

St. Simon's On-The-Sound Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

15 August 2016

Clergy: The Rev'd David Knight, Rector

Vestry Members: Rhoda Adams-Reiss, Gene Correll, JoAnn Gorsuch, Cathy Halprin, Bob Hauge, Senior Warden Renee Larson, Lori Lawhorn, Henry Rabby, Barbara Smith, Debbie Vaughan, Junior Warden Paul Wheelless

Clerk: Chris Westphal (substituting)

Treasurer: Mike Sheppard

Youth Representative: Morgan Lawhorn

Opening Prayer by Rhoda Adams-Reiss at 5:28 pm

1) Motions:

- a) Debbie Vaughan moved to approve tonight's agenda as presented and JoAnn Gorsuch seconded. The motion carried, all votes in favor.
- a) Rhoda Adams-Reiss moved to approve the July vestry meeting minutes. After a second by Cathy Halprin the motion carried by all votes in favor.

New Business: Father David asked each vestry member to discuss their liaison role.

1. Rhoda Adams-Reiss- Pastoral Care
2. Debbie Vaughan- Worship
3. Gene Correll-Communications
4. JoAnn Gorsuch-Events Coordinator/Outreach
5. Cathy Halprin-Pastoral Care/Usher
6. Barbara Smith-Education/Christian Education
7. Lori Lawhorn-Christian Education/Worship
8. Henry Rabby-No assignment
9. Morgan Lawhorn-Youth Representative/Seat Assignment but no vote
10. Paul Wheelless, Junior Warden-Facilities

11. Bob Hauge- Outreach/ECW Coordinator
12. Renee Larson, Sr. Warden- Finance Committee
13. Mike Sheppard - Finance

Father David found this interesting and Bob Hauge explained these commissions had been assigned but all members seemed open to new ideas. Father Knight agreed and suggested in future he would be breaking the liaison roles into the following 3 main groups. Administration and finance, Property-which will include communications (which Junior Warden typically chairs), and Ministry (which when explained is a catch all) would include worship, Christian Education, Youth. Father Knight further explained the idea was that those committees meet in-between vestry meetings and discuss issues so that when vestry meeting happens they can discuss and formulate how each issue should be presented to the vestry so that each vestry meeting would be effective in addressing each issue and not have to “re-invent the wheel” each and every meeting. While any vestry member is always free to speak to any issue, the hope is this process allows each vestry member to know the issue has been addressed and tackled effectively. Each chair of those areas will present in a clear concise manner to let the vestry know all issues have been thought out. The whole idea is to lower the time required to hash out each issue. Father Knight suggests that we should move ahead suggesting to each member they should email Father Knight and Sr. Warden Renee Larson their top two desired role assignments. He explained at times there may be two areas called together to work on joint efforts. He explained it is not hard for the committees to be flexible. He encouraged the vestry to be out there as leaders and continue their excellent work as visionaries of the church. Paul Wheelless asked for clarification as to if these roles would be filled by vestry members or other church members and Father David stated they would be vestry members holding these role assignments. Father David also suggests that the finance committee cut size of members.

B) Staffing. Father Knight feels some of the current staff work can be done by volunteers, such as , answering phone and copying. Some work can be out sourced (bulletins). Flip side is that Krystal, our current clerk is REALLY good. She has been amazing during this transition period. She is always asking for more tasks and ready to take on more responsibility. So another way to think is to let her do the jobs we would consider outsourcing and let Krystal have volunteers help to handle less critical tasks. He realizes her degree is in Human Resources and that is the area she wants to work. Father Knight feels at this time he should use Krystal to the best effort and table the decision for down the road about replacing her with volunteers etc. Next area Father Knight wishes to discuss is the need to have more help at St. Simons. His idea would be to call a Deacon. He worked previously with a Vocational Deacon, **Clelia Garrity**, whose calling is to be a Deacon and not a Priest, which means they do liturgy services to include always reading the Gospel, sets the table and clears it off. In short, they are a servant ministry. Main purpose is to take the gospel into the world, and the needs of the world back to the church. Her previous work efforts more than justify her qualifications. Father Knight further explains typically Deacons are not paid a stipend, but we are allowed to pay them some expenses. Father Knight feels if the vestry will agree to pay moving expenses from Maryland and agree to an allowance of \$2,000.00 per month she will be available in October. No health care policy will need to be provided for Deacon Garrity.

The motion was made to approve \$2,000.00 per month for “Deacon expenses” in addition to moving expenses to bring the Deacon on board by Debbie Vaughan. The motion was seconded by Hank Rabby. The vote was unanimous. Father Knight further suggests he will have the Sunday School class be situated as an Adult Forum for approximately two Sundays to get to know the new Deacon. Father Knight also strongly urges the Vestry to include in its 2017 budget, with the Diocese help, secure a Curate to help with Pastoral duties that the Deacon cannot do. He even has a vision of this church being a training ground for many curates as they have a two year stint, before they are able to become full time Asst or Rectors in their own right.

C) Beginning the first Sunday in September the 5:15 service will move to 6:00 PM. Father Knight has discussed this with the regularly attending congregation of that time period and they are fine with it. Father Knight asks that we begin to advertise this time move.

D) October 16, 2016 will be the annual Parish Meeting and there will be one service beginning as early as 9:30 AM. There will be no Christian Education on that day.

E) Celebration of Father Knight’s new ministry will be discussed but likely dates will be either in September or possibly the first part of October. Most likely to be held on a Sunday night, Father Knight wishes the event to be one of celebration and is asking the vestry to help make this event memorable.

F) Stewardship – Paul Wheelless states that there is a need to select a chairperson and choose a program. Last year’s program was “New Consecration”. Father Knight feels this program is very easy to do and feels St Simon’s should consider running this program again. Work should begin early October and end on Sunday November 13, 2016. Father Knight asks that names be passed to him for consideration as who should be approached to head this committee.

G) Calendar – Per the rector, our calendar is a “mess”. Father Knight suggests we form a new committee being made up of volunteers. The Calendar will run September to September. The Vestry volunteers are: Renee Larson, Debbie Vaughan, JoAnn Gorsuch, with Krystal our office clerk being part of the committee.

H) JoAnn Gorsuch brings up the matter as to whether this vestry should replace Bill Hardy’s recent vacancy. Much discussion proceeded concerning the replacement. Father Knight’s advice is to not replace him and at the next election elect five new vestry members with the 5th person doing a 2 year term. A vote was brought to the floor and a majority found favor to adhere to Father Knight’s suggestion with 3 opposing.

4. Monthly Financial Report: Mike Sheppard reported we were behind about 6% at the end of June and it is now about 5% behind. We are making up some ground and as in past years it has been noted that summer traditionally is the time we fall behind due to vacationing parish members. So he feels we should not be worried a great deal about that issue. Good news is we have closed on our line of credit increase and we now have a credit line of \$400,000.00 and we have utilized \$195,000.00. The \$205,000.00 remaining will help us to continue the projects the Facilities Committee has deemed necessary to see completed. Further good news, our Finance Manager found that once again Gulf Power has been charging us tax on our utility and so we are entitled to a \$3,200.00 credit which will help with

our power bill this month. Mike also reports our current Capital Campaign Roof Account balance is right at \$82,000.00. Mike also reports that Michelle Anchors has agreed to head the Capital Campaign Program, recently vacated by Bill Hardy. Paul Wheelless asks with all due respect, if the ECW is monitoring and governing their funds, or does direction come from any other entity of the church and if not should it be policed by one. As ECW vestry liaison, Bob Hauge explained in great detail how the ECW asks different charities for their need of a contribution and to state it in writing, then each request is presented to the board members to consider what amount is distributed. The ECW Books are audited annually. Their reports are added annually to the parochial reports to the Diocese. Paul Wheelless continues to ask if the vestry at large should take over the books. The present Treasurer, Mike Sheppard, and past treasurer Gene Correll, feel there is no need for the vestry to interfere.

5. Facilities Report: Paul Wheelless reports that we need to manage the funds for the sexton position. We have spent 72% of our budget for the year and we should be at 58%. Major work may be moved back to January or even as late as April 2017. Paul met with Contractor Damian Curtis to discuss work that needs to be done immediately and his proposal is available if any vestry member so desires. Another area of concern is that we are still experiencing roof leaks. The bell tower is a major source of concern and Paul plans to go on the roof soon to take pictures hoping to define the problem. Paul reports HVAC systems working well. Wi-fi installed to monitor units is working well. Fire exit signs work is continuing. Fountain claim has been signed and sent to insurance agent for settlement. Maximum benefits were \$10,000.00 and that is what we are getting. Also Design and Décor team has requested a budget of \$4,000.00 to make necessary upgrades for Rector's office. Paul made a motion to approve up to \$4,000.00 for the renovations and furniture, Debbie Vaughan seconded it. A vote was called by Sr. Warden Larson, and it was approved unanimously. Future work to include upgrading door locks, bell tower, nave recording and publishing equipment, and Fountain Repair or Replacement.

6. Vestry Nominations

Traditionally, members going off the vestry submit names of parishioners who may be interested in running for a vestry position. Members rotating off this year are: Rhoda Adams-Reiss, JoAnn Gorsuch, Bob Hauge and Renee Larson. Father Knight has a vestry expectation list for this group to help guide them and guide those who are contemplating running for the vestry. Plans are now to advertise for the slots that need to be filled.

The vestry meeting time change will be 3rd Tuesday of month. Motion to change was made by Rhoda Adams-Reiss and seconded by JoAnn Gorsuch. Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 20th, 2016.

Meet and Greet will begin in September. The main reason for these meetings will be to help Father Knight get to know the congregation at a more personal level.

7) Adjournment and prayer at 7:30 pm by Lori Lawhorn. Next vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20 September at 5:30 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Chris Westphal, Substituting Clerk