

St. John's Parish

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

July 8, 2008

The July Vestry Meeting convened in the Parish Life Building at 7:00 PM

Members present were: Junior Warden Boyd Baker, Dannie Barteet, Darlene Blicht, Billy Crowther, Neal Edgerton, Senior Warden Perry Gervais, Stephen Haynsworth, Sue Jenkins, Sherri Houston, Adair McKoy, and Libby Puckette. Also present were: The Rev. Dr. Greg Snyder, Treasurer Cindy Pennington, and Recording Secretary Susan Shealey. Absent were: Father Joe Gibbes and Trace Paradise.

Father Greg Snyder opened the meeting with prayer.

Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic and YMCA:

Father Greg then introduced Dr. Charlie Davis who was in attendance to give a presentation regarding the Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic (BIFMC), and make a proposal regarding the Main Road Property. He suggests that the Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic be relocated there after their current 2 year lease, with a third year option, expires. The Duke Endowment Grant allows them three years on the property they are currently leasing. He also proposed that part of the land be allocated for a YMCA. Dr. Davis gave background information regarding the BIFMC. He told the vestry that he and Dr. Booth began work on the clinic in May 2006. They were given a 501(c)3 in December 2006. They started seeing patients in April of this year and have seen 110 new patients to date. They are above projected numbers at this point. They have four doctors donating one-half a day each week. Their vision is that every man, woman and child will have access to health care. Their proposal would incorporate the BIFMC, a YMCA, and a mental health clinic on a 20 acre campus. Brad Mundy, who is leading up the fundraising campaign for the proposed YMCA, spoke of the positive effects of having a YMCA in this community. He projects that the building will cost \$8-\$12 million dollars to build. They would look to achieve a membership of 3000-5000 people. They are assuming that it will take three to four years to raise the necessary funds and one year to build. They pledged to take care of raising the money if St. John's would help with the land.

After the presentation, there was much discussion and many questions after the presentation. Darlene Blicht asked about transportation. Billy Crowther suggested we have a survey done to determine which 20 acres to donate. It would take money to prepare the extra land for any other purpose so we could sell 36 acres and give them 20 acres. Dannie Barteet asked "Who owns the land, St John's or the diocese?" Father Greg stated that St. John's has the authority to sell or donate the land with notification to the diocese. Stephen Haynsworth said that the idea sounds great and that St. John's needs to be brave. The Lord has given us the property so how can we use it for the community. Is this the way to do that? Neal Edgerton questioned whether a decision of this magnitude should be something that the vestry decides on its own or would this necessitate congregational input?

After discussion, the vestry agreed to pray about this and continue to look at the possibilities, even calling the BIFMC and the YMCA back to the another meeting to continue to answer questions.

Meditation:

Father Greg Snyder then led the vestry in a meditation. He read Luke 14:25-35 and Luke 17:1-10. He then talked about discipleship and counting the cost in all we do, not just monetarily but in parish life too. As a parish we should look at the things we would like to do and ask ourselves, does it fit with the vision? If it does, then it has potential to happen. If not, then perhaps it is not a project we should be involved in. The bottom line is that God has to be involved.

Minutes:

Minutes from the last meeting were distributed and the vestry decided to take time to look them over, email any changes to the office and then approve via email vote. Email approval was granted for the July minutes.

Stewardship of Resources/Financial Situation:

The vestry collectively stated that even after prayer and fasting, they have felt no strong sense of urgency to make changes related to the current allocation of resources and the budget, except to inform the congregation and work with committee chairs about spending in the various committees. They looked over a proposed article for the Bridge that would inform the congregation about where St. John's stands financially at mid-year. Perry Gervais made a motion that the article should be called the Mid-Year Stewardship Report and should be placed in the upcoming Bridge. Billy Crowther seconded and the motion carried.

Pre-school Support for Sarah Hocutt:

Boyd Baker informed the vestry that he had met with Joe regarding the pre-school and states that it could be set up if we do it carefully. It's doable. He feels that we would need a contract. Sherri Houston told the vestry about the effort that Sarah has put for this proposal to happen. Sarah has met with Danyelle regarding use of the LaRoche building as it would affect the nursery and nursery workers. After that meeting, it appears that they would be able to work well together. Sherri suggests that we take her at face value and give her a chance of at least a six-month lease. It would her both parties a chance to see if this is what is in the best interest of all involved. Sherri does not see a problem with doing this, especially with a six-month lease.

Sue Jenkins stated that she is not opposed to providing space but doesn't see it as part of our mission.

Father Greg referred back to chapter 5 out of the book Remember the Future, on outside use of buildings, and wondered out loud if we might need to ask a few more questions and accurately define the relationship between Sarah and St. John's. He asked the vestry, "Why are we doing this?"

Sherri Houston made a recommendation from the committee that we allow Sarah to utilize the building for her pre-school for at least a period of six months.

Dannie Bartet said that Father Joe had convinced him that it could be a good thing to do at this point.

Adair McKoy felt that the opportunity to partner would be a better deal and this point. A joint venture would allow us to continue the program if and when she decided that she no longer wanted to continue with the pre-school.

Stephen Haynsworth felt like it would provide a Christian atmosphere for the community.

Neal suggested that the vestry read, if they had not, or re-read chapter 5 of Remember the Future, and get the Finance Committee to calculate the cost of the use of the facilities.

Billy Crowther then made a motion to have the committee proceed with the recommendation of having legal and financial questions answered. There was more discussion that ended with a call for the question and the motion as follows:

Allow the committee to continue in a positive way, looking at the relationship between Sarah Hocutt and St. John's Parish. The vestry is voting in principle to the idea looking toward a final vote in August.

275th Anniversary Committee:

Karie Ann Crowther, chair for the committee will bring a report to the next vestry meeting.

Sosnowski Scholarship Committee:

Former Chair Sherri Houston and current chair Libby Puckette just reminded vestry that scholarship applications are due into the church office by July 15, 2008.

Stewardship Committee and Chair:

Father Greg informed the vestry that he is putting together a committee of former stewardship committee chairs, electing a current chair for the stewardship committee, and formulating a new stewardship program.

Senior Warden's Report:

Perry Gervais reported to the vestry that he had received the final report from the auditor. He met with the auditor and the finance committee. He commented that we had a great audit with very few must do recommendations and other potential changes simply to enhance the systems we already have in place.

Junior Warden's Report:

Boyd Baker let the vestry know that he had nothing to report at this time except that the estimates for removal of trees are on the way.

Associate Rector's Report:

There was no report at this meeting due to Father Joe Gibbes vacation.

Rector's Report:

Father Greg gave handouts concerning GAFCON.

He informed the vestry that St. John's now has a new deacon, Fred Thompson, husband of Lish Thompson and son-in-law of the late Alicia Anderson. He will begin service at St. John's on Sunday July 20, 2008.

Treasurer's Report:

Pennington educated the vestry about the source of the money and stated that the money is actually from multiple sources. The Barnwell estate money was received in the 1970's and the Rich estate funds were received in the early 2000's. A legal opinion was obtained in 1983 regarding the Barnwell funds. However it simply stated that Grace Chapel was to be "taken care of". The Rich money had no restrictions placed on it and was merely "given to Grace Chapel".

Some vestry members said that we have often borrowed Grace Chapel funds. According to Cindy \$36,000 was borrowed in 2005 and was repaid in 2006 and 2007. If there were other borrowings, they occurred before the receipt of Rich Estate money.

Cindy presented the financials as had been emailed to all vestry members previously. She pointed out that in May 2008, we brought in \$9000 more than we spent but that Year-to-Date we are \$33,800 behind budget overall.

She showed the vestry, that we are ahead in contributions revenue compared to the same period last year.

Cindy Pennington reminded the vestry that when a specific need has been identified, parishioners have increased giving to meet the need. She cited examples; such as Seminary funds, Missionary funds. She believes the congregation wants to support the needs that are presented.

She also reported that the seminarian fund currently contains around \$8000. Charles Jenkins, our seminarian has received a \$1500 scholarship as well but the estimated costs for the upcoming year are still more that we have available in the fund. In the past, fundraisers have helped and it is probably time to do one.

After this report, Boyd Baker mad a motion that the meeting be adjourned and it was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Shealey