will lead one and Polly will lead the other. "Rooted in Abundance" is our theme.

JP Parsons passed out his reflection entitled "Giving". It will go in the Scoop.

10/29 Stewardship talks in church service begin. Polly would like a younger person and a person whose been working and giving in the church for several years to offer their reflections. Speakers will be 11/12 and 11/19. Our senior warden Jared will have a message sent out mid-way through. All vestry members encouraged to write about giving for Scoop.

Nov 11: Polly will be out of town at a memorial service and James is out on vacation. Scott Peterson, a new worshipping person in our congregation and retired Lutheran minister, will preach. James is looking for a musician that day.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Polly at 6:42 p.m.