

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

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

Opening Meditation:

Father Greg did a word study on patience. He emphasized that the word patience actually means to "separate anger from self" and also to "remain under something". This process yields perseverance, slowness in avenging wrongs, longsuffering and endurance. He read 2 Peter 1:5-9, James 1:2-4, James 5:9-11, Romans 5:1-5, and Hebrews 12:1-2. He reminded the vestry that patience is the way of the cross and that we should all live with patient expectation.

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

The vestry then approved the minutes of the last meeting as presented.

Old Business:

Barrier Island Free Clinic:

John Gervais asked to table the discussion about site location for the clinic from the January vestry meeting until he and Brian Gill have had a chance to meet with Drs. Booth and Davis to discuss options and details. There was discussion about other properties that may also be available to this group for the clinic site.

La Roche Building Dedication:

John Gervais presented the vestry with a proposal for wording of the plaque that will be placed in the Parish Life Building. After discussion he made a motion that the plaque read as follows: "LAROCHE BUILDING-In recognition of Robbie and Alma LaRoche and with appreciation for their lifetime of service to our Lord Jesus Christ at St. John's Parish". Trace Paradise seconded the motion and it was approved.

It was also decided that the dedication of the building will take place on April 22 at the Parish Picnic.

Seminarian Support and Funding:

John Gervais proposed the following resolution related to support of seminarians:

"Be it resolved that St. John's Parish pledges to financially support any and all seminary students whom we sponsor until their completion, graduation or withdrawal from seminary."

David Bernthal seconded the resolution. Discussion led to an amendment that the resolution read as follows:

"Be it resolved that St. John's Parish pledges to financially support any and all seminary students whom we sponsor and who have received the approval of the diocese of South Carolina until their completion, graduation or withdrawal from seminary."

David Bernthal again seconded the motion. There was a call for the question and the resolution passed with one vestry member voting against it.

Iglesia de San Juan:

Father Greg reported that Bishop Salmon has asked St. John's to consider partnering with Iglesia de San Juan as a mission of St. John's Parish. Father Greg relayed the Bishop's observation that when missions have been adopted by strong churches, their chance for success, growth and eventual independence is much greater. We would have the ability to request funding through the diocese, of the congregational development committee and Iglesia de San Juan would then fall under the authority of St. John's vestry. The vestry asked about the Bishop's requested timeline. Some voiced worries about the cultural and language barriers that may arise in terms of assisting and leading that congregation. Questions were posed about plans that Iglesia de San Juan has for utilizing another building for their worship. Will that entail rent and other expenses? There needs to be further discussion with Iglesia de San Juan to answer these and many more questions. Father Greg then asked the vestry to be in prayer about this issue and then answer these questions: Do we feel called? Is this ministry needed? If not us, who? The discussion will continue at the next vestry meeting. David Bernthal made a motion to continue to study this with positive implications and have the Outreach Committee manage the process of investigation. Trace Paradise seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Outreach Committee will investigate the situation and report back to the vestry.

Outreach Tithing:

Stephen Haynsworth reported that some years in the past, when the operating contributions exceeded budget, the Outreach Committee had recommended the allocation of 10% of the excess contributions. Since 2006 ended with excess funds, he asked if the parish should contribute 10% of the excess income? John Gervais read the outreach committee guidelines to the vestry. Stephen made a resolution that 10% of operating contributions in excess of budgeted income in any given year be distributed by St. John's; the allocation of which would be recommended by the Outreach Committee. Trace Paradise seconded the motion and the vestry approved.

Committee Reports:

Kitchen Committee:

Trace Paradise and Darlene Blich reported on the bid for replacing kitchen cabinets. The original bid from two years ago was from \$5500 to \$6600. Currently the bid is a minimum of \$7500 as presented. The committee is regrouping and reworking the suggested changes to better fit the budget amount.

Scholarship Committee:

The committee would like to do a better job this year of broadcasting the availability of the scholarship money. They would like to coordinate with youth Sunday and will get with Rob about this.

Grace Chapel:

David Bernthal announced that there will be an Easter Sunrise service at Grace Chapel April 8th at 6 am. He also reported on an update with changes to the committee worksheet. The first recommendation changes the reporting relationship of the Grace Chapel Committee. The committee would report to the Vestry instead of Missions and Outreach. The second recommendation changes the qualifications of the Committee Chair. The new wording reads, "Appointed by the Senior Warden from among the vestry membership. A new chair will be appointed for the last year of an outgoing Chair's term so that they serve together for one year and thus provide continuity". John Gervais made a motion to accept the changes as stated. Trace Paradise seconded the motion and the motion passed. David also shared that Neal Edgerton is the incoming chair for this committee.

Finance Committee:

John Gervais made a proposal that the vestry approve the formation of an emergency reserve fund to be used in the event of a catastrophic event. The fund could be used for the deductible for insurance claims or other items related to a catastrophic event. The fund will be started with a \$30,000 donation received for this stated purpose. Sherri Houston seconded the motion. There was discussion, which led to John Gervais proposing an amendment stating that any earnings accumulated on said fund will remain in the fund. Sherri Houston seconded this amendment and the full motion passed.

New Business:

Terminix Contract:

Susan Shealey reported on behalf of Brian Gill about the possible need for extending our pest control service to include Formosan termite coverage. The vestry agreed that Brian Gill, as Junior Warden could make the decisions related to this item. David Bernthal suggested that we utilize Terminix services for Grace Chapel as well. He will get with Brian Gill to work out the details.

Senior Warden:

John Gervais had no specific report at this time

Junior Warden:

As Brian Gill was out of town, Susan Shealey reported on one item of note. The electricity bill has increased substantially (approximately \$700 per month) following the service and wiring changes that were made at the beginning of this year. Berkeley Electric Coop has determined that we have had a faulty meter for years and that with a new meter, the current, higher bill is correct. The vestry and staff will work diligently to promote the conservation of as much electricity as possible.

Curate's Report:

Father Joe passed out the latest 1st impressions cards received.

At the last vestry meeting, approval was given for the formation of a committee to evaluate the creation of a preschool. Father Joe reported that the committee members are Melanie Poston, Joe Gibbes, Walt Miller, Liz and Jason Yandle, Tara D'Annunzio, Katie and Jason Houston, Peggy Gervais, Amanda and Chris Inabinet, and Lynne Bernthal. He stated that the primary job of this committee is to pray and investigate whether this is something that St. John's Parish is called to do.

Father Joe reported on the Men's group that has been meeting on Thursday mornings. They average 12-13 men each week and are finishing a study on the book Wild at Heart. They will be working with Habitat for Humanity on April 14 and three of the men will be joining him, and a group from Holy Cross on a men's hike this spring. These men are Peter Tetrev, Perry Jameson, and Richard LaRoche.

He ended his report by informing the group of his appointment to the Young Clergy Initiative which is a planning committee put together to create a structure for mentoring young clergy. They will be meeting in the near future to begin the process.

Rector's Report:

Father Greg announced a March 29th vestry meeting with Bishop Salmon and Boo Penniwell. He also reminded the vestry of the upcoming Easter service schedule, the next vestry meeting on April 17th, and the Parish Picnic with Bishop Allison and the LaRoche building dedication on April 22.

He informed the vestry of the current status of the consents needed to confirm Mark Lawrence as Bishop of South Carolina. He confirmed that there were 55 of the 56 votes needed. Twenty diocese have not made a commitment one way or another. Father Greg indicated "that the votes are there" and asked the vestry to pray for the House of Bishops meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Cindy Pennington gave the report on the February financials. She reported that in 2006, \$18,700 was repaid to the Grace Chapel funds (\$36,000 was borrowed during 2005).

Father Joe prayed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Shealey