

St. John's Parish
MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING
October 10, 2007

The October vestry meeting convened in the Parish Life Building at 7:00 PM. Members present were: Peter Tetrev, Jr. Warden, Brian Gill, Dannie Barteet, The Rev. Joe Gibbes, Stephen Haynsworth, Darlene Blicht, Sherri Houston, Sr. Warden John Gervais, Sue Jenkins, Neal Edgerton, David Bernthal, Billy Crowther, Trace Paradise, The Rev. Dr. Greg Snyder, and Treasurer, Cindy Pennington.

Opening Meditation:

Father Greg read Psalm 126 and reflected on the joy for so many good things happening at St. John's. He asked that the vestry continue to dream dreams for St. John's. During discussion there was mention of "grumblings" among parishioners: what is our direction as a parish, as a diocese; shouldn't we take care of our own first? Stephen Haynsworth reminded the vestry that there are so many opportunities to serve giving our time and talents to help others; that by working together in outreach the people of St. John's truly have the opportunity to reach out and bring others to Christ. Dannie Barteet reminded the vestry of the importance of praying for more joy.

Minutes:

Sherri Houston asked that the next-to-last paragraph, page 5, September 11, 2007, minutes be amended to read, "After some discussion, not enough interest was expressed at this time." She stated that the vestry needed to do a more detailed line item study of the proposed budget prior to approving it—because one of the main duties of the vestry was to be prudent managers of our funds. John Gervais reminded the vestry that each committee and staff members are responsible for making budget decisions. Brian Gill stated that the vestry's main duty is to be prayerful leaders. No decision was made about having a separate meeting. The minutes were approved as amended.

Old Business:

Iglesia de San Juan Mission: Stephen Haynsworth made a motion to accept San Juan as a mission church. John Gervais seconded the motion. Many questions were raised such as 1) Would this be counter to what Bishop Salmon expressed in the September meeting? 2) Who from our parish would be stepping up to the job of supervising the mission? 3) What is a mission? 4) Are we ready to take this on as a parish? 5) Will it ever be an independent church? Brian Gill stated that Bishop Salmon has asked that Rev. Julian spend more time on being a priest to the Hispanics who are becoming permanent residents and less time on social work. More discussion about St. John's helping with the social work followed. Father Greg asked that the motion be tabled. Brian Gill made that motion, and Stephen Haynsworth seconded it. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Father Greg stated that Chairman Tom Gibbs addressed the congregation at all services this past week and will have 2 more weeks for presentations. Ingathering is Sunday, October 21, 2007.

Evangelism: The vestry read and discussed the Purpose & Duties statement from their worksheet. It was recommended that a final statement about working with the Newcomers Committee be added. David Bernthal moved the vestry accept the worksheet as amended, Trace Paradise seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Finance Committee: Trace Paradise reported that investments are faring nicely.

Scholarship Committee: Sherri Houston passed a Thank You note from Cheryl Haynsworth.

New Business:

Child Safety: Father Greg wants a specific parish statement or policy. He will email the rough draft to vestry members when it is ready.

The vestry went into closed session.

Peter Tetrev moved that the visitors be allowed to speak with no discussion from the vestry. The motion carried.

Visitor's Comments:

Eddie Porcher opened this part of the meeting with prayer. He is concerned about the direction of the parish and asked for more communication to the parishioners.

Kelly Gervais asked about the direction of St. John's, the diocese, and the national church. She expressed trust issues with our leadership, questioned the lack of communication between parents of youth and clergy, and feels there is a lack of accountability by the leadership.

Richard Cottrel asked about the direction of the National Church especially with regard to homosexuality and sin. Are we ignoring these issues?

Deanna Barteet expressed feelings that we as a parish are losing the "love" so important to our church family. She feels the addition of the 3rd service is separating the people of our parish and that Sunday school has been put on the back burner. She feels people will not go to Greg because of lack of trust and that sermons are often reprimands. She urged Greg, who is so Biblically knowledgeable, to do more Bible teaching. She asked for more communication and asked what is Greg's real vision for St. John's.

Terry Porcher also expressed concern about the direction of St. John's and appealed for more Bible teaching.

The meeting proceeded with New Business:

Counting Committee: Sylvia Wallace has been approved as the new member of the Counting Committee. Discussion followed about qualifications for being a counter. Counting Committee recommendations are the basis for qualification.

Nominating Committee: Father Greg announced that the nominating committee members are: John Gervais, Brian Gill, David Bernthal, and Peter Tetrev.

Parish Meeting Date: St. John's needs to elect 4 delegates and 4 alternative delegates prior to mid-November. The meeting to elect these delegates will be after the 10:45 service on November 11, 2007.

Parish Life Building: Policy and procedures manual is not completed.

Seminarian 1: Father Greg read a letter from our seminarian, Charles Jenkins, requesting a \$145 per month raise for his monthly stipend. Brian Gill moved we grant the request, David Bernthal seconded the motion, and it was carried. Charles's letter is attached.

Senior Warden's Report: No report was given.

Junior Warden's Report: Brian Gill reported that there is leakage and paint flaking on the left side of the Church building as one enters. He asked Jerry Houston to bid out the work, and a bid of \$7,500 for building preparation, 2 coats of paint, and sealant has been offered. Cindy Pennington reported that there were funds available in the general operating funds to cover the cost of doing this work. Stephen Haynsworth moved we use these funds to do the work. David Bernthal seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Curate's Report: Father Joe reported that the Men's Hike was hugely successful. He is hopeful to expand similar men's weekend outings so more men can participate. He reminded the vestry that the Thursday morning men's Bible study is beginning a study of the book, Every Man's Marriage this week.

Rector's Report: Father Greg reviewed the upcoming dates:

October 21: Emergency Services Appreciation Sunday with pot-luck following 10:45 service

November 15: 7:00 PM, Leadership Meeting

November 25: Homecoming Sunday, The Rev. Dr. Ladson Mills, III, preacher (David Bernthal reminded the vestry that Dr. Mills was the 1st rector of Church of Our Savior which was a mission church of St. John's.)
Dinner to follow 10:45 service

December 2: Sword Sunday/First Sunday in Advent. Parishioners asked to bring their Bibles to church.

January 25, 2008: Diocesan Convention

January 26, 2008: Consecration of XIVth Bishop of South Carolina.

Father Greg reported that the Diocese has received 36 yes votes and 16 no votes for election of Mark Lawrence as our new Bishop. 56 votes are required for confirmation. January 1, 2008 is the deadline for voting.

Father Greg announced that Brother Dallas Wilson will be the featured facilitator for the 2008 Vestry retreat.

Treasurer's Report: Since the Financial statements were made available via email, no report was given. Cindy complemented the vestry on a good job of getting budget requests in on time. Finance Committee will meet next week to put the 2008 Budget together.

Closing Comments:

Neal Edgerton asked if staying through Sunday for the Vestry retreat is necessary. He would much rather worship with his church family on John's Island. Father Greg said that suggestion would be considered.

Dannie Barteet asked that Kelly Gervais be allowed to speak. The motion carried. Kelly asked what is going to be done with the comments made by the visitors. It was agreed that the Vestry would have a special meeting—possibly October 30—to discuss these comments.

John Gervais reminded the vestry that an agenda is published prior to our meetings, and it is prudent to follow the agenda.

Father Greg asked the Vestry members to please bring any issues they are cognizant of to him or Joe so they can deal with them.

Brian Gill moved the meeting be adjourned. John Gervais seconded, and the motion carried.

Father Greg offered prayers, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Jenkins