

St. Simon's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
16 July 2015

ATTENDEES:

Bob Hauge, Senior Warden
JoAnn Gorsuch, Junior Warden
Ellen Dodson, Clerk of the Vestry
Mike Sheppard, Treasurer
John Fitzgerald, Parish Administrator

Vestry Members Present: Rhoda Adams-Reiss, John Gardner, Jackie Glover, Cathy Halprin, Donna Kendrick, Renee Larson, John Sanders
Vestry Members Absent: Gene Correll, Joey Havelka, Debbie Vaughan

Guests: Jo Anne Ashmore, Barbara Bethea, Margie Bridwell, Danny Broaddus, Gloria DeBerry, Bobbie Finegan, Brian Finegan, Bill Hardy, Yvonne Hardy, Mary Hauge, Netta Holley, Mary Jones, Bishop-elect The Rev. Russell Kendrick, Cecelia Lacey, Steve Larson, Liz McCartney, Ginny Mitchell, Mike Mitchell, Ellen Sheppard

The meeting was called to order with prayers by Bob Hauge at 6:00 p.m.

MOTIONS:

a. A motion was made by Rhoda Adams-Reiss to approve the presented agenda. The motion was seconded by JoAnn Gorsuch, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

b. A motion to approve the June 2015 minutes was made by John Sanders. The motion was seconded by Renee Larson, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

IMPORTANT NEW BUSINESS:

a. Treasurer's Report:

1. Through 30 June, combined plate & pledge was \$277,378, \$12,310 above what was projected. Out of curiosity, the treasurer researched the books from past years and found that at the end of each second quarter, combined plate & pledge in 2014 was \$266K and \$232K in 2013. This is an encouraging upward trend which we hope to continue.

2. Year to date Operating Income through 30 June was \$296,674, while operating expenses were \$284,112, so income was a bit higher than anticipated and expenses were slightly less. With these two positives, the \$35,000 deficit with which we began the year has been decreased by \$22,000.

b. Fr. Dick Cobbs Outdoor Chapel: Netta Holley and Steve Larson distributed an update (attachment 1) for vestry members. Phase I of the project is nearing completion with the deadline of 31 July for paver orders to be placed. A three-part proposal is included in the document which will continue Phase II of the project. A motion was presented by Donna Kendrick to:

1) Approve the delegation of this work and responsibility to the new Outdoor Chapel Committee.

2) Outdoor Chapel Committee will update the vestry on any actions taken and results every two months or after key events.

3) Outdoor Chapel Committee is responsible for the critical need to coordinate and synchronize this work with other church initiatives and events via John Fitzgerald and the junior warden. Jackie Glover seconded the motion and after discussion, the motion to approve was carried by a unanimous vote.

c. A/C units: John Fitzgerald reported that we have two aging units in which the evaporating coils are leaking; one unit is in the Fellowship Room (1998), and the others in the parish hall kitchen. For the former, cost of coil replacement is \$4,710 while a new Trane unit (7.5 ton) is \$4,865 plus \$3,250 installation by Dave's Air Conditioning. The indoor (1999) and outdoor (1998) parish hall kitchen units (20 ton) can be repaired (fan coils replaced) for \$7,010, while we can get a new system for \$11,191 with a \$6,150 installation fee. When Dave's came in and diagnosed the problems, they charged up the units and their estimates to repair/replace include that service visit. The Finance Committee recommended replacement of both, so as a result, Donna Kendrick's motion to confirm with a second by Cathy Halprin, yielded a unanimous vote.

In regards to funding these replacements, discussion followed with the treasurer's guidance. The Major Maintenance Fund presently contains \$20,600, and it's best not to zero it out, which payment of these A/C replacements would do. His recommendation is to take some funds from Designated Funds (not operating capital) suggesting the Kay Berridge Memorial. Rhoda Adams-Reiss moved that we fund the Air Conditioning replacements with a portion to be taken from the Major Maintenance & Repair Fund, with the remaining amount to be taken from the Kay Berridge Memorial. John Gardner seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

d. Upon concerns presented by John Gardner, a committee was formed to propose funding ideas for additional priest(s) to work with Fr. Eric during the search process. Volunteers were John Gardner, Senior Warden Bob Hauge, Donna Kendrick, and Treasurer Mike Sheppard.

e. As a result of St. Simon's new fees for building use, a request has been made from the "Dancing Dolphins" for a lower increase since the group has been renting our facility for quite some time now. As part of their request, they will set up and clean up, thus reducing John Fitzgerald's time commitment. John Sanders moved that we negotiate a reduced fee in respect of the group's request. Rhoda Adams-Reiss seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote. Treasurer Mike Sheppard will follow up.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Inreach: stained glass window update. Jackie Glover has plans to speak with a prospective donor before providing an update. She also will have a design to share with members at the August vestry meeting.

ACTION ITEMS (from June minutes)

1. Sea Tow striping project: Jackie Glover, on hold/recommend we drop for this year.
2. Outreach bicycle repair plan: Joey Havelka, on hold/recommend we drop for this year.
3. Stained glass vestry sub-committee (reported above)
4. Narrative for Parish Ministry Portfolio: Rhoda Adams-Reiss, Donna Kendrick, Renee Larson. (Action completed and included in Community Ministry Portfolio)
5. Ministry Fair: Jackie Glover of the Inreach Committee reported that Ellen Sheppard has agreed to coordinate the Ministry Fair this fall.

CLERGY & STAFF UPDATES

a. Junior Warden

1. The Facilities Committee isn't meeting right now because urgent projects have been addressed in the past year and funds are low.
2. JoAnn Gorsuch will coordinate flowers for the upcoming funeral in the absence of Flower Guild Director Debbie Vaughan.
3. The chartered bus to Bishop-Elect Kendrick's consecration will leave from St. Simon's at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 25th.

b. Senior Warden

1. Stewardship program: Bob Hauge has been in conversation with Fr. Eric in regards to "Stewardship Program" which Bob & Mary purchased recently. An outside speaker is in the works.
2. The Outreach Committee is planning a day of prayer and service on Saturday, September 12 with the purpose of uniting parishioners in a day of community service. This is in the initial planning stages so details will follow.
3. Bob Hauge opened the floor for comments from attending parishioners as well as Fr. Kendrick. There was much concern about the rector search process with many feeling that an exception should be made for St. Simons so that our associate rector can be selected as the next rector. During the discussion that followed, the senior warden explained:

St. Simons vestry met with diocesan representative the Rev. Massey Gentry in May requesting a change to the standard diocesan parish search process. Our request was for permission to do a short search process with our associate rector. Negotiations stalled and a mutual agreement was made that a

consultant would be called in, and both the diocese and St. Simons would be bound by the consultant's recommendation. After his visit, the consultant provided his recommendation to the diocese that St. Simons must do a full search. During the past few weeks, the vestry has made this information available to the parish by announcements during worship and in the e-Pistle.

Several parishioners requested a new review of the consultant's decision, and felt very strongly that their voice was not heard. Some suggested calling in another consultant. The senior warden gave assurance that to his knowledge, all emails and letters were read by the consultant, the bishop and bishop-elect. Bishop-elect Kendrick counseled and advised that he has seen the search process work in many parishes and situations, and even though the process is arduous, the Holy Spirit is an active part of the discernment. He reminded those present that when a priest is called as associate rector, that is not the same role as a rector. (There is more to that than we can imagine, and there's a pastoral piece to it). It is important to know that Fr. Eric is here with us and can remain in his position throughout the search and possibly after. If he wants to put his name in the pot, that might be a different matter. Fr. Kendrick doesn't know how that would work.

The question of the parish profile arose. Fr. Kendrick said that the profile defines the parameters by which we can compare ours with the profile of each candidate. The first steps are to send our profile to the national data base and to appoint a search committee which should be a cross section of the parish. The hiring of an interim is important to do soon. Discussion ended with some statements of unity and respect among those on all sides of the issue.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Sea Tow striping project: Jackie Glover
2. Bicycle repair project: Joey Havelka
3. Ministry Fair: John Gardner, Jackie Glover, Ellen Sheppard
4. Stained glass window report: Jackie Glover
5. Dancing Dolphins rental fees: Mike Sheppard
6. Day of prayer and service: Bob Hauge

CLOSING PRAYER: Jackie Glover

Next vestry meeting will be held on Thursday, August 20.
Adjournment at 7:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Ellen Dodson,
Clerk of the Vestry