

ST. JOHN'S PARISH
VESTRY MINUTES
March 9, 2010

Present: Junior Warden Boyd Baker, Senior Warden Perry Gervais, Tom Gopsill, Jerry Houston, Bubba Jenkins, Bill Leland, Adair McKoy, Libby Puckette, Bruce Saxman, and Ford Walpole. Also attending: Rector Fr. Greg Snyder, Associate Rector Fr. Joe Gibbes, Youth Minister Rob Schluter, Treasurer John Blich, and Recording Secretary Melanie Poston. Not present: Claudia Boyce and Perry Jameson.

Fr. Joe Gibbes opened the meeting with prayer.

Fr. Greg Snyder read the meditation and led discussion.

The minutes from the February meeting were passed.

Youth Ministry

Fr. Greg called on Youth Minister Rob Schluter to update the Vestry on the youth program. Rob will be preaching on March 21st for Youth Sunday at the 10:30 service. Youth Sunday for the 10:22 service will be on March 28th. Rob described the youth program at St. John's as a Biblical youth group. He feels most churches run entertainment-driven programs. He described a typical night at youth group for the Vestry and invited Vestry members to visit the youth group. They currently are studying the Gospel of Mark, which they will finish in two weeks. At that time they will begin studying Old Testament Heroes. High school and middle school students meet jointly once a month.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Blich reviewed the funds currently available in the checking account, as well as the financial report through the end of February.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alpha Course

The Spring 2010 Alpha Course will close with a celebration dinner on Thursday, March 25 at 6:00 pm. Chairman Libby Puckette expressed thanks to the Alpha team, and invited the Vestry to attend the dinner. She reported that the Holy Spirit Weekend was a blessing and was very powerful. Libby felt the communion service led by Fr. Greg and Beth Snyder was critical to the spirit of the weekend. She commented that, in her opinion, a day retreat is not long enough—the weekend retreat is necessary.

Iglesia de San Juan

Fr. Greg reported to the Vestry that Vicar Mercedes Julian will take a new post in Rhode Island at the end of June, 2010. The Vicar's position will need to be filled. Fr. Greg will take an active role in the San Juan Partnership Committee.

Bill Leland reported that plans are under way for a summer mission to the Dominican Republic, and emphasis will be on Haitian relief.

Bishop Johnson Gakumba, Diocese of Northern Uganda, will visit St. John's in April. He will attend the New Wineskins conference on April 8-11, and return to Uganda on April 12th.

Creative Learning

Fr. Joe referenced an email he sent to the Vestry detailing a request from Sarah Hocutt, director of Creative Learning Preschool. Sarah noted the delay in completion of an upstairs bathroom in the LaRoche Building, and requested that, until space is available, the preschool be allowed to have lunch in the Parish Life Building. Sarah made assurances that the space the preschool uses each day will be thoroughly cleaned by both preschool staff, and the preschool cleaning staff. After discussion by the Vestry, Ford Walpole made a motion to allow Creative Learning to use the Parish Life Building for lunch until more space is available in the LaRoche Building. Adair McKoy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Diocesan Convention

Fr. Greg distributed copies of the resolutions to be voted on at the upcoming Diocesan Convention. He reviewed each resolution with the Vestry. The Diocesan Convention is on Friday, March 26, 2010.

Senior Warden's Report

Senior Warden Perry Gervais encouraged the Vestry to remind their committee chairmen to update the Committee Worksheets. He noted the information gathered from the worksheets allows accurate information to be posted on the website. Perry told the Vestry to notify Parish Administrator Melanie Poston if information on the new website is incorrect.

Perry noted that at the February Vestry meeting a resolution was passed to move undesignated funds, Restricted-Global Missions funds, and Restricted-Local Missions funds to UBS where it will earn interest. He wanted to clarify the placement of \$25,000 designated for Restricted-Legal Fees. He asked if the Vestry had any objections to that money remaining in the checking account, where it is readily available. There were no objections.

Junior Warden's Report

Junior Warden Boyd Baker reported that the church clean-up day will be on Palm Saturday, March 27th, and that a church-wide email had been sent out to remind the parish. Fr. Greg noted that clean-up at Grace Chapel will be held the same day.

Boyd said the new bathroom in the LaRoche Building should be complete in about a month. He also expressed the hope that central air-conditioning can be installed in the upstairs of the LaRoche Building, noting some windows will need to be replaced.

Associate Rector's Report

Fr. Joe Gibbes announced he has been approved by the Bishop of Alabama to take the position at Church of the Advent in Birmingham. Joe committed over a year ago to preach at the Church of the Advent for their Lenten Series. He will also serve as Chaplain for the Daughters of the King retreat at St. Christopher on March 19 and 20.

Joe noted that he has 10 tickets available for the Dave Ramsey event at the Charleston Coliseum on April 13th.

Joe encouraged men to go on either the Men's Hike or the King's Hike, which are coming up on April 22-25.

Rector's Report

Fr. Greg Snyder reminded the Vestry that Bishop Johnson Gakumba from Northern Uganda will visit St. John's in April. He asked the Vestry to set aside the evening of Wednesday, April 7 as a service will likely be scheduled for that evening.

Fr. Greg noted that a call for prayer for Bishop Mark Lawrence has been made. March 16, 17, and 18, which are the days preceding the House of Bishops meeting, have been set aside as days of prayer and fasting. On March 18, at 7:00 pm, there will be a prayer gathering at St. James. The churches of the Diocese have been asked to cover Bishop Lawrence in prayer during his time at the House of Bishops meeting. St. John's day of designated prayer is March 23rd. The church will be open all day.

Fr. Greg reviewed upcoming important dates:

March 19-24 House of Bishops Meeting

March 26 Diocesan Convention

March 28 Palm Sunday and Parish Picnic at Grace Chapel

March 29-April 2 Holy Week Services

April 4 Easter Sunday

April 8-11 New Wineskins for Global Missions conference

April 22-25 Men's Hike

May 2 Confirmation with Bishop Lawrence

May 23 Joint Pentecost Service in Church and Fr. Joe's last Sunday

Other Business

John Blich asked if the Vestry planned to instruct the Diocesan delegates on how to vote on the proposed resolutions. Adair McKoy made a motion to instruct the delegates to the Diocesan Convention to vote "yes" on the resolutions. Perry Gervais seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Final compensation for Fr. Joe was discussed. After discussion, Bruce Saxman made a motion that Fr. Joe be paid by St. John's through the end of June. Tom Gopsill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Fr. Joe's offer to sell his home on Johns Island to the church at a reduced amount was revisited. After discussion, the Vestry, while appreciative of the offer, decided not to invest in the property.

Fr. Greg closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Poston
Recording Secretary