

St Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Clergy: The Reverend J. David Knight, Rector

Vestry Members: Senior Warden Van Fuller, Junior Warden Paul Wheelless, Gene Correll, Elle Estes, Anne Hall, Cathy Halprin, Frank Milhous, Rob Newton, Barbara Smith, Debbie Vaughan

Clerk: Ellen Dodson

Treasurer: Carter Caywood

Guest: Jan Morris, ECW President

1. **Call to Order** by the Senior Warden at 5:30 pm
2. **Opening Prayer** by Barbara Smith
3. **Roll Call - Confirmation of Quorum** Van Fuller

4. **Consent Agenda** – motion to approve by Debbie Vaughan with a second by Barbara Smith. Motion carried by acclamation. Items included:
 - a) Approval of Minutes, June Vestry Meeting
 - b) Approval of June Financial Report
 - c) Email approval 7/13/17 for \$1,200 to repair the nursery AC system Air Handling Unit

5. **Parish Update:** ECW President Jan Morris reported on the many activities and services of the Episcopal Church Women, of which every woman of St. Simon's is automatically a member. She described the group as the church's "Mom" because they are everywhere: Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Knitter's Guild, Pastoral Care (cooked food is in the freezer at all times). The two primary activities/fundraisers are the Rummage Sale and the Craft Fair (44 years), both of which are hard work but provide a time of fellowship for all involved. All funds raised are used for Inreach and Outreach; last year \$11,000 was given to the parish budget, and over \$15,000 was donated to organizations around the area. Wants and needs of ECW from the Vestry are emotional support and physical support by being involved.

6. **Committee Break-Out Sessions: Ten Minutes**

7. **Committee Reports**
 - a) **Administration (Gene Correll)**
 - 1) 2016 Audit Update: the audit remains in progress and is due in September.
 - 2) 2017 Discernment Update: Michelle Anchors is leading the parish discernment process to help identify what God is calling St. Simon's to accomplish. Following God's call requires vision – a plan to lead us there. The process will include outreach to all parishioners to understand their thoughts on how best the church can prepare for its future in areas such as new construction, restoration, or expansion of facilities; outreach; endowments; debt retirement. Parishioners should be on the lookout for information later this summer – it is critical that we have robust participation and sharing of information to build our plan for the future.

- 3) 2018 Stewardship Campaign: we need to find someone to head this up, January or February time frame, and Fr. David would like to have this person on board soon to help decide on a program. Discussion: What program to use, do we use New Consecration Sunday again, how do we find a leader, think of names and Fr. David will make a call.
- 4) We need a second defibrillator for the first floor, probably the parish hall, estimate \$1,300. Sustainment is initial training and a new battery periodically. Debbie Vaughan suggested that since we have many outside groups using our facilities, perhaps we can research community resources for help. A second floor defibrillator is a future necessity.

Gene Correll moved to approve the purchase of an additional first floor defibrillator, cost of up to \$1,300, and explore other funding opportunities prior to using church funds. Anne Hall seconded the motion which carried by acclamation.

- 5) The Altar Guild needs additional funds for more Vestments and Paraments. The requests and Vestry approval from May did not cover the costs of all necessary items.

Debbie Vaughan moved that we use up to \$2,000 from the Lou McMillan Fund to purchase additional Vestments and Paraments. Paul Wheelless seconded the motion which carried by acclamation.

b) Ministry (Cathy Halprin)

- 1) Becoming a Welcoming Congregation
 - i. Feed the Need: A working group has begun planning for next year, and a contract was signed today for 150,000 meals. Cathy will attend a community meeting soon.
 - ii. Newcomer's Group: Fr. David met with Krystal today about a new visitor's card which should be in the works by the end of the week. Visitor cards will be kept in the pews, and greeters will also be a resource.
 - iii. Hospitality Group: In regards to Saturday night 6:00 pm service, the greeter program is more informal since the regular attendees, such as the Sanders and Howell's, can recognize any visitors. Discussion ensued on ways to make people feel welcomed during services, and though there wasn't a consensus on specifics, there was agreement that visitors should have a choice about being recognized (or not).
- 2) Christian Education Update: there is a survey link in the July 13 E-pistle to which we hope will have an enthusiastic response.

c) Property/Communications (Paul Wheelless)

- 1) Status of work
 - i. The roofers have completed work on the bell tower. The recent rainy weather should test the work.
 - ii. Steve Larson is still dealing with contract bids on the nave repair. The timing on the work is critical since summer is moving on.
 - iii. There is no update on the website.
 - iv. Paul wants to be sure that the current repairs and renovation will provide a safe, accessible and welcoming facility to have available for new and innovative ideas in the future. Several key unfunded projects that set the conditions for what St. Simon's might become are the parking lot and the seawall erosion mitigation.

- v. Tentative dates for beginning the nave work is August 14 or August 21 pending repair of the exterior damage to the parish hall and all other site repair.

8. Old Business

- a) Vestry Retreat Discussion: Fr David received a contract from Beckwith for January 12-13, and the cost will be around \$120 per person, lodging and meals. The Senior Warden had alternative ideas such as going to another parish in the diocese, to understand successful programs that may be implemented at St. Simon's. Fr David would like input from those members who will be returning next year.
- b) REALM roll-out: logging in remains to be a slow process with some parishioners. It isn't a necessity because group communication can be done regardless of whether or not people are logged in, but it is convenient for parishioners to check "giving information", and keeping profiles updated. Barbara Bethea is in the atrium after services this month to update names in preparation for the new name tags.
- c) Refrigerator/Freezer door alarms aren't feasible according to the professionals with whom Fr. David and Steve Larson talked. All the freezer & refrigerator doors were checked, and a faulty spring on one of the doors was replaced, so the doors should close on their own. We have new signs posted in that area and a camera as an additional reminder.
- d) Ansley Walker did a nursery inspection (attachment) using the Florida "Registered Family Child Home Health and Safety Checklist", and the State of Iowa's "Child Care Inspection Checklist". She listed five recommendations (see attachment) which will be corrected.

9. New Business

- a) Parishioner Josh Woods will soon begin his third year at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. "Endorsement for Candidacy for Ordination to the Priesthood" must be signed by at least two-thirds of St. Simon's Vestry, then approved by the diocesan Standing Committee.

**ENDORSEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR CANDIDACY
FOR ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF JOSH WOODS
was read by Fr. David Knight (motion) and seconded by Elle Estes.
The endorsement was approved as a result of ten vestry signatures.**

- b) Senior Warden Van Fuller alerted 2017 outgoing vestry members, Cathy, Gene and Debbie, that it is time to be considering names for the ballot for vestry candidacy at October 8 annual meeting. Van is the chairman of that committee and suggested that they collaborate via email over the next few months.
- c) Fr. David reminded vestry members that our new By-Laws state that delegates to 2018 Diocesan Convention in February are selected by the Vestry. Names must be submitted to the diocesan office 60 days prior to convention.

10. Rector Announcements:

- a) Lori Lawhorn submitted her Vestry resignation, effective today, 18 July 2017 due to family time constraints and priorities with other commitments at St. Simon's. Fr. David invited discussion about to replace, or wait, or shrink the size of the vestry. The discussion yielded informative and insightful ideas from vestry members, after which:

Debbie Vaughan moved that we wait until the annual meeting to fill the position. Anne Hall seconded the motion which carried by acclamation.

- b) Representatives of Pensacola Christ Church “Brotherhood of St. Andrew” were in attendance at The Children's Neighborhood, Children in Crisis this past weekend, and some of our parishioners joined them. Christ Church men are willing to help us get started with a chapter at St. Simon's, so Fr. David will contact the Diocesan Coordinator about assisting us with the charter. The “Brotherhood of St. Andrew” provides a structure around worship, prayer, ministry, evangelism and fellowship. The primary goal is to form men as Disciples to mentor and lead young boys and teenagers to Christ. We need to have a core of about ten to get started.
- c) Office Manager Krystal Turla is leaving us in two weeks in preparation for the birth of her baby, and she will not be returning. Landrum HR Services sent us a temp today which didn't work out, so they will continue the search. Fr. David has a contact in south Florida who can do our bulletins remotely, fast and creatively. She takes care of the communications for two churches in that area, and is willing to work with us on a trial basis for four weeks. We will send her the information, and she will take care of constant contact email, updating of our Facebook page, and production of Sunday bulletins. If this works out, the office job description will change somewhat. Our primary criteria, in house, is to find a person who is efficient, warm and welcoming.
- d) Kelley Fuller is organizing a prayer circle at our adopted school Elliott Point Elementary with interested faculty and staff a few days before students report August 10. She has talked with the principal who is in favor of the idea. This will be a twenty minutes (or so) gathering, and the date will be published soon.

11. Closing Prayer by Cathy Halprin

12. Adjournment at 7:12 pm by the Senior Warden.

- a) Next vestry meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 2017.
- b) Debbie Vaughan is scheduled to offer the opening prayer.
- c) Elle Estes is scheduled to give the closing prayer.

Respectively submitted,

Ellen Dodson
Clerk of the Vestry

