

All Saints Episcopal Church Hilton Head Island, SC

Annual Meeting January 26, 2025

1. The Rev. Denise Trogdon opened the Annual meeting with a prayer at 10:15 am.
2. This was followed by Jessie McIlwee's visual presentation depicting key church events from 2024. The two minute retrospective, entitled "Year in Review," offered photos of parishioners, clergy and children participating in activities throughout the year.
3. Rector's Report:
Denise followed this slide offering with a scripture reading. She then said that during 2024, there was an emphasis on spiritual growth, service to the greater community, and taking better care of All Saints physical plant. Additionally:
 - She noted that overall church attendance has increased over the year for all three services.
 - Another increase was CDC attendance, increasing in size from 6 to 27 students.

Denise then shared that there were transitions among All Saints staff members:

- Especially welcome is our new, part-time campus manager Kevin Dyer. He will oversee various other contractors who have been hired, for things like upkeep of the grounds and cleaning of the church.
- Additionally, Molly Nichols was welcomed as a new organist.
- Denise bid a fond farewell to the Rev. Pam Fahrner who retired last month and Deacon Kerry Smith who moved out of town.
 - She then thanked the wardens, clergy, staff, and the volunteers who are making this church so alive and welcoming. Most especially, she expressed gratitude "for allowing me to be your spiritual leader."

4. Senior Warden's Report

Charlie Forbes then said he felt All Saints was on a sustainable upward trajectory. This past year he has repeatedly observed an outpouring of time, talent, and treasure given unconditionally by large numbers of parishioners. He then described a few of the year's highlights like:

- November's Eucharist Service, sponsored by All Saints, began the Diocesan convention. Over 340 were in attendance that evening. Also, for exemplary service through the ASEC Child Development Center, All Saints was awarded the Bishops Cross award.
- He marveled at the success of the Stewardship campaigns of 2024 & 2025.

Looking ahead, he foresaw dealing with some aging infrastructure issues as well as expansion of the Columbarium. He felt that addressing these and other capital asset projects would likely require a capitol campaign to raise the money.

5. Building & Grounds Report

Vestry liaison Pam Neyhouse noted that our landscaping contractor is now the Greenery and we are also using another outside source for the church cleaning. She suggested members look at the Annual Report for other work completed in and around the campus. Most especially, she wanted to remind everyone that recent problems with the church's many HVAC units relate to the aging equipment, ranging in age from 1 to 25 years:

- Because so many of the units are deteriorating, the vendor was changed to Lang 72 in late October.
- Three of the CDC units were replaced in December and paid for with CDC grant money. Three more units are in the process of being replaced, and another four will be repaired.
- Others are being diagnosed in terms of replacement vs. repair. All of this is expensive, but Pam reminded everyone that the parish buildings are used seven days per week for 18 hours per day.

6. Columbarium Reports

Jack Case reported that the Columbarium's 163 units had latches repaired; also, a matching new brass sign for deceased names was also purchased. Jack said additional repair work to a buckling brick floor was still needed. Additionally, this past Spring:

- A land survey of the entire property was completed.
- A local landscape architect made a conceptual plan for Columbarium expansion. Brad Hicks has considerable experience, having designed over 50 such plans for others.
 - It was determined that the best place for expansion is within the present Columbarium area, not elsewhere on the property.
 - Drawing plans can be found in the Annual Meeting booklet, page 8.
 - Phase I would add 93 new units. A double-sided Phase III near the entryway could add an additional 180 units.
 - The current price of a unit is far too low & outdated to cover costs and maintenance (\$1400). Sea Pines and St. Francis charge \$5,000-6,000 per unit!! Something closer to \$3,000 would be more reasonable.

He also said that the total cost of building both Phase II&III would be \$300,000; without Phase III it would be around \$220,000. Though the plan is designed to pay for itself over time, funds for construction work and contractors will be needed up front. Perhaps a capital campaign will be the answer.

7. Finance Report

Chairperson Bob Colegrove explained that the Finance Committee was an advisory board to the Vestry and clergy regarding the gathering and spending of funds. They also review quarterly projections, CDC financials, stewardship drives, and create an annual budget. Page 9/10 of the Annual Report details more specifics of operating revenues and expenses, and Foundation receipts/disbursements.

Treasurer Becky Forbes then noted that in terms of the 2024 budget, unexpected repairs and building expenses required a juggling act; however, the church had a very modest surplus at the end of the year. She also commented that:

- The CDC was a success story, taking not a penny from the All Saints operating budget. It received \$138,000 in state grants and \$20,000 from the SC Diocese.
- It is clear that the 2025 budget projections will be affected by overdue and neglected Building issues, the extent of which is exceedingly difficult to predict.

Stewardship Chair Dana Duncan said he was “incredibly impressed with the kindness and generosity of those who stepped up to the plate last year and offered even more money during the Bridge the Gap matching campaign. He asked those in attendance to stand up and thank their nearby neighbor for their part in stewardship. This year’s campaign totals of \$781,493 represents just under 95% of our \$820,000 projected 2025 budget, so there is still work to be done with outstanding unreturned pledges.

Vice Chair Blake Robinson explained that the All Saints Foundation is a financial base that provides strength and stability for the future. Over the last 6 years, it has grown from \$440,000 to over 1.21 million dollars. It helps to fund capital projects, not monthly operational expenses; the Pelican Society contributes regularly to this fund. Blake then called for a motion from the floor to nominate ***Ralph Drayer as a new member of the Foundation. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved by those present.***

8. Other Assembly Votes:

Charlie then recognized and thanked those whose term on the Vestry expired: Marilyn Roper, Pam Neyhouse, Anita Hill and Bob Colegrove. Although, he noted, some still remain very involved in reporting directly to the Vestry: Bob through the Finance Committee, Pam who will continue to serve on the B&G Committee, and Anita who will continue recording duties as the Vestry’s Chief Clerk, but without a vote or liaison duties. Charlie next called for a motion from the floor to elect the following new individuals as ***members of the Vestry: Bryce Edwards, Cristina Giroux, Irene Pedersen, & Ron Niclas. It was moved and seconded and unanimously approved by those present.*** Charlie then recognized Jr. Warden Joyce Emmett, saying she has worked tirelessly this past year as a champion of the Vestry, Families& Children, and the new CDC.

Next, Charlie called for a vote of approval for Diocesan Convention Delegates and their alternates. ***It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that the following individuals would represent All Saints this Fall at the Convention: Lesley and John Gilbert, Irene Pedersen, and Charlie Forbes. Diocesan alternates are to include: Joyce Emmett, Lisa Ghessie, Nancy Tillinghast and Jim Hackett.***

9. New Formation Programs:

The Rev. Katie Presley indicated that spiritual gatherings in 2024, often used “Work of the People” as a base; they met during Lent, and in the Fall the Trinity was studied.

During Advent, a women's Bible Study gathered regularly. More groups are planned for 2025, the first beginning on March 12, then every Wednesday evening throughout Lent and Holy Week. She said she was honored to lead parishioners in these waters of faith.

10. Outreach Projects

Joyce Emmett, representing Outreach, highlighted two major and recent projects. The success of the CDC was mentioned several times during the meeting, so she wanted to highlight its biggest effect, which was on the children in attendance. Teaching assistant Gena Gold then held up a picture for attendees to view, depicting the shadow of a child standing next to a teacher, each gazing at the North Star, suggesting both were moving toward greater knowledge and understanding.

Joyce also mentioned the Cold Weather Shelter Program held at Christ Lutheran church. With recent, unexpected, and unusually cold temperature, it has been open for 10 "below freezing" evenings this year. Though four island churches are participating, All Saints has provided over 50% of the volunteers.

11. Braver Angels

Charlie then described the local formation of a nationwide group called "Braver Angels." It is designed to help reduce political polarization and promote respectful conversations. One workshop was held in 2024, and more are anticipated in 2025.

With aging infrastructure needs and expansions in mind (HVAC, Columbarium, elevator, sprinkler system, etc.), he said that a new Capital Campaign will be studied and worked on in terms of its structure, timing, and content.

Marilyn Roper and Charlie then praised Jessie McIlwee for all her communications work. Jessie then reminded everyone that the Annual Meeting's brochure contents, and even more reports will be on the church website. Thanks was also expressed to Tessa, and this morning's kitchen volunteers; all were given a round of applause.

12. Katie then led the meeting participants in a closing prayer, and the meeting ended at 11:21 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita L. Hill
Chief Clerk of the Vestry

