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# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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*The Episcopal Church of the Holy Family*

202 Griffith Road  
Jasper, Georgia 30143

**January 28, 2024**





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**Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
**January 28, 2024**

**Call to Order:** George Yandell

**Opening Prayer:** Bill harkins

**Election of Secretary for meeting.**

**Appointment of four tellers:** Outgoing vestry members and ushers to count the votes, one of them being designated chairperson. The results of the election shall be declared by the presiding officer and shall be recorded in the minutes by the Secretary before adjournment of the meeting.

**Recognition of outgoing Vestry.**

**Nominations to Vestry:** Three (3) positions to be filled. Three (3) names have been put forward. Nominations from floor? **(MUST be offered to both Rector and Treasurer BEFORE being made to the meeting.)**

**Election:** Three (3) new members

**Rector report:** George Yandell delivered his report earlier (copies of full report available in the gallery and published on website)- questions?

**Report of the Vestry:** Report of the Vestry (required by Diocesan Canon 33, Section 2) and any recommendations; to be submitted by the Sr. or Jr. Warden, or, in their absence, by some other member of the Vestry. Senior Warden's report submitted (in packet).

**Report for the Finance Ministry:**

- year end 2023 financial statement – Jim Braley
- budget accepted by the vestry January 23 (in packet) – Dan Ciomek

**Reports of All Ministries and Committees:** published on website (in packet)

**Recognition of Ministry leaders:** outgoing, incoming

**Reading of Necrology and Prayer - Byron Tindall:** *Terry Schamberger, Bob Douglas, Ann Wilson, Diane Wells, George Justicz, Bob Buhler, Stan House, Don West.*

**Hymn 544:** *Jesus Shall Reign* - John Carter

**Blessing and Dismissal:** George



## Holy Family Vestry

### **2021-2023 Term**

Jeannine Krenson

Jim Reid

Rosemary Lovelace (completing Judy Wyndham's term)

### **2022-2024 Term**

Andy Edwards

Howell Kiser

Terry Nicholson

### **2023-2025 Term**

Jim Braley

Ginger Griffith

John Kirk

### **Treasurer**

Dan Ciomek

### **Clerk of the Vestry**

Patricia Stimmel

## Vestry Member Responsibilities

Vestry members are responsible for:

- the fiscal well-being of the parish property.
- assuring that the facilities are maintained.
- assuring that all bills are paid.
- eliminating any deficit at the end of the year by various means including, but not limited to, personal contribution.
- assuring that each member of the parish is asked to make a financial pledge
- approving the annual budget.
- seeing that the annual pledge to the diocese is paid.
- obtaining an annual audit of the parish financial statements.
- acting as the sole representative of the congregation in its relationship with the clergy of the parish.

**Source:** *Diocese of Atlanta, Vestry Handbook. See [www.episcopalatlanta.org](http://www.episcopalatlanta.org) for more information. Also, article 4 of the bylaws of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Family describes the legal requirements for the vestry. The bylaws are available in the church office.*

## Vestry Member Requisites and Nominations

Three vestry positions need to be filled to serve a term of three years. Before nominating fellow parishioners to serve for a three-year term, you must obtain from them their permission to be nominated.

Vestry requisites:

- Communicant in good standing
- Attends worship regularly
- Made contributions to Holy Family in year prior to election
- Works, prays and gives for the spread of God's kingdom
- Able to attend vestry meetings the fourth Tuesday of every month
- Able to attend day-long vestry retreat in late February
- 18+ years of age

Willing to be yoked with specific ministries to assist them in putting in place components of the Long Range Plan.

## Sr. Warden's/Vestry Report

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We began our year on January 29, 2023 with the election of four vestry members – Jim Braley, John Kirk, Ginger Griffith, Howell Kiser. Allan DeNiro, Julie Goodan, Roger Schultz, and Judy Wyndham were thanked for their service.

As a reminder, in late 2022, Holy Family was able to fully retire their mortgage. We celebrated as a parish with Bishop Rob Wright joining us for Epiphany 2023, a chili dinner and mortgage burning.

The vestry met for retreat on March 25, a day to get to know one another better, understand the work before us, and plan for the coming year. We began the day with an overview and detailed explanation by Finance Committee members of how our financials work and are presented each month. We spent time reviewing and updating the Long-Range Plan, and reviewed in detail our responsibilities as vestry members.

Dr. David Pacini was welcomed back for Ash Wednesday and the following Wednesdays as our Lenten speaker, presenting a series on The Great Vigil. Dr. Pacini was with us four years earlier for the Lenten program and was received enthusiastically then, as he was this year.

In May, the vestry and others from the parish began hosting small group input sessions. As a parish, we have been through this process before. It is a valuable means of gathering information about what is important to members of Holy Family. The process allows all voices to be heard and for the most frequently mentioned and supported comments to rise to the top. Over 65 of our members participated – an excellent turn out in support of charting the path to our future.

In July, we began the process of converting to Realm. We have known for a while that ACS, our church software, would be retiring. Christie was involved in training and preparation for this migration to ensure that Holy Family would have a smooth transition. If you still have not enrolled, please call the church office to initiate the process. It is not difficult. The Realm software provides many benefits for communication and data organization/access that we did not have with ACS.

Also, in July, our Safety Team, an ad hoc team, made information available to the parish on how we maintain awareness to ensure the safety of those who work on our campus, as well as those who worship with us. The vestry instituted procedures to aid in this awareness and to be ready to respond to an emergency should one occur.

A related concern reviewed by our Safety Team is how we respond to a medical emergency, should one occur. Members of our parish with medical backgrounds have updated all our first aid kits, made sure our emergency equipment, such as the defibrillator, is in working order, and have hosted a CPR class during the fall.

A group of members have cleaned up and organized the nursery so it is available for care of small children. While we don't have children on a regular basis right now, we should maintain our readiness -- always. The demographics of Pickens County may be changing slowly, but they do appear to be changing.



Wonderful Wednesdays took place each month through the summer and into the fall. We visited Tate Mountain Estates (May), Bent Tree (June), Sharp Mountain Preserve (July), Eagles Rest (August), and Grandview Lake (September). In October, we invited newcomers to Holy Family to join the vestry at the Conference Center/Pavilion for a meal prepared by Jacque LeBlanc and supplemented by pot luck dishes provided by those in attendance. In addition to these gatherings, members of Holy Family find ways to enjoy being together. We gather as Church Chicks, Legacy Ladies, Men's Breakfast, and regular events for members from Bent Tree, Big Canoe and Gilmer County.

Our concert series was a success again this year. Attendance at these programs continues to draw from the community. The series culminated on December 17 with the beautiful service of Lessons and Carols.

Members from Holy Family again participated in Serve Pickens One Great Day of Service. Eighteen local non-profits were served on this special day in October.

Our library has undergone a complete reorganization by Elaine DeNiro.

In September, as a result of many comments from the small group input sessions, it was very clear that the parish wants us to care for the facilities we have. The vestry decided to undertake a campaign to raise at least \$100,000 for two pressing needs – maintenance of the exterior of the church building and repair and sealing our parking lot. Both were seriously overdue. Before the end of the campaign, we had exceeded our goal. Now, not only will we be repairing and renewing the exterior of our building and repairing and resealing our parking lot, we also will be replacing the 20-plus-year old carpet in the parish hall and supplementing an established maintenance reserve fund.

We have undertaken a reprise of the Aging Well series. In November, we had the first in this series, 'Talking About the Tough Stuff' presented by Reverend Trisha Senterfitt. A second session was held on January 20 with Nancy Cochran Maddox, a local attorney, discussing 'Legal Issues'.

Last year, I ended my report with a plea for volunteers. I will do the same this year. Many of our ministries need support. We need whatever you have to offer. If you only have a few hours a month, we can find a place for you.

Last year, I gave you the word 'reconnecting.' We did that in 2022. In 2023, we did it better. I have another word for this year. It has been on my mind for most of the year as I have participated in what we've planned and observed what we've done. The word is 'Amazing!' This is truly an amazing parish and we accomplish amazing things.

I have enjoyed my time serving as senior warden and spending this last three years on the vestry working with the wonderful people that have served with me. Many thanks to George for his leadership, my co-vestry members for their diligent work, and you, our parish, for the support you have given all of us.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the vestry,  
*Jeannine Krenson, Sr. Warden*

## Finance & Treasurer Report

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2023 was a very successful year financially for Holy Family. Pledged contributions for 2023 were greater than budget and also greater than the total dollars pledged for the year. Unpledged contributions, which are primarily loose plate offerings, were also greater than budget. Total expenses were a bit above budget but were explained by items that needed to be expensed but were not budgeted. Overall the ministry chairs did an excellent job of controlling expenses as they always do. As a result of excellent pledged and unpledged contributions along with expense controls, we ended the year with a positive surplus which is very important for the future health of the parish.

The Diocese of Atlanta requires that we maintain a minimum cash to expense ratio of no less than 2.5 which means there is enough cash to cover 2.5 months of expenses. We finished the year well ahead of that requirement. Our cash position is excellent in part due to the successful building/parking lot renewal campaign and a good portion of the cash will be used for that project.

As noted above, we initiated a building/parking lot renewal campaign which proved to be very successful thanks to the generosity of a large number of parishioners. Additional dollars generated over and above the goal of the campaign will be placed in a maintenance reserve fund to be used for future maintenance needs in our aging physical plant.

The Finance Ministry adopted a proposed balanced budget for 2024 and the proposed budget was approved by the Vestry at their meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Ministry chairs submitted proposed budgets for their particular ministries and we owe a large debt of gratitude for their willingness to work with the Finance Ministry so that a balanced budget could be achieved.

We owe a big thank you for the work that Dan Ciomek had done as our Treasurer. He has spent numerous hours ensuring that the financial statements are presented accurately and on a timely basis. Thanks Dan for a continuing great job. Also thanks to the entire Finance Ministry team. They meet each month and review the financial statements in detail and ask many detailed questions.

One final note, over the next few weeks we will be transitioning from our current ACS software program to Realm. This new program will be much more user friendly and will also help us simplify the financial statements.

Submitted by,

*Jim Braley, Finance Ministry Chair*

*Dan Ciomek, Treasurer*

## Ministry Reports

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### Buildings

For the Buildings Ministry, we spent 2023 accomplishing several items to better understand and correct deficiencies in our operating expenses as well as to prepare ourselves to bring our facilities up to the standards that we all can be proud of.

For operating expenses, we renegotiated several expense items and arrived at the end of 2023 under budget. Our operating budget for 2024 stays remarkably similar to 2023's actuals, and we are optimistic about these number. Both dishwashers have been replaced, and we just replaced one of the furnaces that controls heat in the Parish Hall. The only major concerns are going to be the service and repairs of our aging HVAC systems throughout. We finally developed an "Maintenance Reserve Restricted Fund" to prepare for future high expense items and already that Fund is growing.

As many of you know we began a campaign to raise funds for two major, overdue, items of resealing our parking lot (this includes sealing the cracks and restriping) and applying a new coat of paint/stain on the exterior of our Sanctuary, Breezeway, and Parish Hall. Our target was \$100K, and we exceeded our expectations. As a result, we have executed an agreement, and work has already begun on our exterior repairing/replacing damaged siding, bee destruction and applying a special oil-based stain to our facilities. Unfortunately, weather conditions have caused a delay, but completion is expected this spring.

We have also executed an agreement to reseal/stripe our parking lot to commence as soon as weather (temperatures) permit. And finally, with additional funds collected, we are replacing the 22-year-old flooring in the Parish Hall. The remaining amount collected in the campaign will flow into the "Maintenance Reserve Restricted Fund", so we maintain the capital to keep our facilities prepared for the future.

*Terry Nicholson, Building Ministry Chair*

### Grounds

A key project on the upgrade of the storm drain ditches around the sanctuary were completed. Removal of trees and bushes around the Parish Hall that contributed to rodent infestation and their replacement with native plants was accomplished. Ongoing storm damage in and around the wooded areas of the property, as well as maintenance of the trail system, was completed. Additionally, 3 new members to the Grounds Team were added, bringing the team up to a 7 volunteer level.

*Bruce Elliott, on behalf of the Grounds Team*

## Outreach

The mission of the Outreach Ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Family is

- to identify needs,
- to recruit and train persons for servant ministry, and
- to develop and conduct programs for the community.

Our mission requires us to “love like Jesus”, as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry encourages us, and to do all in our power to improve the lives of those in need beyond our own small parish boundaries, to reach into our community and beyond.

Toward this end, the Outreach Budget from both parish pledges and individual gifts, has been approximately one tenth of the total church budget, for two years in a row. This commitment (\$51,000 in 2023) demonstrates our parish’s desire to share in God’s mission of spreading His love to all the world and fulfills the hopes and dreams of our founders to give a tithe of our bounty to outreach missions, near and far.

We have continued to financially support many of the major nonprofits in our community, several of which began here on our campus with our mission minded parishioners. In addition, many of our parishioners devote many hours volunteering at these organizations. As a community, we pray weekly for these nonprofits and those they serve during the Sunday services.

The local nonprofits we support through donations, volunteer hours, and prayer include ACES, Angels on Horseback, Arrendale Women’s Prison Ministries, the Boys and Girls Club, CARES, Good Samaritan, Habitat Pickens, Serve Pickens, and the Weekend Snack Program. Through these organizations children are fed, housed, cared for and educated; healthcare is provided; food is distributed; prisoners are visited and supported; disabled persons are strengthened in mind and body; and services are strengthened and expanded for many in our county with varied needs. Monthly, we invite one or more of the non-profits we support to come to our meeting to share their latest news with us.

When disaster strikes in the US or abroad, we provide financial support either through the affected Diocese or through Episcopal Relief and Development. We support an Atlanta refugee resettlement organization which helps resettle those the US admits into our country to escape war and/or famine in their own country.

Through our donations and prayers, we demonstrate our Christian love and charity to those outside the United States particularly to those in Honduras, Haiti, and Guinea in schools, healthcare clinics and children’s residences. We engage in mutual prayer with our partner parish in Cape Coast, Ghana. We inform ourselves of mission work through the Episcopal Church so that we may continue to learn and grow and seek out new ways to serve our neighbors.

We invite and encourage you to join with us in loving and caring for our neighbors, both near and far. By the Grace of God and in His name, we donated \$51,000 in 2023. We want to do more, not just by distributing funds, but also by walking alongside and by serving our neighbors, showing them God’s love.

We welcome you to become a part of this important ministry and to attend our Outreach Ministry meetings, held on the Fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00am in the Parish Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

*Leamarie True, Outreach Chair*

## Pastoral Care

***Mission Statement: To provide specific acts of loving compassionate care.***

Our Committee is made up of parishioners who have a variety of interests in and experience with many of our endeavors. We respond to individuals experiencing health concerns that impact being able to cook a meal, lacking transportation or being homebound. We are always in need of extra hands to help us.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Patricia Stimmel heads the group. The committee meets the last Monday of the month except for November, December and May. In addition to prayer shawls, the knitters have made fleece blankets for dogs and cats with a prayer attached. Some also make infant blankets. This is a delightful group of folks who enjoy handiwork, knitting prayer shawls for parishioners, and each other. All are welcome.

**Eucharistic Visitors** take communion to homebound parishioners.

**Greeting Card Ministry:** Mary Sue Zercher provides prayerful note cards of support for our church family. These cards are treasured expressions of God's love for us.

**Congregational Life Notes** is available to those who request it. It is a monthly email of prayer needs, thanksgivings, birthdays and community needs. Email the office to place your name on the prayer list and/or sign up to receive this email. The Daughters of the King maintain a confidential prayer list.

**Long Range Planning Goal #1:** Become aware of and to strive to meet the needs of aging parishioners. We are able to take communion to homebound parishioners and will increase that number with several newly trained Eucharistic ministers. There have been some lunches including older adults and trips to the grocery store and church. We plan to work with Bill Harkins who has a passion for those who are alone and the Church's role in responding to them.

**Legacy Ladies** was initiated a number of years ago as a meet-and-greet brown bag lunch for ladies of the church to get together; no agenda; just conversation and sometimes a speaker or a project. The goal was to include many new parishioners so they could get to know others in the church. It was difficult to receive names of new parishioners so we could contact them. Katie Hawkins and her sister Annie Pinner chaired the committee to try to revive interest in the group, with the hope that there would be a plan to share the names and numbers of newcomers with LL. Sadly, the group disbanded May 2023.

**Long Range Planning Goal #2:** Five years ago, we initiated a program that would address the needs of older adults as they age in place. We were fortunate to provide 2 years of programs before Covid, with an average attendance of 45. Sessions were held in the Parish Hall. Speakers addressed, how we age, housing, dementia, brain health, getting your papers in order, and downsizing, to name a few. Lynn Miller has taken the role of restarting this vital program. Tricia Senterfitt conducted a session last November. Nancy Maddox talked to us about legal issues related to aging and end of life care. We plan to have 4-6 more sessions in 2024. This is a very timely and important ministry. Watch for notices and plan to attend. We always welcome new volunteers to our mission. I am deeply grateful for the support of our clergy, church secretary, our wonderful committee and those in the congregation for providing specific acts of loving and compassionate care; we cannot do it without you.

*Winship Durrett, Chair*

