

**ST. JOHN'S PARISH
VESTRY MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2011**

Present: Bill Anderson, Claudia Boyce, Steve Brantley, Tom Gibbs, Gretchen Horlbeck, Senior Warden Jerry Houston, Bubba Jenkins, Junior Warden Bruce Saxman, and Ford Walpole. Also present: Fr. Dagnall Free, Treasurer John Blich, and Recording Secretary Melanie Poston.

Not present: Charlie Davis, Tom Gopsill, Perry Jameson, and Fr. Greg Snyder.

Fr. Free asked for prayer concerns, then opened the meeting with prayer.

Fr. Free's meditation was on John 10:19-23.

The Vestry read the Vision.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

John Blich reviewed the May financial report and reported on the bank balance.

OLD BUSINESS

Care & Help of Needy on Sea Islands

Fr. Free reported that we continue to help the needy but the discretionary funds are more limited than in the recent past.

Summer Schedule

Fr. Free asked for prayer for Fr. Greg and his sabbatical during his sabbatical. He reviewed the summer schedule and informed the Vestry that during his 2-weeks vacation, Fr. Ladson Mills will be on-call to handle any situations requiring a priest. Fr. Bob Lawrence and Fr. Mike Clarkson have also agreed to help in case of an emergency during Fr. Free's absence. Deacon Brian will be available for pastoral care.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Iglesia de San Juan

Fr. Free recently had a conversation with Fr. David Dubay, who asked for prayers for Iglesia de San Juan. Claudia Boyce commented that she would like to see more interaction with San Juan. She also suggested that Fr. Dubay may want to meet with the clergy of other Hispanic churches on the island.

Pentecost

Claudia Boyce reported on the first island-wide Pentecost service. She felt momentum began to build midway through the planning. Everyone came together and it worked. A “Wrap-Up” meeting is planned.

Alpha

The fall Alpha has a new leader in Paige Thorn. Fr. Free remarked that she will be a good leader, and that she is very organized and full of enthusiasm.

Global Missions

An announcement will be made in E-News that the Missions Board is looking for a volunteer to work with children in Gulu. They would like someone to make a commitment to go for approximately one month. Interested persons should contact Walt Miller or Stephen Haynsworth.

Fr. Free said Archbishop Nkoyoyo called to express his appreciation for all St. John’s did for him while visiting the United States. Fr. Free asked the Vestry to think about someone who may feel a call to go to Gulu.

Outreach

Claudia Boyce read a letter from Mary Nicholson, a retired professor of art and a clay artist. Mary listed the benefits of making pottery, and encouraged St. John’s to make use of a donated pottery kiln. She indicated a willingness to be involved in that ministry. Discussion followed on possible locations, liability, and the feasibility of operating a kiln. Claudia will talk to Mary Nicholson and gather more information. Fr. Free said he will wait for Fr. Greg to return before any decisions are made.

Claudia asked for volunteers for the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build on June 25th. St. John’s is committed to bring 20 volunteers, and so far no one has signed up. Fr. Free feels the wording in the E-News is confusing and people may not realize they can still sign up. Claudia will check and re-word E-News article.

Claudia reported that the Missions Board is considering the benefits of Foreign Missions standing as a separate committee from Domestic Missions and Outreach. Claudia said she knows a concern would be two separate boards pulling against each other for budget money.

By-Laws Task Force

Tom Gibbs has been re-reading the by-laws and asked the Vestry to pray about people to serve on the Task Force. He would like to have a representative from each of the three services. Steve Brantley asked the Vestry to make recommendations of people to serve on the Task Force. If anyone has suggestions, please let Tom Gibbs or Steve Brantley know. Names can also be given to Melanie Poston. Ford Walpole expressed concern that the Task Force may feel a “need” to do something. Ford does not want to fix something that

isn't broken. Tom feels that is the very reason it is important to have a balanced task force. Steve Brantley commented that it will serve as a great review of our by-laws.

NEW BUSINESS

Discretionary Fund

Fr. Free told the Vestry that the discretionary funds account is seriously depleted. People still need help with bare essentials such as food and utilities. In March the Vestry moved \$3,000 from undesignated funds to discretionary. Fr. Free asked the Vestry to move an additional \$3,000 to \$5,000 to the discretionary fund. After discussion, Jerry Houston made a motion to move \$3,000 from undesignated funds to discretionary funds. Bruce Saxman seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Pastoral Care

Fr. Free reported that only three people are listed as homebound and needing communion by Pastoral Care. There are 12 Lay Eucharistic Ministers ready to be utilized. Ford Walpole asked if the clergy are in the rotation of the visits. Fr. Free responded that the clergy make personal visits at certain seasons such as Easter and Christmas, and other times during the year. The clergy receive weekly reports from LEMs, evaluate those reports, and make personal visits as indicated. Fr. Free asked the Vestry to him know if they hear of someone needing a visit.

Reaching Out to Visitors

Steve Brantley brought a sample from a Visitors Book from another church. The practicality of a book versus cards in each pew was discussed.

Other Business

Jerry Houston said he would like to see a limit on the amount a committee can spend in a single transaction without notifying the Vestry. He referenced a recent check for \$10,000 sent to Northern Uganda. Claudia Boyce pointed out that the expenditure was in the 2011 Missions and Outreach Budget Request and had been approved by the Vestry. Jerry said he would still like the Vestry to be made aware that such a large check is about to be sent. He reminded the Vestry that they are responsible for all expenditures. Fr. Free asked the Vestry to think and pray about this issue between now and the next Vestry meeting.

Senior Warden's Report

Jerry Houston said the Teller Committee needs a new teller. Gretchen Horlbeck has been nominated for the Teller Committee. Jerry made a motion to approve Gretchen Horlbeck as a teller. Bruce Saxman seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Junior Warden's Report

Bruce Saxman asked for help in watering the new plants around the Parish Life Building during the drought we are currently experiencing. He pointed out that a parishioner had

given a substantial amount of money to put the plants in. He would like, in the future, for the Vestry to keep a plan in mind when implementing ideas.

Associate Rector's Report

Fr. Free commented on a recent funeral, and how Fr. Greg had prepared him well, by sharing his reasoning as he deals with different situations. He said Deacon Brian Gill has been a tremendous asset during Fr. Greg's absence and thanked the Vestry for approving Brian for Pastoral Care.

Fr. Free felt the joint Pentecost service was a success. He estimated the attendance to be 525 people. Claudia Boyce noted there was a wonderful representation from St. John's.

Fr. Free reviewed upcoming important dates:

June 27 - July 1	Vacation Bible School
September 2 - 4	Parish Weekend; Bp. Skilton teaching on Missions
October 1	Que-N-Blue at Irvin House Vineyards

Fr. Free closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Poston
Recording Secretary