

All Saints Episcopal Church – Hilton Head SC
March 28, 2023 Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present: Rev. Denise Trogdon, Rev. Pam Fahrner, Joyce Emmett, Anita Hill, Jack Case, Becky Forbes, Charlie Forbes, Zeke Hanzl, Barbara Lytle, Bob Colegrove, Howard Coonley, Jerry Simmons

On Zoom: Pam Neyhouse, Nancy Tillinghast, Mike Binford, Marilyn Roper

1. Joyce Emmett called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. An opening prayer was led by the Reverend Denise Trogdon.
3. Joyce then called for approval of the February 28, 2023 Vestry meeting minutes, electronically distributed earlier. These were moved approved by Bob, seconded by Joyce, and passed by the board members.
4. Book discussion followed covering the Preface, Introduction, & Chapters 27-31 of Brian McClaren's *We Make the Road by Walking*. Individual vestry members offered personal commentary.
5. Discussion Topics
 - Upcoming Vestry Member Tasks:
 - Vestry members were told to submit a picture, a brief biography, and their vestry liaison position to Jessie before April 9. These will be posted on a board for parishioners to peruse. A commissioning of vestry members will occur on May 14th at the 10:15am morning worship service.
 - Communion Practices
 - As COVID numbers continue to significantly plummet, Denise outlined gradual changes for Communion practices as the year progresses.
 - In Lent approach to the altar rail was implemented.
 - Post Easter, priestly use of masks will be dropped.
 - All Saints is one of the only diocese churches not sharing a common cup.
 - So, beginning in the summer months, parishioners will be offered the option to return to using the shared wine cup, or, continue with priestly intinction of the wafer.
 - Discussion then followed about the proven natural antibacterial properties of “silver” chalice rims vs. parishioner hand intinction.
 - The E blast will print a small explanatory paragraph of the gradual normalization changes.

6. ACTION ITEMS:

An explanation was then given about a recent diocesan request, based on the 232nd convention. Each church is to adopt and execute a “Resolution for Adoption” followed by “A Commitment of Affirmation” signed by officers of each vestry. This commitment is actually a re-signing, identical to the Dennis Canon signed in the 1980s by churches in the diocese. Because all did not sign and return it at that time, it left church property

vulnerable to accession and litigation by recent schismatic parishes. The Affirmation basically just states that All Saints Episcopal Church is part of the Episcopal Church of South Carolina, and the diocese is part of the greater Episcopal Church in America.

Bob Colegrove then moved and Zeke seconded the motion to approve the Resolution for the Adoption of the Commitment of Affirmation. These papers are to be signed by officers of the All Saints Vestry, notarized, and then returned to the Diocese of South Carolina. The All Saints Board then unanimously voted to approve the action.

7. Reports:

Though all were read, meeting verbal commentary followed with some liaison reports:

Rector's Report

Denise Trogdon

Associate's Report

Pam Fahrner

Denise commended Pam for all the additional work and personal time she has expended in Mark's absence. All present then applauded her exceptional service.

Senior Warden's Report

Mike Binford

Junior Warden's Report

Joyce Emmett

Finance/Foundation/Stewardship

Bob Colegrove/Becky Forbes

Becky noted that, from the income side, February was a good month; however, this is because Pledge revenue was 29% of the budget (since several parishioner paid off their entire pledge early in the year). Other future income lines are difficult to predict, since unexpected gifts, occasional underbudget spending, and other variables often occur without expectation. So, she felt we can be neither pessimistic nor optimistic at this early point in the church year; by the end of May more will be known.

Denise said that considering this is really the 1st year back from COVID, she feels that the pledging is appropriate. Many other South Carolina churches are financially struggling and are trying to function way below their pledge goals.

Bob indicated the Stewardship Committee members have resolved to keep the process ongoing in accruing time, talent, and treasure (funding). Also, three times yearly, the parish will be updated on where the finances of the parish stand.

Building & Grounds

Pam Neyhouse/Anita Hill

Anita said she noted that the Flower Guild, in their most recent report, was requesting outdoor church signage since vendors were experiencing difficulty. Since the Vestry had discussed signage last year, Pam indicated she would follow up with Brian. Denise noted that we would also need a sign for the new Child Development Center.

Nancy asked about the status of the Columbarium addition. Becky noted that \$50,000 in funds was earmarked for Columbarium usage, though mostly for individual spaces within

the walls. Denise indicated that Bob Reuter and Truitt Rabun were in discussion about the project. She asked Anita to get an update from them for the Vestry's next meeting. Anita indicated that she would enter into dialogue with both men, however, she was not aware of any designated Columbarium "Committee" for this project. Mike indicated he would be willing to serve on such if it were formed. Denise said that a more permanent solution also needs to be found for temporary tiles that fall off during storms; also regular maintenance from a professional company is needed to clean the marble fronts. Jack said that Brian was experiencing major delay problems with the Savannah vendor, and the only other engraving vendor he found was more expensive and offered even greater wait times for new covering tiles. Pam N. said this was an industry wide problem.

Worship/Music

Howard Coonley/Jerry Simmons

Howard mentioned that the church organ has received some much needed maintenance services. He also noted that Saturday @5 reported 6 new members last month, one of whom pledged.

Jerry said that he felt the anthem played at the last Sunday morning service was outstanding and inspiring: earlier in the month, the Bell Choir was also amazing. He expressed concern about the piano in Gordon Mann Hall and its lack of a cover. Anita indicated that piano player Beth Corry from Saturday @5 also wanted it covered, but she was told by Suade that music monies were already designated for other needs. Denise said that Suade needs to be told to purchase one from the church account since the \$300 cost is affordable.

Adult Education

Nancy Tillinghast/Mike Binford

Nancy reported that the Prayer Vigil now has its own link and is located under Worship on the church's website.

Communications

Charlie Forbes/ Joyce Emmett

Charlie commented about the usefulness of the performance metrics that are derived from the online E-blast.

Welcoming/Newcomers

Marilyn Roper

Fellowship/Parish Life

Barbara Lytle

Barbara sought clarification of who should be responsible for the Connection Station. Denise felt it should fall mostly under the purview of the Welcoming Committee in the active part of the church year. So, to assist, Barb Lytle agreed to be responsible for it during the summer months when Barb Colegrove is out of state.

Social Justice

Zeke Hanzl

Zeke agreed to phone the neighboring Beth Yam congregation to see if the time for weekly landscape blowers could be changed. The noise is aurally disrupting All Saints Thursday chapel services.

He then expressed concern about a lack of interest by parishioners for the Lunch and Learn programs. He questioned how it might be better promoted to garner more involvement.

Children/Family

Joyce Emmett

Joyce indicated that the Child Development Center is now awaiting provisional state licensing. After this is received, a lead teacher, later followed by others, can be hired. A calendar is also now in the working stages. Both Joyce and Denise then noted that a full marketing plan needs to be conceived and implemented to better assure success.

General Inquiries

Pam N mentioned that it would be nice if each vestry liaison could sponsor a coffee hour using their committee(s) members. Likewise, the Vestry and other church groups could sponsor one as well.

Pam F inquired whether anyone knew of someone who could move the recording camera during Sunday's service? At present it is locked and focused on only a single area, the pulpit. Movement to the altar during communion and elsewhere would be helpful. Her inquiries outside the church have not merited success. It was speculated that an older scout with some techie interests might be a possibility.

8. A closing prayer was then offered by Pam Fahrner.
9. The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25 @ 7:00pm at the church.
10. Members were reminded that the Book Study for the April meeting will cover chapters 32A, 32B, 32C, and 33 of Brian McClaren's We Make the Road by Walking, using the same discussion prompt. For May 23 it will be Chapters 34-39 and for summer it will be Part IV, Chapters 34-39.
11. Adjournment occurred at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,
Anita L. Hill
Clerk of the Vestry