

St. John's Parish
MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING
November 13, 2007

The November vestry meeting convened in the Parish Life Building at 7:00 PM. Members present were: Dannie Barteet, David Bernthal, Billy Crowther, Neal Edgerton, Senior Warden John Gervais, Junior Warden Brian Gill, Sherri Houston, Sue Jenkins, Trace Paradise, and Peter Tetrev. Also present were: The Rev. Dr. Greg Snyder, Treasurer Cindy Pennington and Recording Secretary Susan Shealey. Absent were: Darlene Blich, Stephen Haynsworth, and The Rev. Joe Gibbes.

Opening Meditation:

Father Greg opened meeting with prayer and a meditation from Matthew 16:13-20. He asked the vestry why we set aside and celebrate the Feast of Confession of St. Peter. Why is it so important? Because Peter got it right. He acknowledged that Jesus was the Son of God and not just another prophet. People that are coming to St. John's, including members and vestry, need to keep asking the questions. Who is Jesus to us? Is He just one of our options or is He the Son of the Living God? If He is, what does that mean for me? For my church? The key term is "living". He IS living and it is about a relationship. It is ongoing. There is a lot going on in the world, and people need to see who Jesus is to us.

Minutes were accepted as submitted.

Father Greg led the vestry in the reading of the vision.

LaRoche Building Renovations:

Boyd Baker gave the following update and proposal on the possibilities for the LaRoche Building Renovation project. Boyd stated that the estimated appraisal of the building will be approximately \$400,000. That will leave \$200,000 (50% of the appraised or assessed value) for renovations without having to bring the building to code as required by law. Brian Gill made a motion that we will not exceed 50% of the appraised or assessed value, whichever is higher, and that Boyd Baker should approach the architect for conceptual drawings in accordance with this motion. John Gervais seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Old Business:

Iglesia de San Juan:

Father Greg handed out a proposed written agreement that would define the relationship between St. John's and Iglesia de San Juan with San Juan as a mission of St. John's Parish. David Bernthal made a motion to accept the proposal for discussion. Brian Gill seconded the motion. Discussion began by reminding the vestry that the Bishop has asked St. John's three (3) times about this project. He wants to know what St. John's is going to do related to San Juan. One vestry member asked if we weren't already doing the things that were delineated in the proposed document. Other vestry members spoke of the importance

of a commitment in writing to Iglesia de San Juan. Making the commitment says that we are being called to join with them in their mission. The question remains for some vestry members: are we called to take on this mission? Several members found the wording “ultimate financial responsibility” troubling. Other members stated that again, it’s about making the commitment. John Gervais made a motion to table this item one more time with the understanding that the vestry should pray about it and be ready for a vote at the December meeting. Trace Paradise seconded the motion and the motion was tabled.

Nominating Committee:

The nominating committee consists of the four (4) off-going members of the vestry and they are: David Bernthal, John Gervais, Brian Gill and Peter Tetrev. No nominations for next year’s vestry have been received to date. The suggestion was made to put the vestry nomination form on the website. John Gervais then made the motion to hold the Annual Meeting at 12 noon on the third Sunday of January 2008. Trace Paradise seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Child Safety Policy:

The wardens have been looking at a new policy specific to St. John’s regarding the safety of children here at the church and at all church functions. A copy of the proposed policy will be emailed to all vestry members for suggestions and questions. This policy will be up for approval by means of a vote at the December meeting.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Committee:

In the absence of the Stewardship Chairman, Tom Gibbs, Father Greg stated that we have received 131 pledges totaling \$463,593 to date.

Grace Chapel:

Neal Edgerton, along with David Bernthal gave an update on the projected landscaping project for Grace Chapel. This plan would add shrubs and plants costing around \$2500-\$3000 around the structure. The cost for adding an irrigation system to the project, which is needed at Grace Chapel anyway, would be approximately another \$1000. Peter Tetrev made a motion to approve the landscaping and irrigation plan as presented. Dannie Barteet seconded, and the motion was approved. Neal also reported that the electrical work to install electrical wall outlets that had been scheduled has been completed and also came in under the estimated costs.

New Business:

Parish Life Building Use Policy:

This proposed policy would set guidelines for the use of the Parish Life Building by church and non-church groups. The proposed policy will be emailed to the vestry for review and suggestions and will be on the agenda for a vote at the December meeting.

Brown Bag Chats:

Billy Crowther suggested a monthly brown bag lunch with the rector that would be available to all parishioners. He suggested that it be limited to around 20 people. Parishioners could sign up for this lunch which could be held once a month. The vestry thought it was a good idea and agreed to start this at the beginning of the year.

2008 Budget:

John Gervais presented the 2008 budget proposal. He reminded the vestry that the finance committee will meet one more time before presenting the final budget which will be up for a vote at the December vestry meeting. Any requests for changes in this proposed budget should be addressed to the Finance Committee prior to their next meeting.

Sr. Wardens Report:

John Gervais reminded the vestry that we are all working members of the vestry and it is each member's responsibility to find out the answers to questions they have and to get the information needed to provide leadership.

Jr. Warden's Report:

Brian Gill thanked Jerry Houston for the fantastic job he did in securing the crew that painted the sanctuary. He also reported that a water leak had been found in the cemetery but had been fixed.

Curate's Report:

There was no curate's report at this time as the Curate is in the Dominican Republic on a mission trip with the Outreach Committee.

Rector's Report:

Father Greg went over the following upcoming events and dates:

- November 15, 2007: Leadership Meeting-cancelled
- November 25, 2007: Homecoming Sunday-The Rev. Dr. Ladson Mills, III
- December 1, 2007: Founder's Luncheon-vestry decided to plan this for 2008
- December 2, 2007: Sword Sunday/First Sunday of Advent
- December 18, 2007: Vestry Christmas Party
- January 25, 2008: Diocesan Convention
- January 26, 2008: Consecration of the XIVth Bishop of South Carolina
- May 11, 2008: Confirmation with Bishop Allison
- July 6, 2008: First Parish visit by Bishop Mark Lawrence

The vestry asked that the office contact the Leadership Team and cancel the meeting scheduled for November 15th. Father Greg will follow up with a letter addressing this particular quarterly meeting and ask for feedback on if another venue for disseminating information might be more effective.

Treasurer's Report:

Cindy Pennington reminded the vestry that they had the financials for the month as well as the proposed 2008 budget. She asked if there were any questions, and there were none at this time.

The vestry decided to add to the weekly bulletins for the month of December the amount we are short on pledges year to date.

Having heard all business, Father Greg prayed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Shealey