

ST. JOHN'S PARISH
VESTRY MINUTES
January 12, 2010

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

Fr. Greg Snyder read the opening meditation.

The Vestry proceeded with the reading of the Vision.

The minutes from the December Vestry meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Blich reviewed the financial reports for December, and for the year of 2009. Stewardship numbers at the date of the meeting were 153 pledges totaling \$669,338.

Care and Help of Needy on the Sea Islands

Fr. Greg Snyder stressed the continued commitment of St. John's to help people on the Sea Islands. He told the Vestry a few days before Christmas he was made aware that 20 families at Friarson Elementary would have no Christmas. Because of the generosity of the people of St. John's, each of those families received a gift card to help with their Christmas celebration. He also let the Vestry know that St. John's is continuing to help people by helping them with bills, food, etc. There are many who need help but are too proud to ask for help, or to accept help when it is offered. Boyd Baker suggested that a good approach for those people is to ask them to accept a loan from God.

Iglesia de San Juan

Stephen Haynsworth reported that the Rev. Mercedes Julian will join the Alpha Team in the fall by offering the Alpha course in Spanish. Stephen noted that since he is rotating off the Vestry a new Vestry liason is needed.

Alpha Course

Libby Puckette reminded the Vestry that the kick-off dinner and meeting is Thursday, January 14. Libby said that a house has been located to have the weekend get-away. She expects 30-40 guests to attend Alpha. Libby invited the Vestry to come to the meetings so they can tell others about Alpha. Libby talked about the amazing team she has helping with this course, and how thankful she is for the team. Fr. Greg thanked Libby for her hard work in starting the Alpha course at St. John's.

Missions and Outreach

Claudia Boyce informed the Vestry that Alex Baker is leaving for England on Thursday, January 14 to participate in Youth With A Mission. He will undergo three months of discipleship training.

Nancy Scales will head the St. John's effort for the Blessing Basket program, which Stono Baptist Church runs. The program helps families with food late in the month when their food stamps are running low.

Stephen Haynsworth reported that Missions is planning to send a group to the Dominican Republic again this summer. He said that the mission for building a church for La Romano and the school of La Encarnacion is finished, and the group is looking for another parish to help.

Stephen talked about the mission trip he and his wife Cindy made to Uganda before Christmas. They had supper with the Bishop-Elect the day before his consecration. Stephen said St. John's is in a position to help the people of Uganda and to be blessed by helping them.

Claudia reported that at Feeding of the Multitude, Michele Bryan and the Prayer Team identified 11 people looking for a church.

Ann Irvin will has joined the Missions and Outreach Committee, filling the open position left by outgoing member, Stephen Haynsworth.

LaRoche Building Renovations

Boyd Baker reported that the renovation of the bathroom in the LaRoche Building will begin soon. Boyd said John Blitch, III, owner of Blitch Plumbing, has volunteered to do the plumbing work. Also included in the renovations will be new windows, new flooring, painting, and if possible, heating and air. Boyd will have more prices and plans available at the Vestry Retreat.

The architecture firm working on plans for the colonnade hope to have those plans ready by the Vestry Retreat.

The Bridge

Beginning with the March issue, the Bridge will become a bi-monthly publication, and will consist of articles. Time-sensitive announcements and notice of upcoming events will be conveyed by email notices. Printed copies of the announcements will be available in the church and Parish Life Building on Sundays. Shut-ins will receive copies by mail. The publication of the Bridge will still be handled by a committee.

Website Design and Maintenance

Fr. Greg presented a website design and maintenance proposal by Heather Henckel. Heather's work can be viewed by going to the Trinity School for Ministry website.

Stephen Haynsworth made a motion to allocate \$2,500 for the design and maintenance of a website. Claudia Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Resolution

With the upcoming vote on the change in the constitution on Sunday, January 17, Fr. Greg presented a resolution stating that while St. John's will no longer have a legal relationship with the Diocese of South Carolina, St. John's will continue to have a spiritual relationship, separating the legal from the ecclesiastical. Perry Gervais made a motion to accept the resolution. Libby Puckette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Resolution attached).

Other Business

Stephen Haynsworth mentioned that although he is rotating off the Vestry, he would like to see the Vestry make a decision on the Glebe land. He feels the YMCA will make good use of the land, and through their programs, it will help keep gangs from forming. He urged the Vestry to be brave and step out, trusting in the Lord.

Senior Warden's Report

Senior Warden Perry Gervais stated he had nothing to report.

Junior Warden's Report

Junior Warden Boyd Baker stated he had nothing to report.

Associate Rector's Report

Fr. Joe Gibbes reported that the next Men's Hike will be April 22 - 25. Joe said the campfires have been going well—the campfires keep the “fire” going between hikes. The men have a meal and share their testimonies.

Joe said it has been hard putting together the Skeet Shoot, and it will not be held this year.

Rector's Report

Fr. Greg Snyder thanked outgoing Vestry members Dannie Barteet, Billy Crowther, Neal Edgerton, and Stephen Haynsworth.

Fr. Greg reminded the Vestry of upcoming important events:
New Vestry Orientation - January 23rd, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm;
Election of Wardens - January 24th after church services;
Vestry Retreat - February 5th & 6th;
New Wineskins for Global Missions Conference - April 8-11

Fr. Joe Gibbes closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Poston
Recording Secretary

DRAFT – 1/13/2010

Having been passed unanimously by the Vestry of St. John's Parish at the regularly scheduled meeting, January 12, 2010, the Vestry now offers the following resolution to the Parish:

WHEREAS St. John's Parish Church was established in 1734, prior to the establishment of any regional or national Anglican bodies, by act of Colonial Assembly (as St. John's, Colleton County), and

WHEREAS St. John's Parish Church has always been a fellowship of Anglican Christians, living under the authority of the Holy Bible as God's written word, worshipping in the Prayer Book tradition of the English Reformers, and, since the establishment of the Diocese of South Carolina in 1790, operating under the spiritual authority of the Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina, and

WHEREAS the congregation of St. John's Parish Church, by _____ vote on _____, has clarified that its association with the Diocese of South Carolina is not legal in nature, but spiritual, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that St. John's Parish Church reaffirms its affection for and support of the Bishop and the Diocese of South Carolina, and pledges to continue its longstanding commitment to active involvement in the ministry of the Diocese of South Carolina, including, but not limited to, ministries of time, talent, and treasure. And be it further

RESOLVED that St. John's Parish Church reaffirms its conviction that support of the Diocese of South Carolina is not limited to ministries housed within the Diocesan Offices, but will continue to partner in Gospel ministry initiatives with constituent parishes and missions of the Diocese of South Carolina, both domestically and overseas. And be it further

RESOLVED that St. John's Parish Church will continue to be a body of Anglican Christians, living under the authority of the Holy Bible as God's written word, worshipping in the Prayer Book tradition, and operating under the spiritual authority of the Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina.