

All Saints Episcopal Church – Hilton Head SC December 13, 2022 Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present: Rev. Denise Trogdon, Rev. Mark Brinkmann, Rev. Pam Fahrner, Mike Binford, Joyce Emmett, Anita Hill, Bob Colegrove, Jack Case, Becky Forbes, Marjorie Robinson, Marilyn Roper, Zeke Hanzl, Julie Zeccola, Jerry Simmons, Pam Neyhouse, Charlie Forbes, Howard Coonley

1. Prior to the meeting, refreshments and appetizers were shared so that members could welcome and chat with proposed new Vestry board members. Mike Binford then called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.
2. Proposed new vestry members were then formally introduced: Charlie Forbes, Howard Coonley, and Nancy Tillinghast (who was travelling out of state). Zeke Hanzl will serve one more year; Joyce Emmet will serve another full term.
3. Recognition of Rev. Mark Brinkmann's long standing ministry at ASEC followed next:
 - Mike, Denise, and several members expressed appreciation for the many different services Mark has offered over so many years. Included in the testimonials were phrases like: "you are a gentleman and a scholar," "a friend to all of us," and "a sound, reasonable voice who helped All Saints transition ministers within this unique institution."
 - In turn, Mark said that he and his wife Kendall were thankful to have been a part of this wonderful mission and ministry.
 - Recognizing Mark's "humbleness and humor," Joyce then presented him with a card and restaurant gift certificate on behalf of the Vestry.
4. Mike then called for a vote of the electronically distributed November 15, 2022 Vestry minutes. These were moved approved by Zeke Hanzl, seconded by Bob Colegrove, and passed by board members.
5. Member updates on the hiring process for a new Sr. Assoc. Rector then ensued:
 - Initial interviews have been completed with two applicants for this position.
 - Second interviews that also will involve the vestry, will occur on January 9 & 16. On both days, vestry members will be given the opportunity to interview the candidates and also serve as a small group of congregants to whom each candidate could offer a sermon & brief liturgy.
 - In addition, the offer to socialize with these individuals at lunch &/or dinner on these days was also extended to vestry members.
 - There will likely be no one in place until later in the summer or fall when most church activities diminish or conclude their programs.

6. ACTION ITEMS:

Provisional 2023 budget

Jack Case then presented vestry members with a provisional budget for the next year; it is based financially on “where we stand today.” Thus far, All Saints is “strong going into this year’s end,” though incomplete pledge numbers are still uncertain. “We are above, \$600,000 now, so if we achieve our \$800,000 mark, we’ll be in great shape.”

Inflation and Staff Salaries

Because many were concerned about the effects of inflation upon present staff salaries, most felt that the hired staff was due raises. Jack then requested that the vestry approve an 8% inflationary pay increase.

A call was made for the **approval of the provisional budget, being aware that it will be complete when more pledges come in. Within this 2023 budget is also included an 8% raise for staff employed by All Saints as well as contractor Brian Hayes.** Marilyn Roper moved to approve this motion, Mike Binford seconded it, and **the vestry unanimously approved it.**

Rector’s Housing Allowance

Jack indicated that every December the vestry is required to approve the housing allowance for our clergy. The “official” motion reads:

Whereas the Rev. Denise Trogdon is employed as a Minister of the Gospel by All Saints Episcopal Church, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, which does not provide a residence for her, the Vestry resolves that of the total compensation to be paid to the Rev. Denise Trogdon during the year 2023, \$45,000 of total compensation for 2023 be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. This designation shall be for the year 2023 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

Mike moved to approve this motion, Jerry Simmons seconded it, and **the vestry unanimously approved it.**

Boy Scout Eagle Project

Jerry Simmons described an Eagle Scout project that Jackson Simmons is interested in constructing. It will be a **“Blessings Box” that will be made to hold the dry, storable objects which parishioners regularly donate in partnership with the Sandalwood Food Pantry. The cabinet is to be made of wood and placed in the front church vestibule.** It would be larger and provide a nicer appearance than present temporary plastic containers. Joyce then read a thank you note to All Saints from the Sandalwood Pantry for our steady stream of contributions.

A motion to approve this project was made by Zeke, seconded by Joyce, and unanimously approved by the Vestry.

Garden Tour 2023 Grant Recipients

A motion was then made to approve the following **ASEC 2023 Garden Tour grant recipients:**

- **Antioch Education Center**
- **Backpack Buddies of Bluffton and Hardeeville**
- **HHI Safe Harbor**
- **Sandalwood Community Pantry**
- **Hunger Coalition of the Lowcountry (Backpack Buddies of HHI)**
- **Family Promise**

Anita approved the motion; it was seconded by Jerry, and the vestry unanimously approved it.

7. Misc. Information

- Marilyn Roper noted that Suade was still being referred to as Interim Music Director incorrectly within the bulletin. Denise commented that the oversight will be corrected.
- Pam Neyhouse explained that delay in the removal of the old stove was related to it's size and a security change of the back door to a smaller one. Inadvertently it was boxed in! Brainstorming a solution is now in process.
- Mike explained, to the new members present, that they would become official vestry members upon approval of the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 29. They will assume liaison positions after that. Because of January's Annual Meeting, there will be no Vestry Board meeting during that month.
- In regard to the Annual Meeting, Denise reminded all board members present that their year-end annual report was to be submitted to Tessa absolutely no later than the second week in January. She also mentioned that there are plans in the process for a brunch to precede the meeting.
- A Vestry Retreat is planned for Friday, February 3 & Saturday, February 4. Socialization and an evening dinner will be scheduled the first day, and retreat business will be scheduled for the next day from about 9-1(or 2).

8. Mark Brinkmann then offered a closing prayer.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita L. Hill
Clerk of the Vestry