

ST. JOHN'S PARISH
VESTRY MINUTES
December 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Greg Snyder. Vestry members in attendance were: : Dannie Barteet, Claudia Boyce, Billy Crowther, Senior Warden Perry Gervais, Stephen Haynsworth, Jerry Houston, Perry Jameson, Bubba Jenkins, Adair McKoy, and Libby Puckette. Others attending were The Rev. Dr. Greg Snyder, The Rev. Joe Gibbes, Treasurer John Blich, Recording Secretary Melanie Poston, Not present: Boyd Baker and Neal Edgerton

Fr. Greg Snyder opened the meeting with communion.

Cindy Pennington, Vice President of Water Missions, Felix Masasa, Country Director of Water Missions, Uganda, and Liz McNutt, wife of Clark McNutt, Regional Director of Africa Water Missions International, spoke to the Vestry about the desperate need for safe water in Uganda.

The Vestry continued with the reading of the Vision statement.

The November meeting minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Blich reminded the Vestry that Jerry Houston, chairman of Finance, will rotate off the Finance Committee at the end of this year. Finance nominated Billy Crowther to fill Jerry's seat. Billy Crowther's appointment to the Finance Committee was approved.

John proposed a restricted fund for legal fees. Perry Gervais made a motion to create a restricted legal fund. Billy Crowther seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The Treasurer will serve as the fund manager.

John gave the latest Stewardship pledge figures. In 2009 we had 155 pledges which totaled \$589,322. To date, we have 143 pledges which total \$637,238. Of the 143 pledges, 27 are new, which leaves 39 people/families who pledged last year still needing to pledge.

John spoke about a generous gift which was given to St. John's since the last Vestry meeting. The Vestry will designate how the money will be spent at a later date.

Jerry Houston made a motion to use the restricted funds for Vacation Bible School to cover the expenses from VBS. Dannie seconded the motion.

John reviewed the financial report.

Alpha Course Group

Libby Puckette spoke of her excitement over the upcoming Alpha Course. She said the committee is still trying to line up “Encouragers”, for small groups. The Encouragers work in the small groups to encourage conversation. The committee also is lining up people to help in Hospitality, and needs someone to coordinate the weekend away.

Perry Jameson spoke about how being saved is applied to issues today.

A video of Alpha testimonies was shown, illustrating how Alpha has transformed lives, and transformed churches.

Alpha begins January 14, 2010 and ends the weekend before Easter. Libby is the Spring Director, and Heather Harwell will be the Fall 2010 Alpha Course Director.

Care and Help of the Needy

Fr. Greg reminded everyone to help get the word out that we have resources to help people in need. Fr. Joe Gibbes told about how St. John’s was able to help a family who had their power cut off the day before Thanksgiving.

Stewardship

Fr. Greg asked the Vestry to contact people who have not yet pledged for 2010, and passed out pledge forms. He stressed the importance of the pastoral counseling in stewardship. Fr. Greg noted that it is both humbling and amazing how generous the people of St. John’s are, and also asked that the Vestry continue to lift the Diocese up in prayer.

Feeding of the Multitude

Claudia Boyce reported on the extraordinary experience of the 2009 Feeding of the Multitude (FTM) and what it has done to unite this community. She noted the closeness felt that day by the people united in helping the people of the sea islands. She commented on Fr. Greg’s powerful opening. Fr. Greg commended Claudia and her committee for their work which involved 24 churches. Approximately 1700 plates were served. Fr. Joe and John and Tara D’Annunzio took the leftovers to Crisis Ministries.

Claudia said that the original intention of FTM was to show the community that Christians love them, but the unintended consequence is that FTM is building up the Christian community.

NEW BUSINESS

LaRoche Building Renovations

Fr. Greg reported that Junior Warden Boyd Baker met with the people who use the LaRoche Building. Jerry Houston said that the renovations will probably begin with the upstairs restroom.

Vestry Person of the Month

Fr. Greg reminded everyone of the responsibilities of the Vestry Person of the Month:

- Collect offering from all three services on Sundays;
- Lock all doors;
- Check that coffee pots are turned off.

Senior Wardens Report

Perry Gervais reported that he will send the 2010 pledge to the Diocese.

Perry made a motion that no monies from the St. John's portion given to the Diocese of South Carolina go to the National church (TEC). Claudia Boyce seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Perry thanked Jerry Houston for his work on the Finance Committee. Jerry will rotate off the Finance Committee at the end of the month. Perry commented that the organization of the budget process has been very good. The Vestry applauded Jerry for his work. Perry also mentioned that Brian Gill's unexpired term on Finance needs to be filled, since Brian, as a diaconal candidate, is no longer eligible to serve on the committee.

The fundraiser for Alex Baker raised \$3,471. If Alex has needs, he should come to the Vestry. Claudia said funds are available through the Global Missions fund or through the Missions - Foreign line item. Fr. Greg asked that Claudia find out what Alex needs, and asked that the Vestry encourage Alex as he prepares to leave for his mission with Youth With A Mission (YWAM).

Stephen Haynsworth thought the fundraising dinner was a good social outreach and would like the Vestry to think about hold such an event every other month to raise money for missions. The general consensus was that fundraising dinners are probably most successful when they are for something and someone specific.

Associate Rector's Report

Fr. Joe Gibbes requested that the Vestry approve \$1900 for his housing allocation. Clergy compensation for attributable housing and utilities expenses as declared by the clergy may be excluded from taxable income, but are included in earnings for self-employment. Adair McKoy made a motion to approve \$1900 for Fr. Joe Gibbes' housing allocation. Perry Gervais seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Fr. Joe reported that two campfires have been held since the last men's hike. There will be a family campfire at 6:30 pm on December 18th at Billy Crowthers home. All are welcome, whether or not they have participated in the hikes. Karie Ann Crowther will give her testimony at the December campfire. Joe noted that the men are meeting also during time between the campfires.

Rector's Report

Fr. Greg Snyder shared thank you letters from groups to whom we have dispersed funds.

He also showed the Vestry the full-page photo of Grace Chapel that ran in the December issue of Southern Living.

He reminded everyone of the invitation to join the youth on Sunday, December 20 from 4:00-6:00 pm for caroling to our shut-ins. At 6:00-7:30 we will meet at the rectory for refreshments.

Fr. Greg read a note from some parishioners who wanted to express appreciation to St. John's for all the church does for others in Christian spirit.

Fr. Greg reviewed upcoming important dates.

2010 Budget

Discussion was held on the proposed 2010 Budget and the anticipated revenue figures. Adair McKoy made a motion to accept \$760,980 in revenue as the "hoped for" number. Dannie Barteet seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Libby Puckette made a request that the Vestry approve \$13,000 for the Alpha Course. Perry Jameson made a motion to designate \$13,000 from undesignated funds for a restricted Alpha Course fund. Stephen Haynsworth seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Libby Puckette will be the manager of the fund.

The staff was dismissed while the Vestry discussed and voted on the proposed 2010 Budget. The budget was approved as presented by the Finance Committee.

Fr. Joe Gibbes closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Poston
Recording Secretary

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