

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

Vestry Meeting

21 March 2016

### **Clergy:**

The Rev'd Edward Harrison, Interim Rector

The Rev'd Eric Zubler, Associate Rector

### **Vestry Members:**

Rhoda Adams-Reiss, Gene Correll, JoAnn Gorsuch, Cathy Halprin, Bill Hardy, Bob Hauge, Senior Warden Renee Larson, Lori Lawhorn, Henry Rabby, Barbara Smith, Debbie Vaughan (absent), Junior Warden Paul Wheelless

**Clerk:** Ellen Dodson

**Assistant Treasurer:** Brice Horwell

**Youth Representative:** Morgan Lawhorn

**Parishioner:** Joan Bomar

**1. Opening Prayer** by Rhoda Adams-Reiss at 6:00 pm.

### **2. Motions:**

- a) Rhoda Adams-Reiss moved to approve tonight's agenda as presented, and Bob Hauge seconded. The motion carried, all votes in favor.
- b) Rhoda Adams-Reiss moved to approve the February vestry meeting minutes. After a second by Hank Rabby, the motion carried, all votes in favor.
- c) Lori Lawhorn moved to approve the February 28 minutes, a called meeting to make decisions regarding staff. After a second by Hank Rabby, the motion carried, all votes in favor.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **3. Finance and Budget Report:**

- a) Though the year is young, we are off to a good start. Through the first two months of 2016, we are actually a little ahead of projected pledge & plate income. Our projected pledge & plate was \$90,666 while our actual receipts were \$93,876, \$3,210 to the good.
- b) Total operating income for the first two months was \$96,900 which was \$2,228 over projected, while operating fund expenses were \$86,030 (\$13,646 lower than projected). With the slightly higher income and lower expenses, the difference is \$15,875 in our favor.

- c) Our newly activated \$200,000 Line of Credit has been active during the past month. With the final draws toward the exterior roof repair anticipated in the next week or so, our withdrawn amount will total \$165,000. With previous donations, current memorial receipts and an anonymous pledge, our "new roof" designated account is about \$50,075. These funds will be used to pay the monthly LOC payments until the roof and related improvements are done, and fund raising established. The finance committee and vestry will then make decisions as how to best manage the funds raised and the balance of the loan.
4. **Seminarian Support:** Our Seminarian Josh Woods recently provided information showing a gap of approximately \$1,100 monthly after current support/loans/part-time work earnings are taken into consideration. His wife Laura graduates from nursing school this fall, so financial assistance is requested for this year and potentially into 2017. Barbara Smith moved to approve the \$200 annually which is already in the budget, and Rhoda Adams-Reiss seconded. The motion carried, all votes in favor. Further discussion yielded a motion by Bill Hardy that St. Simon's fund Josh an additional \$200 monthly for the remainder of 2016. Gene Correll seconded and the motion carried, all votes in favor. Visiting parishioner Joan Bomar reported that the ECW has allocated \$500 for Josh in 2016.
5. **Cobb Chapel Update/Palm Trees:** (Attachment 1); Vestry members reviewed Netta Holley's report after which discussion followed. The vestry is in favor of the tree removal, but concern is about the empty space until the construction of the chapel begins. Due to the uncertainty of the time line of the project, vote to approve palm tree removal will be delayed. The Outdoor Chapel committee plans are thorough and exciting.
6. **Facilities Report:** (Attachment 2)
  - a) After an informative "field trip" around the building and grounds, the junior warden conducted business as follows:
  - b) A motion was presented by Bob Hauge for appointment of the following Facilities Committee members for another two-year term: Bill Hardy, Netta Holley, Donna Kendrick, Michael Lightbourne. The motion was seconded by Gene Correll and approved by a unanimous vote.
  - c) Recycling dumpster: A motion was made by Bob Hauge to remove the recycling dumpster, and the motion was seconded by Bill Hardy. During discussion, the substantial cost savings was addressed as well as the improper use of the dumpster which can cause recyclables contamination. We still encourage recycling; plastic bags are available in both kitchens for ministries to use for taking recyclables to the various community drop off sites. The vacant dumpster space next to the trash bin can be used for eventual storage of outdoor chapel items. Upon completion of discussion, the motion carried, all votes in favor.

- d) Coke machine: Discussion concerning the machine yielded a motion by Cathy Halprin to remove it, with a second by Lori Lawhorn. All votes were in favor. The Facilities Committee will find good use for that space.
  - e) After several issues of late with a transformer blowing on the west side of the building, the junior warden and Facilities Committee are concerned about power reliability and facility impacts. A meeting will be held soon with Gulf Power Co for solutions as well as an energy audit.
  - f) The portico repair project will begin the week of March 28, and is expected to take about two weeks.
  - g) A crucial mold/mildew problem has been discovered in the nave. Proposals will be obtained the first part of April, and very big bucks should be expected. In addition, use of the nave could possibly be impacted for 6-8 weeks. Stay tuned.
- 7. Diocesan Discipleship Day** will be held on Saturday, April 9 at St. Christopher's in Pensacola, 9:30 – 4:00. Cost will be \$5 per person which will include lunch. The event will consist of three seminars and registration can be done online. After those interested have signed up, we will come up with a carpool plan.
- 8. Decor change decisions:** ECW member Joan Bomar reported on a meeting with Michael Hall, the designer who helped with the outside doors, colors/curtains in the parish hall, and worked with Fr. Mark on the chapel floor. Joan distributed notes on Michael's ideas concerning the parish hall, Scheel Parlor, east hall and the Friendship Room, the latter which Fr. Edward has targeted as a good choice for a much needed conference room. Discussion yielded many ideas concerning décor changes/redos and who is responsible for decisions. Gene Correll moved that the vestry task the Facilities Committee to develop a process for making modifications to building décor. Bill Hardy seconded. During discussion of the motion, it was suggested that involvement should be open to other parish entities at the discretion of the Facilities Committee. Motion carried, all votes in favor, after which Joan's dedication to our building and grounds was commended.
- 9. Vestry photos for website and wall display:** The 2016 vestry photo display has not been in place in the entrance hallway because "a two hour project is now in its third month" (LOL). Gene Correll has taken updated photos of all vestry members, but some of them need to be redone because of inconsistencies with white edges. In spite of this, he will go ahead and hang the panel tomorrow, then work on changes when he can find someone to help him with the matting. His idea is that the mat needs revising so to include the chancellor, clerk, treasurer, and youth representative in the presentation. Gene will give the photos to Ansley Walker to update on the vestry website.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **10. Clergy Reports:**

- a) Cleanup work day was a huge success with 70+ parishioners lending a hand.
- b) Fr. Edward is making some calls to request major gifts from some parishioners for roof repair \$\$\$ and is hoping for about \$200K. He requested that Bill Hardy head up a roof capital campaign and Bill accepted.
- c) Fr. Eric reported that Clergy Renewal of Vows will be held in Mobile on Wednesday. Maundy Thursday footwashing will be at 7pm, Good Friday service at noon, and community service at 6pm on Friday. Sign up is available for Thursday night/Friday morning vigil in the chapel. It would be good to have a vestry representative present during each hour.
- d) Amber Smith, nursery director, is doing a great job thus far. Parents' Morning Out will begin in April on Wednesday mornings.

11. **Rector Search Update:** Four interviews were conducted via FaceTime last week and the candidates are being reviewed.

12. **Adjournment** at 7:40 pm after closing prayer by Barbara Smith. Next vestry meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18 at 5:30 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Ellen Dodson  
Clerk of the Vestry