

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY  
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA  
October 27, 2021, AT 7:00pm**

**VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Dan Scott, Senior Warden (via ZOOM)  
Barbara Batog  
Daniel Grizzle  
Vance Holifield  
JoAnn Manring  
Sonja McLendon  
Tom Rossi  
Christy Wagner  
Mike Whitmire (via ZOOM)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Callie Flack, Treasurer  
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry  
Doug Smith, Guest

**ABSENT:**

Chaudron Gille, Junior Warden  
Newsom Cummings  
Gail Sargent

The meeting opened with two prayers from the Book of Common Prayer offered by Rev. Stuart Higginbotham.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Approved September Treasurer's Report  
Motion to Approve: McLendon/Grizzle Unanimous.

Approved September Minutes  
Motion to Approve: Manring/Holifield. Unanimous.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Stuart shared several documents with the group:

1. Initial 2022 Vestry Visioning Discussion centered around:
    - a) The survey being made available to all homes by November 7. The working group of Chaudron Gille, Cheryl Kelley, Sonja McLendon and David Westfall will compile the results. The next step will be to form an Imagination/Embodiment Group of 24 individuals. The efforts of this group will be shared with the entire community during Lent/Easter.
    - b) Ministry Cluster Framework : “How are we being called to prayerfully and faithfully nurture the formation of this Christian community at this point in our common life?”
    - c) Bicentennial Capital Campaign: needs to be re-evaluated after survey and cluster groups
    - d) The School for Christian Practice centered around the focus areas of Biblical proficiency, Stages of Faith & Development, Practices & Prayer and Sacramental Ethics & Christian Virtues.
  2. Two articles from *The Wall Street Journal*: “Are Internet Services as Good as Church?” and “For Young People, A Church Disconnect.”
  3. An essay from *The Atlantic*: “My Church Doesn’t Know What to Do Anymore,” written by the rector of St. David’s Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia.
- Reba Page has contacted 3 payroll processing companies and has narrowed the choice down to a combination of ADP and Church Pension. Each company wants a decision by November 15 so that the chosen company can have things in place by January 1, 2022.
  - Mike Whitmire announced that the call campaign for stewardship will begin on November 8; he would like to have everyone contacted by November 15.
  - Dan Scott and Kevin Boyd have a list of 179 20-49 year olds in the parish database; they want to invite them to a social from 6:00 to 9:00PM on November 19 at the Scotts’ house for the purpose of engaging this demographic, asking for stewardship support and to announce a class on “What is Meaning?” There will be an alternative gathering after church on Sunday, November 21; it will be a luncheon at which families are welcome. Dan will check with Chancellor Jason Voyles to make sure that all church protocols are followed at these events.
  - Stuart plans to send an email on October 28 announcing that we are getting close to the 5% benchmark for COVID cases in Hall County. As a result, Brenau will resume serving buffet style dinners on Wednesday nights; parishioners have an option to pack take-home meals if they prefer.
  - The COG teachers as well as Sunday School teachers will be evaluating with the Formation team to decide how best to approach masks, given that some children (ages 5 to 12) will soon be able to get the vaccine.
  - Children of Grace preschool will have Brenau University President Dr. Anne Skleder read *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon* in celebration of Read for the Record on Thursday, October 28. This event brings young children throughout the globe together to read the same book on the same day.

- Cynthia Park advocates key dates for “homecoming” for people who have been away from church for a while. One such event will be the Messiah community sing-along at Grace, a “sound bath” on December 1 and a Grand Flotilla on Lake Lanier in April.
- Sonja McLendon has agreed to be the Senior Warden when Dan Scott rotates off in January.
- Scarlet Pendarvis is chairing the vestry nominating committee.
- Stuart’s new book launch will be December 15 during dinner.
- The November Vestry meeting will be November 17. The December meeting is scheduled for December 15. Adjustments may need to be made depending on when the Finance Committee approves the budget.
- Cynthia closed the meeting at 8:20 PM with an evening prayer from the New Zealand prayer book.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry