

# St. John's Parish

## Minutes of the Vestry

### April 8, 2008

The April Vestry meeting convened in the Parish Life Building at 7:00 PM. Members present were: Junior Warden Body Baker, Dannie Bartteet, Billy Crowther, Neal Edgerton, Senior Warden Perry Gervais, Stephen Haynsworth, Sherri Houston, Sue Jenkins, Trace Paradise, and Libby Puckette. Also present were: The Rev. Dr. Greg Snyder, The Rev. Joe Gibbes, and Recording Secretary Susan Shealey. Absent were: Darlene Blitch, Adair McKoy, and Treasurer Cindy Pennington.

#### Opening Meditation:

Father Greg requested that the opening meditation be moved to coincide with the small group discussion on Evangelism.

He asked if there were prayer requests. He then prayed to open the meeting.

He led the vestry in the reading of the Vision.

Stephen Haynsworth made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. Trace Paradise 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the minutes were approved.

#### Old Business:

##### Franklin Graham Festival Support:

Libby Puckette gave a report about the Franklin Graham Festival based on a meeting she attended with Walt Miller. The meeting focused on how non-Christians perceive Christians. They attended breakout sessions and are excited about the many opportunities available to assist in this ministry. She informed the vestry about a four (4) week Life Application Training at area churches to learn how to share and build relationships. One training session begins mid-May at Fort Johnson Baptist Church. It is free, and participants who go through the training will be at the front during the crusade to meet with people accepting Christ. The Festival/Crusade is in September, and there are trainings leading up to that time. There is also a special event for the youth May 4<sup>th</sup> from 5PM - 8PM called Rock the City. Libby encouraged the vestry to be prepared for those who may come to St. John's as a result of the Festival. Posters and brochures are available for distribution. Stephen Haynsworth commented that "as leaders, we need to jump on the boat".

#### Committee Reports:

##### LaRoche Building Renovations:

Boyd Baker explained that attempting to renovate the LaRoche building is complicated. He, and the committee, continue to research the possibilities, but are finding that the number of children the church wants to accommodate in a school or "mother's morning out" setting is a critical factor in regulations and renovations. There is no current proposal, and he reported that it will be a while before one is ready. He would like to see two or three different proposals which will estimate costs and help determine direction.

##### Iglesia de San Juan:

Stephen Haynsworth gave the update on Iglesia de San Juan. He reported that Diane Haynsworth and Thom Pennington have started a Sunday School class that meets one time a month, and are moving toward meeting two times a month.

There are now four acolytes trained and another four waiting for training.

There are five children going to camp this summer.

Stephen noted that their weekly attendance will now be reported to the office and recorded in the same way that we are currently recording the attendance at St. John's.

They are working on a budget using the St. John's budget as a guideline. The committee is also planning joint services and joint events, such as the parish picnic, for the two congregations.

Starting this month, Rev. Mercedes will be attending and participating in one St. John's service per month, and Father Greg or Father Joe will attend and participate in a San Juan service once a month.

Stephen closed his report by stating that the San Juan congregation has been invited to attend the May 11 Confirmation and Mother's Day service with Bishop Allison.

#### 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee:

Father Greg passed out a handout from Karie Ann Crowther regarding possible events for next year's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The theme will be, "Walking with Christ". A few of the suggestions include having a prayer book service giving the history of the different prayer books used over the years, a new pictorial directory, and some inclusion of Ford Walpole's publication on the History of St. John's. The Bishop will be coming on May 17, 2009, related to this celebration.

#### Outreach:

Stephen Haynsworth gave an update on current and future events.

Stono Baptist Church continues to need help delivering food to the needy on the islands on the third Saturday of each month.

The Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic is now opened

The Outreach Committee will be featuring a speaker every fourth Sunday to talk about what the Outreach Committee is doing and opportunities for others to join in this ministry.

This Thanksgiving St. John's will be the site for Feeding the Multitudes, inviting all those on the islands who need a Thanksgiving meal to attend.

The committee is looking at options for a Compassion Sunday, allowing members to "adopt" a child or family, or find other ways to support the people in this community who are in need.

#### Evangelism Committee:

Libby Puckette informed the vestry about the upcoming Women's Brunch on Saturday May 3, from 11 AM until 2 PM. Cathy Bailey, wife of the Pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in downtown Charleston, will be the speaker. She and her husband have a passion for reaching lost people, planted the church downtown, and have grown it tremendously. The brunch will feature a meal, music, and the guest speaker. They need help with this event, and Libby encouraged anyone who would like to get involved do so now. Tickets for the event are \$5.

Father Greg used this time to tie in Missions Week at St. John's. He reported that the original intention was just to have Bishop Allison here to preach at Confirmation, but the

week has grown into a full week of worship and teaching about missions around the world. (See attached handout).

#### New Business:

##### Service Time Change:

Father Greg proposed time changes for Sunday services based on requests from the Altar Guild and others who are having a difficult time setting up between services. There was a lot of discussion. Billy Crowther brought up the issue of Sunday school and how changing the times would affect and interfere with this time. It would also create a 45 minute lag time for some between Sunday school and Worship. Trace Paradise reported that the acolytes are having a hard time getting as well-prepared as they need due to the crunch between services. Neal Edgerton asked if there wasn't another way to solve the problem without changing the service times. All agreed that there needed to be more discussion.

##### Senior Warden's Report:

Perry Gervais reported that the office needs a new printer. After getting bids, the cost of the new printer will be \$751.43. Neal Edgerton made a motion that we purchase the printer as needed. Trace Paradise 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and the motion passed.

Perry then reported that it is the time of year to continue the listing in the yellow pages, as is, or to do away with the current listing, which costs around \$800 for the year. The option is to pull that listing and maintain a free listing which is not in bold print and does not contain the address for the church. The vestry agreed that the amount spent on the yellow pages ad was enough to pay for the printer needed in the office. Sherri Houston made a motion that we drop the current yellow pages listing and maintain the free listing. Dannie Barteet seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Perry informed the vestry about a meeting he had with CC & T Real Estate Group. They have purchased the property, approximately 42 acres, around Angel Oak. They have a plan to build apartments, townhouses, and condominiums. The main entrance will be on Bohicket Road across from the Wachovia. There is also a plan for a small amount of retail space at the main entrance. They are looking to begin phasing into the project in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year. They still have many hurdles to overcome and approvals to get before they begin the project. They are open to suggestions, and they appear to be trying to lower the impact of their development on their new "neighbors" such as St. John's. Perry will email some information to vestry members as he can.

Perry notified the vestry that he had spoken to Charlie Davis about the Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic and their current site on Maybank Highway. They only have access to that site for three years. In looking ahead, they would like the vestry to consider, again, the possibility of having them locate on the Main Road property. There is also the potential for putting a YMCA on that property. The Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic is looking for 5 acres. The property is currently zoned residential. Without objection from the vestry, Perry suggested that he will look forward with these groups to investigate the possibilities.

##### Junior Warden's Report:

Boyd Baker informed the vestry that the painting of the sanctuary will begin Monday, April 14.

He reported that many of the rectangular tables in the Parish Life Building are falling apart and are actually dangerous to use. There are ten that are going to be disposed of currently. There is a need to replace one of the round tables, and we will be purchasing an additional 4 or 5 to supplement what we have and need.

### Associate Rector's Report:

Father Joe Gibbes handed out a proposal from Sarah Hocutt, owner of Creative Play, a childcare business that currently meets at another location on John's Island. It is a ½ day program that includes children from six weeks to four years old. Sara would like to find a new location to house her business, and she would like to add a faith element to the program but cannot do so currently due to landlord restrictions. Her program is full at an enrollment of 12 children, and she has 10 on any given day.

Father Joe reminded the vestry that St. John's had done due diligence last year about the possibilities of a day care, but it didn't seem the right time for this type of ministry. He asked the vestry to consider whether this could be the vision? Is this the right opportunity? Do we create a partnership? What are the implications? Currently, it would NOT be a ministry of St. John's, but St John's would allow this program to utilize space for the purpose of running the business. He asked the vestry to pray about this, and allow discussion in the near future. The vestry agreed to have her come to the June vestry meeting.

Father Joe reported that the men are 16 days away from the hike. St. John's currently has 19 men signed up to go.

### Rector's Report:

Father Greg asked the vestry to look over the upcoming dates as listed on the agenda. (See attached)

He gave a brief but thorough overview of the state of the Episcopal Church. He let the vestry know that:

- The Diocese of San Joaquin has moved.
- The presiding Bishop of that diocese is therefore no longer Bishop according to the National Church, and the National Church wants to appoint a new Bishop.
- Four Bishops (of various diocese) have left the Episcopal Church and joined the Roman Catholic Church.
- Two Bishops have moved letters to other diocese.
- Eleven churches in the Diocese of Virginia went through a legitimate process of leaving the diocese, but the National Church says that they will not allow the Bishop to allow them to leave. If He does, the National Church will de-frock him.
- The National Church is playing hardball all across the country.
- Five churches have left The Diocese of Ohio through a similar process.
- At last count, 115 churches have left or are wanting to leave the National Church.
- It's simply chaos.
- The South Carolina Diocese does not want to put itself through the lawsuits and the money required for such lawsuits.
- There is tension about where we are and what we should do.
- For now, we need to stand firm with Bishop Lawrence and look toward the future under his leadership.
- In the short run, there are no issues for St. John's.
- We need to stand firm as a diocese; it will keep us strong.
- We are in the strongest position to continue supporting the Bishop and stay focused on the task at hand, which is spreading the gospel.

### Treasurer's Report:

Cindy Pennington, Treasurer, was unavailable for the meeting. The vestry was reminded that they had received the March financials via email and were able to ask any questions

concerning the current report. No questions were raised regarding the current month financials, but Billy Crowther asked that an update and discussion about the current budget be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

The vestry then broke up into small groups for discussion on Evangelism.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Shealey