

# St. Simon's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes - 17 September 2015

## **ATTENDEES:**

The Rev'd Eric Zubler, Associate Rector  
Bob Hauge, Senior Warden  
JoAnn Gorsuch, Junior Warden  
Chris Westphal, Substitute Clerk of the Vestry  
Brice Horwell, Assistant Treasurer  
Paul Wheelless, Head of Stewardship Campaign  
Margie Bridwell, Parishioner

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

**Vestry Members Absent:** John Gardner

After a celebration of The Holy Eucharist in the chapel, with nine in attendance the meeting was called to order in the Drama Room on the second floor at St. Simon's.

Sr. Warden Bob Hauge presented each vestry member with a remembrance gift of the recently held Day of Service which was Saturday 9/12/2015. Many various Ft. Walton Beach entities that service the city were honored by St. Simon's in thanks for all the service they offer on a daily basis year round. Opening prayer was given by Joey Havelka.

## **Motions:**

- a. The Senior Warden, Bob Hauge, wanted to change verbiage that concerned the Dancing Dolphins renewal be stated as "agreement" verses word contract used in minutes. A motion to approve the minutes with the revision and tonight's agenda was made by Gene Correll, seconded by Donna Kendrick, which yielded a unanimous vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Treasurer's report was offered by Brice Horwell, substituting for Mike Sheppard. Per the facts supplied by Mike, Brice reported total pledge and plate was \$366,281. which is about 3.7% ahead of projected for the first 8 months of the year. Major Maintenance & Repair account took major hit due to A/C repairs and replacement work required. Our operating expenses have been kept below our operating income by \$25,003.00. Nancy and Mike are working on a "redraft" of the working budget. This "redraft" will be completed before the next vestry meeting and will reflect some of the known changes e.g. Father Mark's salary/benefits, additional supply clergy costs, interim rector costs etc. Some figures will be exacts and other will be approximations. Debbie Murphy returned our financials and completed audit for 2014. She was complementary of our procedures. She did have a couple of minor suggestions that will be taken note of and copies of report will be made for all interested parties.

- b. Search committee guidance would like a number of candidates to present to the vestry when their work is completed. Three names, five names, one name, they need guidance as to how many candidates should be brought to the vestry. After much discussion it was decided to bring one. Debbie Vaughan offered that the vestry chose this team and you must show faith in your search committee's choice. Knowing all the while if the committee runs into problems they can be readdressed at that time. A motion was made to bring only one candidate by Donna Kendrick and seconded by Debbie Vaughan. Vote to approve nine, one vote to oppose. The motion was carried.
- c. Stewardship Report and Budget Request was presented by this year's Stewardship Campaign Head Paul Wheelless. The program adopted will be "New Consecration Sunday." This program requires a guest leader and that person will be Perry Scruggs. Costs for this program could total \$5,000. It will also require a special vestry meeting, to decide all details, which will be held Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup>. At that meeting the vestry will hear complete plans and agenda for the stewardship drive. Sr. Warden also made note that no monies had been requested from search committee and none is expected until next year and that will be properly budgeted for in 2016. A motion was made by Debbie Vaughan to approve funds to support the Stewardship in the amount of \$5,000. Renee Larson seconded, vote resulted in a unanimous vote to approve.
- d. No monies at this time have been requested for search committee. It is expected that at that time they will request a budget of \$15,000.
- e. Annual meeting will be held Sunday October 18, 2015. A "Pot Luck" will be the food offering. Budget will be presented in a simple form, as it was last year. It was a four part breakdown to make it easy for parish members to understand. Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden and other various heads will present their reports.
- f. Vestry Nominees at this time still being secured. Those names known that are willing to run are: Ann Clark, Paul Wheelless, and Ceil Lacy. Four members are leaving the vestry and they will need to be replaced. Requests continue in e-pistle and individual requests from all vestry members are being pursued to have a strong ballot available for various parish members.
- g. John Gardner was not present to make a presentation for the new roof, but Sr. Warden presented "leg work" he had done in his absence. The attachment of his thoughts will be with this report. Bottom line, a line of credit will be secured from a local bank in the amount of \$200,000. The actual vote to continue with this plan will happen at the Annual Vestry Meeting. Sr. Warden encouraged vestry members to make it known to all parish members that the need for the roof is real and imminent. Diocesan approval for all works is also required. Debbie Vaughan offered what is to happen if congregation does not approve, but bottom line is new roof is needed. The vestry will be required to provide a campaign to prove to those that don't approve. No permission is required from the parish family to proceed, but Sr. Warden feels that the issue is so important he wants to include the entire parish in this decision. Gene Correll reminded that to rebuild after Opal cost 1.3 million. Debbie Vaughan made a motion to move ahead with the new roof, but to explain the plan of the vestry but regardless to move ahead with roof replacement. Cathy Halprin seconded. A unanimous vote resulted. In October meeting, feedback will be reported. The bank visit to request loans will be represented by Bob Hauge, Mike Sheppard, Gene Correll, and possibly Walter Givhan. Commercial Roofers that have entered bids are Southeast Construction, Whitrock, and JJP Roofing.

**There was no OLD BUSINESS to discuss.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. The ministry fair will be held Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>, between the services. Many groups have requested tables to include Flower Guild, Altar Guild, Young Adults, Outdoor Chapel Committee, DOK, Craft Fair, as well as others who have not yet committed.

**CLERGY UPDATES**

- a. Father Eric handed out update sheets for those that needed to complete their safeguarding God's children program.
- b. Sunday Evening September 20, will hold a Beach Picnic at 5:00 p.m. and afterwards a beach church service will be held.
- c. Sunday at 12:30 Father Eric will host a training class for Lay Eucharist visitors.
- d. Father Edward Harrison arrives October 28, 2015. He signed his Letter of Agreement Tuesday September 15<sup>th</sup>. He is willing to answer any questions any parish member has before he comes on board. His first Sunday to preach will be Sunday November 1, 2015, All Saints Day.
- e. Father Eric was distressed over the many emails that have circulated this week that consisted of discussions from replacing the church roof to clergy salary. He feels these issues and all other information should be discussed at vestry meetings only and please refrain from sending mass e-mailings.
- f. He also thanked the vestry for voting to approve the bonus to be awarded to him.

**JUNIOR WARDEN:**

- a. JoAnn thanked everyone for their support during her recent illness. She truly felt loved and cared for during her hospital stay.
- b. The air conditioners were finished last week.
- c. Frank Gray contributed another \$1,000 to the Father Jack Soup Kitchen.
- d. Expected length of work time on roof is six to eight weeks.

Next regular vestry meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Adjournment at 7:46 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Chris Westphal,  
Substitute Clerk of the Vestry