*Historic Beckford Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
www.shenandoahepiscopalians.org*

**St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church
5890 Main Street
Mt. Jackson, VA 22842
540-477-3335**

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church
122 East Court Street
Woodstock, VA
540-459-2720**

 Emmanuel Episcopal Church

 Vestry Meeting Minutes

 August 12, 2024

In attendance:

Mother Kathy Chris Hartmann (2024) Paula Everett (2025)

Emily Scott (2025) Bill Scott (2026) Tillie Kaufmann (2026)

Joy Bauserman Elizabeth Cottrell (2025) Buddy Tayman

Virginia Tayman

1. Opening Prayer offered by Mother Kathy
2. Approval of Minutes of June 2024.
3. Rector’s Report – Mother Kathy

Mother Kathy was able to check on almost all parishioners she thought might have problems with the rain this past Friday. Dick and Trudy Pence had a water problem in their basement. Chris Hartman got Gene’s Plumbing out. When the bill arrives, we will take care of it somehow.

There is a sign up sheet for two-hour shifts at the County Fair. We will have giveaways, including yardsticks, chip clips, sticky notes and fly swatters. The GAP booth will be next to us.

Shrine Mont – ensure that you make reservations for lunch if you are attending. Mother Kathy must submit by 8/19. Elizabeth will read at Shrine Mont. Bishop Goff will still be present and celebrate and preach.

Joy raised a concern about the flowers. Mother Kathy indicated that Trudy Pence will not be responsible for ordering flowers. Mother Kathy also noted that the three-week use of flowers was only to ensure that when there were no memorials that the church wasn’t paying each week for flowers. We do not need to be held to a strict three-week schedule. Joy will coordinate the flower schedule for now.

The ERD Grant of $8,000 for wildfire relief was distributed to five homeowners (four in Strasburg and one in Luray), and a firefighter who suffered a severe traumatic brain injury and is still in neuro rehab.

Mother Kathy intends to offer the part time administrator position to Caitlin Garvey but will first meet with Caitlin and the Senior Wardens. Caitlin has asked for more than the upper range, but she is a licensed attorney. She will work two days a week, six hours each day, one day at Emmanuel and one day at Saint Andrew’s. Salary will be split 50% - each parish will pay for six hours. This will no longer be a shared cost. The anticipated start is the beginning of September and we will evaluate if time is evenly split in three months.

1. Senior Warden’s Report – Chris Hartmann

No new ideas so will keep movies and potlucks going. October 28 will be a special movie and pizza party.

Chris would like better communication in Sunday bulletins from Senior and Junior wardens.

There will be no Halloween activity but Light Up Woodstock, and no potluck in November but a Thanksgiving dinner.

We need to be respectful of the use of the Parish Hall by Al Anon on Sunday nights

1. Junior Warden’s Report – Elizabeth Cottrell

**Episcopal Church road signs and hangers:** John and I installed them on the north end of town but were physically unable to do it on the south end. Volunteer? Or shall we hire someone? It’s on a steep slope and requires a ladder.

 **Weeds in mulch** – Once again, I had to get Beaune Brothers out to deal with the weeds

**Peter J. Lee Grant report** – submitted with about $600 due back to them, but Stephanie Higgins, our liaison at the Diocese, said they do not want anything back. If we can’t find something related to our request, we can use it for Outreach. I would suggest that our new county fair signage would qualify—anything else can go into Outreach budget. Do you agree?

 **Evidence of bats**: Dead bat found – alerted Dodson and they said they would come and check for holes in the ceiling and reseal anything they found.

**Cooling issues**: 6/13/24 Met Joe from Ortts Electric to fix A/C in sanctuary. He was there several hours and had to get a part from Winchester. Installed and fixed. Please keep the door between the church and the parish hall closed. Mother Kathy still needs to set this up so the church and parish hall can be controlled remotely. Ideally, both areas should be set on 76 or 78 when not in use.

 **Security alarm system**: 1) Met with Jamie from Cornerstone on July 8 after our alarm had gone off. He determined it was because of a power outage from the cooling repair above.  2) We have had a notification this month that Cornerstone has been sold to Hawk Security Systems out of Harrisonburg.

**Storm damage to roof**: After a recent storm, Joy found some loose shingles on the ground. Our church insurance company sent someone to examine the roof. He found wind damage estimated at just under $700 which is under our deductible, so the insurance will not cover it. I suggest we contact Wells Roofing to make the needed repairs.

**Water in the basement**: After the heavy rains from Hurricane Debbie on 8/8/24, water seeped into the basement under the door on the east end of the parish hall basement. John and I dragged the soaking rug outside and hug it over the railing to dry and mopped the water. I’ve asked Gene’s Plumbing to come check both of the basement-level drains outside each door and make sure they are not stopped up.

**Garbage D isposal stoppage**: After the last pot luck supper, the garbage disposer was stopped up again. John was able to use the tool to wiggle it back and forth and release some debris that he thought was chicken bones. It is now working. Please, please, please, do not put anything down the garbage disposer if at all possible.

 **Audio System**: Our microphone/audio system in the church is unreliable and prone to loud crackling noises that require us to turn it off. We have tried fixing this before to no avail. Mother Kathy suggests this could be a grant request item in the future.

  **Watering hydrangeas**: Before we got rain, I watered the hydrangeas we planted last summer. They seem to be doing okay.

**Audit** was reviewed and accepted on motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Chris. It was noted that gifts of stock are sold, not kept.

Caitlin will be reminding Vestry members about counting responsibilities.

1. Treasurer’s Report – Joy Bauserman

The checking account total balance for July was $13,189. The TOTF for June was $646,693.

Total balances of all assets for July (Checking and investments) are $736,021.

The balances reflect a withdrawal of $10,000 from the Church fund to the General Checking for operating expenses.

There is a question about some DMS checks.

The report was accepted on motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Emily.

1. Food Pantry Report – Paula Everett

Concerns have been expressed about the best way to use volunteers, including MMA cadets. The Pantry bank account has $6,438.00

1. Old Business

Discussed Shenandoah Memorial proposal about buying medical debt, will pursue when Katherine is present.

1. New Business

The Fire Department suggested that we add more Ring outdoor cameras.

We will keep thermostats at 76 degrees.

The Wardens from Emmanuel and St. Andrew’s will meet concerning plans for Mother Kathy’s sabbatical.

1. Adjourning prayer was offered.

Minutes recorded by Paula Everett.