

St. John's Parish
MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING
May 8, 2007

The May vestry meeting convened in the Parish Life Building at 7 PM. Members present were: Dannie Barteet, David Bernthal, Darlene Blich, Billy Crowther, Neal Edgerton, Senior Warden John Gervais, Junior Warden Brian Gill, Stephen Haynsworth, Sherri Houston, Trace Paradise, and Peter Tetreu. Also present were: The Rev. Dr. Greg Snyder, the Rev. Joe Gibbes, and recording secretary Susan Shealey. Absent were: Sue Jenkins, Cindy Pennington, and Deacon Ron Warfuel

Opening Meditation:

Father Greg read from James 5: 7-18. He spoke of patience and prayer. The patience passage (vs. 7-12) reminds everyone that suffering is a part of being patient. It requires endurance and a willingness to wait out the time. The prayer passage (vs. 13-18) is a reminder for the church...for St. John's and others, to pray for one another and for all that is going on in the world.

After the meditation, Father Greg led the vestry in the reading of the vision.

The vestry then approved the minutes from the last meeting as presented.

Old Business:

Iglesia de San Juan Mission Support:

Stephen Haynsworth reported that the Outreach Committee has not had the opportunity to follow up with the San Juan group. Several on the vestry commented on how actively involved San Juan had been in the preparation of Bishop Skilton's retirement reception, and what great support they had shown Bishop Skilton and St. John's with their joint effort for the service and reception. The vestry discussed and felt the need to hear directly from Iglesia de San Juan and/or Mercedes Julian about what it is that they need, and what they would like for us to do. The vestry again asked that Stephen and the Outreach Committee meet with Mercedes, and that she be invited to the next vestry meeting to discuss and clarify her vision of the proposed relationship. The vestry also decided to pray individually about how God would use St. John's in this endeavor, and what He is calling us to do.

Sea Island Comprehensive Care:

Brian Gill reported that he was having some difficulty establishing contact with the Executive Director at Sea Island Comprehensive Care. He will continue to call and set up a meeting with her to discuss potential opportunities with and for their residents. He will also discuss a potential paved walkway between the two properties.

LaRoche Building Renovation:

John Gervais reminded the vestry that St. John's still has an extensive renovation plan that went beyond the building of the Parish Life Building. Since the building has been paid off, there are other areas of renovation that need to be discussed. He talked about the many features that were put on the back burner at the time the Parish Life Building was erected, and would like to put these renovations and ideas back on the table. He presented the original architectural drawings for the total renovation of the campus, and asked the vestry to revisit and recommit to fulfilling the plan that has already been developed. He suggested that the logical next step would be to renovate the LaRoche Building. He made a motion to "continue the Generation to Generation plan with the next step being the renovation of the LaRoche Building". Trace Paradise seconded the motion and the motion carried. John then made a motion to create a committee to set the plan in action. The committee will be the LaRoche Building Planning Committee and will be initially headed by Peter Tetrev and Joe Gibbes. Trace Paradise again seconded and the motion carried.

St. John's Mission/Brother Dallas Wilson:

Stephen Haynsworth stated his excitement after spending time with Brother Dallas Wilson and discussing his ideas for the mission in downtown Charleston. He suggests that we partner with Brother Wilson, and is looking for feedback as to how we can help. We have not committed any funds at this time, but are working with Brother Wilson on getting a list of skills needed for the partnership. The committee is looking at a summer/fall time frame. The Outreach Committee will come up with a proposal for the Vestry regarding this venture.

Committee Reports:

Kitchen Committee:

Trace and Darlene gave a handout of the newest bid for replacing the cabinets in the kitchen. This bid is \$5000 over the budget of \$6600, even after asking the contractor to make changes to decrease the amount. Trace suggested that we drop this contractor and start over with new bids and ideas for solving the cabinet problems. He made a motion that the committee seek out two new bids for correction of the cabinet problem. Billy Crowther seconded and the motion carried.

New Business:

Colonnade for Campus:

Father Greg and John Gervais reported that a member of the church was interested in donating some money to build the colonnade for the church campus as indicated on the original architectural drawings for the renovation of the property. This donation could partially or fully fund the project based on the proposal. Trace Paradise made a motion that we pursue the colonnade plan and seek out costs of the project. John Gervais seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Security and Usage of the Parish Life Building:

Billy Crowther brought up several issues related to the Parish Life Building. He asked about protocol related to security of the building: who has access to the building, and who is in charge of storage issues. He asked about the potential liability related to the youth room with no window in the doors and/or doors that are not accessible via master keys. There was discussion about safety issues regarding storage closets, and what is being kept in them, fire panel closets with bell choir equipment in them, and clothing and other combustible materials near the hot water heater. There was also discussion about access to the youth room and potential liability issues related to that restricted access. Peter Tetrev made a motion that David Bernthal and Billy Crowther touch base with other leaders and with the Building and Grounds committee to investigate options for the doors and move on an agreed-upon solution. John Gervais seconded and the motion carried.

The vestry also requested that Rob Schluter, Youth Minister, come to the vestry meeting at least twice a year to give an update on the youth program.

Scholarship Committee:

Sherri Houston reported that the announcement for applications for scholarships has been sent to the office for distribution in the Bridge and the bulletin. A form will be available on the website once the form is created.

She asked about the loose change offering for Youth Sunday, and if it was designated for any particular fund. The discussion indicated that it was not. She then made a motion that the loose offering for May 20, 2007, Youth Sunday, be designated toward the principal amount of the scholarship fund. John Gervais seconded the motion and it carried as stated.

State of the Parish:

Dannie Barteet inquired about statistics related to the worship services, Sunday school, demographics, new members and non-attending members. Father Greg informed him that we do keep many of those statistics and that they are available by calling the church office and requesting them. Discussion led to the suggestion that the vestry schedule an evaluation vestry meeting every six (6) months to evaluate the state of the parish. No motions were made regarding this issue.

Senior Warden's Report:

There was no senior warden report at this time.

Junior Warden's Report:

Brian Gill reported that work should begin on the new signage within the next week.

He discussed the upcoming walkthrough regarding potential asbestos in the LaRoche building. This inspection will also check for lead based paint.

Brian informed the vestry that Samuel had resigned as sexton of the parish and that we have re-hired a former sexton, Walter Gordon to the position. The vestry discussed the hours and duties of the job and decided to allow the sexton position hours to be increased from 20 to 25 hours per week.

Curate's Report:

Joe thanked the vestry for the love shown to them at the recent baby shower.

He also brought the vestry an update from the preschool committee. The committee has decided that they are inclined to recommend beginning a "Mothers Day Out" type of program that is part-time versus full time. The potential program will be brought to the vestry as a recommendation at the appropriate time and when details have been established.

He reported on the men's hike that he attended with three other men from St. John's, and what a great experience it was. There will be a men's hike later this year sponsored by St. John's. More details will follow.

Rector's Report:

Father Greg announced upcoming dates. May 10 at 6:00 PM will be a time of prayer, in the sanctuary, for St. John's. Anyone who wishes can join in this prayer time. May 20 is Youth Sunday. Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 PM is the quarterly Leadership Meeting. May 27 is Pentecost and Saturday, June 9 is when the Diocesan Convention reconvenes. On Wednesday evenings, beginning June 13 at 6:00 PM, there will be Summer Worship in the Parish Life Building.

Treasurer's Report:

There was no treasurer's report at this meeting. John Gervais requested that any concerns be emailed to him before the Finance Committee Meeting next week. Cindy should have financials for April out to the vestry soon.

Other New Business:

Father Greg announced that John Blich has stepped down as the Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee. There is someone prayerfully considering the position at this time.

There being no further business, Father Joe prayed and the meeting was adjourned.

The next vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday June 19th.