

Minutes of Annual Meeting January 28, 2024 All Saints Episcopal Church

After welcoming those present, the Reverend Denise Trogdon opened the breakfast and Annual meeting with a prayer. An opening hymn, "Love Divine All Love Excelling," led by Suade Anderson, followed. Anita Hill was named Chief Annual Meeting Clerk to record proceedings.

Denise referred participants to an Annual Report booklet compiled by Jessie McIlwee which was available for each table. It's entire contents are also available online on the church's website. Jessie then attempted to offer a compilation of photos for viewing of 2023 in review. However, the internet was only working sporadically, so she said she would post them online at the church's website, so everyone could view them there.

Rector's Report

Denise then summarized several key church activities of the past year. She said that last year was one of much needed growth in terms of both activities and attendance. Offering several of the year's highlights, she mentioned:

- The hiring of Assoc. Rector the Rev. Katie Presley who brought with her spouse Aly.
- The opening of the Child Development Center, which is now licensed by the state of SC. It provides education, meals, and childcare to underserved local children.
- The start of the Circles outreach meals program, providing underserved families through the Deep Well Project. All Saints provides full meals quarterly for their meetings.
- The return of many fellowship activities, such as: coffee hours, retreats, supper clubs, seasonal saints, EpiscoPals, and the annual shared Thanksgiving dinner.
- The increased use of zoom for flexibility w/increased meetings, courses and services.
- The music program flourishing under Suade Anderson, who hired Mollie Nichols as part-time organist/Asst Director. Our handbell choir & Music on Broadway were also hits.
- Under the leadership of Sr. Assoc Rector Pam Fahrner, pastoral care ministry teams have visited large numbers of individuals at health facilities. Under the leadership of Blake Robinson and Margaret Collins a new lay pastoral committee has offered programs like Christmas caroling and Memory Care; in addition, the church offers grief counseling and other forms of lay pastoral care.

Denise then expressed gratitude for the All Saints staff who keeps everything running smoothly: Tessa Hahn, administrator, Jessie McIlwee, communications director, Blair Milburn, finance, Becky Forbes, treasurer, Jack Case, emeritus treasurer, Brian Hayes, care of building and grounds, Suade Anderson and Mollie Nichols, Music, Meghan Theobald, Child Development Center, Katie Presley, Pam Fahrner, Kerry Smith, clergy, and Blake Robinson, chaplain.

Senior Warden's Report

Mike Binford concurred with Denise that the past year has been one of renewal and growth. In stark contrast to COVID times, he said he felt the health of the parish is strong and he thanked those present for all their support. He is stepping down from the Vestry, and he said the congregation, vestry members and staff made his work all the more rewarding. Besides noting that the physical plant and roof is now in sound shape, he noted that the parking lot was also repaired and resurfaced, all projects coming out of the building reserve fund. He invited those present to participate, support and volunteer their time to keep this a vital and growing parish.

New Initiatives

Jr. Warden Joyce Emmett then introduced members of newer initiatives that began last year to explain a few details of each.

Adult Formation

Katie Presley said that though she is still exploring the best “when, where and how” of Christian formation, she is learning much along the way. She has met with all ages in the Christian formation process, from the youth within the CDC to adults in New Testament, Advent and Sacred Ground online sessions. She then mentioned the upcoming zoom-online Lenten study now planned. She also said she felt the Episcopal Church was evolving, and as a congregation, she was confident All Saints would grow and change with it.

Circles Program

Representing one of about 30 All Saints volunteers involved in the new Circles Program, Lisa Ghessie described those they serve. Working with Deep Well, this program provides food and educational tools to help impoverished families be more successful in joining the work force. All Saints volunteers prepare and cook the entire meal quarterly for about 60 adults and children; the twelve families are made up mostly of Mexican and African Americans. Lisa said volunteers are still regularly needed; they are also considering pairing up with another nearby church.

Childhood Development Center

Director Meghan Theobald said that there are now 11 students of working families in regular attendance at the new center which opened Sept 5. Fully licensed by the state, it eventually can hold as many as 40. Helping to reopen the center were COVID era funds and a \$40,000 grant from the state of South Carolina. Besides Meghan, lead teacher Ashley Mills and assistant Gina Gold also instruct the children. The 4 year old program is now fully funded by the state, so parents of these student pay no tuition if they qualify. Thirteen students will be needed for the ABC program to be implemented; it is a scholarship program for 2 and 3 year olds. More advertising and word of mouth is still needed to grow and promote the program. Tio’s Latin American Kitchen, 40 Shelter Cove Ln, has agreed to a fundraiser for the center on February 28 from 4-9 pm, with a portion of the proceeds raised to be donated to the Center.

Financial Reports

Stewardship Committee

Chair Dana Duncan briefly described how the Stewardship Committee works and then described the results of this year’s campaign. Because the 2024 goal increased to \$810,000, the latest stewardship mailing packet included not only a letter briefly describing this increase, but also “restructured” pledge cards. The cards included the former year’s pledge as well as a new “asked for” amount that better reflected increasing parish needs. By the end of 2023, 189 pledges were returned; they totaled \$743,414. Dana said this amount meets 91% of the goal, or 7.2% of the additional 10% that parishioners were asked to increase their pledge by. It is hoped late pledges will continue to trickle in, and sporadic plate-giving will turn into “commitment giving” to make up the difference in financial need.

Finance Committee

Chair Bob Colgrove spoke for the Finance Committee, indicating that his group tries to assure

that expenses match the income. He said that by the end of last year, operating fund revenues narrowly exceeded expenses for the first time in several years. He hopefully anticipated another very small surplus at the end of this 2024 year, even with increases in expenses of \$95,000.

Other financial transactions mentioned, included:

- Expenditures from the Maintenance Reserves, covering capital maintenance items:
 - HVAC repairs and 2 replacements (w/regular yearly replacements on schedule)
 - Major Kitchen appliances and improvements
- A total of \$34,200 raised by the Annual Garden Tour was distributed to 6 local charities.

In addition, with the advice and assistance of an external auditor, the Finance office made improvements to the accounting system that would enhance financial reporting and analysis capabilities. Audits for 2019 and following years are still “in process” by an outside firm.

Columbarium

Speaking for the Columbarium Committee, Treasurer Emeritus Jack Case provided background information and recent changes that have taken place in All Saints Columbarium area.

- Within the main structure and area, 260 Saints are presently resting.
- There are four vaults, each with 40 niches; of the 160 present, 145 are now committed.
- After a Columbarium committee was formed, chaired by Truitt Rabun, they immediately began correcting problems that had arisen over the years:
 - An invasive, creeping fig vine was removed from all the Columbarium walls.
 - After a source for the structure’s stone was finally found to match the present one, several niche covers were replaced, repaired, and engraved. Also, corroded screws were changed out with new ones, edges and corners were tuck pointed, and all front faces were chemically deep cleaned.
 - An additional large bronze plate was ordered; it, like the other now present, will contain the names of those whose ashes will be interred “on site” in the future.

In terms of future expansion, after considering wetlands, utility easements, and other property obstructions, it was decided to place any new Columbarium expansion within the present general area. It also was decided that:

- A pre-application request w/an as-built survey would be submitted to the town of Hilton Head for approval. (Approval may take some time.)
- Brad Hicks has been retained for future expansion as the designer; he will provide us with concept drawings of the new units from which to choose.
- Before construction begins, the vestry and congregation will see & approve all plans.

Building and Grounds

Vestry liaison Pam Neyhouse indicated that the buildings on campus are occupied 12-16 hours daily, so maintenance work is plentiful. During the early part of the year, projects begun last year, were finished; these include: the roof, painting and replacement of new kitchen appliances, gas lines and sink. In summer, 2 older HVAC units (of the 18) & all filters were replaced. The parking lot was repaired and repaved. Concentration efforts were then turned toward preparing the CDC for its September opening. This work included: intensive cleaning & repainting, window replacement, furniture repair, and installation of a camera based security system.

Foundation Report

Chair Lesley Gilbert indicated that the Foundation's mission is to provide permanent and non-permanent monies yearly that would preserve and enhance structures and new ministries; it is not related to every day operating expenses. Yearly distributions amount to 3.75% of the average performance for the previous year. This year alone the Foundation funds distributed about \$24,000; in the last 5 years this has amounted to a total of \$102,880 given to the church.

In 2023 the Foundation received \$75,000 in new contributions, and because of a favorable investing environment, it ended the year with a total market value of \$784,524. Considering its lowly beginning total of \$63,000 several years ago, market growth and the compounding effect is very much in evidence. Lesley asked those present to seriously consider becoming a part of this Pelican Society and join others who have made a legacy commitment of some type or kind.

Joyce thanked Lesley for her service as chair since she is stepping down. An approval vote of new Foundation board members was then requested for the upcoming year:

It was so moved, and unanimously approved by all those present, that the following new members will serve on the All Saints Foundation Board: Linda Mikita, Blake Robinson, and David Russert

Other Assembly Votes

Diocesan Delegates

Mike Binford then requested a vote of approval from the assembly for this Fall's 2024 Diocesan Convention delegates:

It was so moved, and unanimously approved by all those present, that the following members will serve their 3 year terms as diocesan delegates: Joyce Emmett, Lisa Ghessie, Jim Hackett, and Barry Mills. With alternate delegates being: Dana Duncan, Charlie Forbes, Nancy Tillinghast, and Julie Zeccola

Vestry Slate Changes

Recognition and thanks were then expressed by Denise on behalf of the assembly to outgoing Vestry Members: Mike Binford, Senior Warden, Zeke Hanzl, Social Justice liaison, and Jerry Simmons, Music & Worship liaison.

A vote of approval was then solicited from the assembly for new Vestry members:

It was so moved, and unanimously approved by all those present, that the following members will serve terms on the Vestry: Judy Cote, Dana Duncan, John Gilbert and Bobbie Helbig

After the vote, Denise answered a query from the assembly and announced that the next Senior Warden will be Charlie Forbes, with Joyce Emmett remaining as Junior Warden.

After a closing prayer led by Katie, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted by
Anita L. Hill
Annual Meeting Chief Clerk

