

**ST. JOHN'S PARISH  
VESTRY MEETING  
AUGUST 10, 2010**

Present: Junior Warden Boyd Baker, Claudia Boyce, Senior Warden Perry Gervais, Jerry Houston, Bubba Jenkins, Bill Leland, Adair McKoy, Libby Puckette, Bruce Saxman, and Ford Walpole. Also attending: Fr. Greg Snyder, Fr. Dagnall Free, Treasurer John Blich, and Recording Secretary Melanie Poston.

Not Present: Tom Gopsill and Perry Jameson

Fr. Greg Snyder asked for prayer requests, then opened with prayer and a meditation.

Fr. Greg introduced four guests who were present to make presentation to the Vestry.

**Cherry Tree Development**

Derek Duncan, from Cherry Tree Development, a sustainability business, spoke to the Vestry. Derek has helped write grants that funded hot water heaters at Camp St. Christopher. Derek feels people here have a heart for the environment. Cherry Tree Development would like the opportunity to work with St. John's on sustainability by possibly writing grants, and planning projects and that St. John's would partner, engaging with the community using natural resources of property.

**Rural Housing**

Sylvia Williams, director of Rural Housing thanked St. John's for past support. Sylvia talked about the need for mattresses at Rural Housing, as they have had an outbreak of bed bugs. She said they are also in need of food, adding that Our Lady of Mercy is assisting with food. She also said there is a need for prayer, with prayer in action, visits. Claudia Boyce noted that St. John's was very blessed in the visits made to Rural Housing.

**Arts and Crafts Ministry**

Walt Miller told the Vestry that part of his job as director of Faith Formation is to encourage people to take on ministry. Walt would like to encourage people to use their activities, vocations, and avocations as ministries for God's glory. Walt sees arts and crafts as an interest for children and many adults, and proposes beginning an arts ministry with clay. He would like to purchase two portable potter's wheels and a medium kiln. In addition a small dedicated shed with a 220v outlet would be required to permanently house the kiln. The estimated cost of the two pottery wheels and a medium kiln, plus a small shed would be \$3,000. Walt believes since this is an activity primarily targeting children, the Youman Youth Endowment would be an appropriate source of money to fund this ministry. There is approximately \$4500 available in the Youman Youth Endowment currently.

**Iglesia de San Juan**

Carlos Bing-Zaremba and Ann Edenfield talked to the Vestry about the future of Iglesia de San Juan. Carlos described San Juan as being in a rebuilding stage, since The Reverend Mercedes Julian has moved to Rhode Island and there is no funding available from the Diocese. San Juan is continuing Sunday services, but attendance has fallen off since Mercedes' departure. Sasha Milleman is serving as administrative assistant to San Juan and lines up guest priests.

Ann said the short-term goal is to keep the mission alive. She feels they have a faithful base. In addition to setting up a calendar of rotations for priests, Sasha is printing fliers, bulletins, and a directory. There is also a plan to send letters to local churches asking for support (contributions) for this ministry. The hope is to hire a part-time bi-lingual priest.

San Juan is the only Hispanic Episcopal church in the Diocese. Other churches on Johns Island do have Hispanic services. There are an estimated 15,000-20,000 Hispanics on the Sea Islands. It was noted that the Hispanic community is declining in population because of the lack of jobs. At the height of the program, during Mercedes' tenure, there were approximately 45 good, solid parishioners.

Fr. Greg observed that the Vestry will need to decide how and if we will be involved in the Hispanic ministry.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer John Blich reviewed the July financial report. John also distributed a balance sheet of the restricted accounts. He noted that there is money available in our endowments, and suggested the appropriate committees investigate ways to use the money.

John distributed the 2011 Budget Request forms. He asked Vestry members to instruct the committee chairs to return the forms no later than September 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **LaRoche Building Renovations**

Junior Warden Boyd Baker said that work is complete on the LaRoche Building, and he has begun work on the Parish Life Building. Chair rail has been installed, and the painting below the chair rail has begun. A more high-quality, washable paint is being used.

#### **Insurance**

Senior Warden Perry Gervais distributed a handout which outlined the cost of the current policy with the changes the Vestry voted upon. David Bernthal is now serving on the Diocesan Insurance Committee. The question of whether or not the stucco on the Parish Life building is synthetic stucco was asked. Bill Leland and Boyd Baker will investigate.

#### **Use of Parish Life Building by Creative Learning**

Fr. Greg reminded the Vestry of the email vote by the Vestry giving temporary approval to Creative Learning to continue using a room in the Parish Life Building for lunch. Will this use increase the rent of \$800 per month that Creative Learning currently pays? Adair

McKoy made a motion to leave the contract rent at \$800 per month. He added that the preschool is responsible for keeping the area used clean. Claudia Boyce seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed.

### **Minutes**

Minutes from the two special Vestry meetings in June and the minutes from the July Vestry meeting were passed as presented.

### **Iglesia de San Juan**

The Vestry discussed the future of Iglesia de San Juan. Libby expressed concerns about putting a great deal of money into San Juan. She stated that other churches in the area may be reaching the Hispanic community better than we are. The question was raised that if the high attendance reached 40 at best, with a full-time priest loved by the Hispanic community, how many will come now? Perhaps those members may be better served by other churches. Fr. Greg said he had hoped to include ministries in Spanish as part of St. John's. The youth of the Hispanic community can speak English, and perhaps bi-lingual members could participate in the St. John's services. He asked if we try to meet their needs here through Bible study and other ministries. Boyd Baker said he is curious to see the results with Sasha as the coordinator. Fr. Free feels San Juan needs to come to the Vestry with a vision. Fr. Greg asked the Vestry to give the matter prayerful consideration.

### **Jobs on the Islands**

Boyd Baker, Claudia Boyce, and Bruce Saxman met with Anderson Mack, a residential contractor. Mr. Mack stated that it is getting harder to help the poor, and that **everyone** must have a permit to do work. We can not pick up people off the street and ask Mr. Mack to hire them; they have to be licensed. Discussion followed.

### **Feeding of the Multitude**

Claudia Boyce said that the Feeding of the Multitude will be held at St. John's again this year since Holy Spirit's new kitchen will not be completed in time. The date is November 20. Claudia asked the Vestry members to take on a subcommittee chairmanship. She especially needs help in for Set-Up and Clean-Up.

### **Community Center**

Claudia would like to re-visit looking at having a Christian community center on the island, possibly on the Glebe land. Claudia feels very passionate about the youth on the islands, and asked the Vestry to pray about how St. John's can reach them. Perry Gervais asked Claudia to bring the matter up to the various churches at a Feeding of the Multitude meeting.

### **Senior Warden's Report**

Perry Gervais read a letter from Trevor Spencer requesting financial and prayer support. Trevor is attending Trinity School for Ministry in the fall. He previously worked at Camp St. Christopher and Crosstown Ministries. Perry Gervais made a motion to send a one-time donation of \$3,000 to Trevor. The money would be moved from the unused funds

of the Restricted - New Clergy Relocation fund to the Restricted – Seminarian fund. Jerry Houston seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Perry also told the Vestry that Polly Sosnowski will teach courses on child safety on August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral, and on August 28<sup>th</sup> at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Both classes will be held from 9:00 – 12:30.

### **Junior Warden's Report**

Boyd Baker reported that he hired an electrician to go through all the buildings to check out the lights and ballasts. He will have the electrician go through periodically, checking all the lights.

Boyd expressed concern that during Vacation Bible School visits were planned to Rural Housing. Boyd was told by an EMS worker, who overheard the plan, that the EMS workers are not permitted to respond to certain apartments without a police escort. Fr. Greg asked Rob Dewey about the concerns. Rob stated that at night there are certain apartments they do not go to without police escort. Fr. Greg said we can check ahead of time through Rob. Only adults visited the apartments this year, but in the future 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders may visit approved apartments. Fr. Greg said we could prepare better for next year, and the parents would be informed.

### **Curate's Report**

Fr. Free met with Linda Fasiq of Rural Missions to look at the needs of the islands.

Fr. Free told the Vestry about a Christian Golf Tournament that Joe Binz, Thom Pennington, and he are putting together at Stono Ferry on October 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be a devotion before the tournament.

### **Rector's Report**

Fr. Greg distributed a hand-out on the History and Heritage of the Episcopal Church and reviewed it with the Vestry. He also distributed the Westminster Shorter Catechism which asks, "What is the chief end of man?" It is to glorify God.

Fr. Greg asked the Vestry to pray about all the issues discussed during the meeting. He said to ask themselves how we can glorify God, and are we glorifying God. Fr. Greg requested the Vestry ask this question about all that is being considered, in all that we do!

Fr. Greg reviewed important upcoming dates, bringing special attention to September 11<sup>th</sup>, which is Brian Gill's ordination. It is at 11:00 am at the Cathedral.

Fr. Free closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie Poston  
Recording Secretary