

# St. John's Parish

## Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

### March 11, 2008

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

#### Opening Meditation:

Vestry members read Acts 4:32-34, Acts 6:1-7 and Ephesians 4:7, 11-12. The focus of this discussion was member care. The scriptures speak to how church membership should use money and organization/structure to take care of, most importantly, the needy. The scriptures show that specific people were charged with this specific ministry, and were overall charged to do different things according to their gifts. Ephesians articulates that there is one body, one spirit, but that the whole body does service, using their gifts accordingly. There should not be a mentality of a few doing everything, but of all serving.

Father Greg then led the vestry in the reading of the vision.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as submitted.

#### Old Business:

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

Karie Ann Crowther has agreed to serve as the chair for this celebration. Judy Edgerton has also agreed to serve on the committee. Father Greg is going to meet with them next week to begin preparations for the events which will take place sometime after Easter next year. Ideas that are being assessed as suggested by the vestry are: Possibly a Faith Alive Weekend, possibly a new directory, possibly incorporating Parish Picnic/Homecoming, including San Juan as they celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Ford Walpole's publishing his history of St. John's.

##### Monthly Budget Report for The Bridge:

Billy Crowther made a motion to include a section in The Bridge that shows YTD Budget Expenses, YTD Actual Contributions and YTD Pledges. There was discussion, Billy called for the vote, Neal Edgerton seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. The vestry asked that an explanation be included in the first month, which will be April 2008, to clarify for the congregation what the numbers mean and how to interpret. A draft of this explanation will be approved by the Senior Warden before publication.

#### Committee Reports:

##### Youth Minister Report:

Rob Schluter gave an update on the youth group and their activities. He reported that they meet twice a week at the church. The groups are split between middle and high school. The middle school group does a high energy mixer, games, Bible study/lesson and dinner. The high school group does dinner with them, and then does a mixer and a lesson. This past year they studied the book of Acts. They have just completed the Passion narrative.

There are currently three Sunday school classes. One class teaches "The Way of the Master"; one class takes current events and reflects on scripture related to the issues, and the third class follows the lessons of our Faith Formation curriculum.

Wednesdays are the CORE Bible study where they boys and girls are separated. They are learning what it means to be a young man/woman of faith. This group has an average attendance of 10.

On Tuesdays, anyone can meet Rob at Muddy Waters (coffeehouse), grab a cup of coffee, relax, chat, and just “hang out”. This is a great venue for youth to invite a friend.

The group has been on several retreats: MONDO (for middle school), ReGenerate (discipleship for high school), Jesus Weekend (for confirmand students), and Youthquake. Parish Weekend last year was also great.

Currently, and in the future, Rob will be working more strategically with the other churches in the area, planning a mission trip to Louisiana, hosting a 30-hour famine, and working jointly with some West Ashley churches on events. The youth groups still sponsors Trunk or Treat, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner, Stations of the Cross, and other church wide events.

Billy Crowther asked Rob what the vestry could do to help him. He suggested that he still needs volunteers to donate and cook dinners for the group.

The vestry also commended Rob on a fine job preaching at the past Sunday services.

#### LaRoche Building Renovations:

Boyd Baker reported that they have added Bill Leland to the committee.

#### Iglesia De San Juan:

Stephen Haynsworth reported that San Juan is moving forward and that the committee is making plans to incorporate them more into the life of St. John's. They are hoping to do a Pentecost Picnic and other events. Diane Haynsworth and Thom Pennington are working together to teach and coordinate Sunday school and other events for the children. Billy Crowther led discussion regarding possible ongoing interaction with the San Juan vestry. It was suggested that the St. John's have some mechanism for reviewing statistics/growth patterns quarterly or every six months. Stephen and his committee will look at the options.

#### Grace Chapel Committee:

Neal Edgerton simply reminded the vestry about the 6 AM Easter Vigil and Service at Grace Chapel on Easter morning.

#### Long Range Planning Committee:

Perry Gervais reported that the committee was working on a parish survey.

#### Outreach Committee:

Stephen Haynsworth gave an update on several upcoming projects. They are working with Stono Baptist to provide food and delivery for the food baskets that go out each month to needy families.

The committee and volunteers will be going downtown to assist Brother Dallas with St. John's Mission on March 22.

April 12, 2008 is a Habitat for Humanity workday, and a May 12, 2008 is a help day for Rural Missions.

The committee is working on plans to help with food at the Ronald McDonald House with the date to be determined.

Working in conjunction with other churches, St. John's will use the Parish Life Building to “Feed the Island” at Thanksgiving this year.

#### Evangelism Committee-Walk Across the Room:

Libby Puckette provided information about the Lenten Series that just concluded. She reported that it went well. There were approximately 40-50 people involved, and responses received

about the program have all been positive. She reported that this study got people thinking, and brought evangelism to a personal approach.

#### New Business:

#### Franklin Graham Festival support:

Father Greg reported that the Franklin Graham Festival is coming to Charleston September 19-21. Walt Miller, Director of Faith Formation has been to several advance meetings regarding this event. There are lots of opportunities if the vestry decides it is something St. John's wants to support. He asked the vestry to pray and think about the possibilities.

#### Report on Trees in Cemetery:

Adair McKoy commented on discussions with Rawson Tree Service about the trees on the property. There is work that needs to be done. There are some Water Oaks that are going to cause problems in the future. Some trees can be saved, some need to be removed, and there are some that just need to be trimmed up. Rawson is working on a proposal.

#### Money from Mite Boxes:

The vestry decided that money obtained from the mite boxes should be allocated to camp scholarships for children of Iglesia de San Juan.

#### Senior Warden's Report:

Perry Gervais began discussion about the annual audit and auditor that St. John's has been using. The Finance Committee has recommended that we change auditors to Norm McNair. Norm comes recommended by the diocese and should provide a more extensive audit. The annual amount currently allotted for the audit is \$1500, but the fee for the new firm could be around \$2500. The Finance Committee is asking to increase the amount available for an audit to \$2500. Stephen Haynsworth made a motion that at the request of the Finance Committee, the vestry authorize \$2500 for use on the next audit. Billy Crowther seconded the motion. The motion was approved. He asked the Finance Committee to see if the auditor could also look at the procedures of the Investment Committee and be sure they are in accordance with standard practices. Perry said that he would investigate that possibility.

#### Junior Warden's Report:

Boyd Baker reported that the parking lots have been resurfaced and that he authorized the purchase of some new equipment to assist with cleaning the Parish Life building.

He has engaged a contractor to repaint the interior of the sanctuary, and the project should begin after Easter. They will apply two coats of primer and paint; paint the walls, ceiling, shutters, windows, vestibule, sacristy and vesting room. They will also clean and paint the vents in the ceiling.

Boyd thanked Adair McKoy for his work on cleaning and clearing of debris in the cemetery.

#### Associate Rector's Report:

Father Joe gave details about the skeet shoot. He reported that about 50 men were at the event and that it was a great success. The food was excellent too! Many men brought their friends, and it was a great time of fellowship.

There are currently 34 men signed up for the upcoming hike, 15 from St. John's.

#### Rector's Report:

Father Greg reported on the Inquirer's class. They currently have 7 people attending.

There have been numerous visits at the hospitals recently as several people or families have been affected by illness.

He reminded the vestry about Holy Week services. All are invited to attend as many as they are able. There will be services:

- Monday-Wednesday at 6 PM
- Maundy Thursday at 7 PM
- Friday-Stations of the Cross 6 PM and Liturgy at 7 PM
- 4 Easter Sunday services

Father Greg requested that the vestry be thinking of someone to coordinate the Parish Picnic this year and get names to him.

Treasurer's Report:

Cindy Pennington was unable to attend the meeting. Father Greg asked if anyone had questions regarding the February financials that were distributed via email, and there were none.

The vestry then went into small groups to consider and discuss "Member Care".

The meeting was adjourned after that discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Shealey  
Recording Secretary