

**All Saints Episcopal Church – Hilton Head SC**  
**September 26, 2023 Vestry Meeting Minutes**

*Present on Zoom:* Rev. Denise Trogden, Rev. Katie Presley, Mike Binford, Joyce Emmett, Anita Hill, Jack Case, Becky Forbes, Charlie Forbes, Jerry Simmons, Howard Coonley, Zeke Hanzl, Pam Neyhouse, Bob Colegrove

*Absent:* Rev. Pam Fahrner, Nancy Tillinghast, Marilyn Roper

1. Mike Binford called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. The opening prayer was led by the Rev. Katie Presley.
3. Mike then requested approval for the August 22, 2023 Vestry meeting minutes, distributed earlier electronically. These were approved by board members.
4. Book discussion followed covering Chapters 1-5 of Brian McClaren's ***We Make the Road by Walking***. Individual vestry members offered personal commentary on sections that were particularly meaningful to them.
5. General Discussion Topics followed:

*New Fall Programs and Ministry Opportunities*

Denise described a host of programs and ministry opportunities that will be available to parishioners this fall, saying we now have adult formation opportunities we've never had before. Included among them are the:

- Women's Retreat on Nov. 10-12, which is now in the planning stage but expected to be well attended. Denise speculates it could be a future yearly event.
- Men's Fall Forum Nov.10 from 10-3, which Howard said is now being advertised and is primarily aimed at fellowship.

Katie then described other offerings:

- Sacred Ground sessions will begin October 11 with Tom Longin co-facilitating along with Katie. There are now 9 participants registered.
- A New Testament Kerygma Bible Study will be offered, starting in October, to congregants following the 10:15 am Sunday service. Katie indicated it would be held in the library in six week blocks, three times yearly.
- EpiscoPals will start up again and meet every month, this time adding spiritual growth to fellowship.

Denise added that:

- All Saints CDC is now open and will soon have opportunities for ministry.
- Also, because the new member process has firmed up, many of these individuals are looking for avenues of active involvement.

### Circles Program

Desiring the Vestry's consent, Joyce then described a possible opportunity for our church to offer further community outreach:

- Having discussed the Circles program with several individuals in the community who are spearheading it, she discovered they are looking for a location large enough to host the group on a weekly basis. A new location is needed because they anticipate future growth. Their program offers not only dinner, but also fellowship and counseling afterwards.
- Though All Saints now is responsible for this program's quarterly meal preparation, inquiry was made whether the All Saints building could be considered for once weekly use, primarily Gordon Mann Hall, the kitchen, and the library.
- This would occur on Wednesday evenings, hopefully in partnership with the nearby synagogue.
- Circles will take care of all the set-up, clean-up, and take-down of tables and chairs.
- Vestry member comments followed that:
  - Denise said that Circles has a synergy with what the church is doing with the CDC, and it is likely that their presence could bring in more students.
  - Jerry saw the possibilities for scouts in his troop to assist.
  - Howard and Michael affirmed the offer of the facility as a logical next step.

Calling for vestry members further opinions, it was then decided that "IF Circles chooses All Saints for their weekly program, then we, the Vestry, are in consensus with their use of our church facility."

### Homecoming Weekend Oct 7 & 8

Denise described this week-end as an all-call of welcome and hospitality on behalf of ALL Saints as vacationing congregants and Seasonal Saints generally return to the area. After the service on Sunday, in lieu of coffee hour, the Vestry will sponsor picnic foods and major church ministries will offer informational tables. Vestry members also are expected to assist, circulate, and help with clean up, while Mike and Jack grill hot dogs and burgers. Side dishes and desserts will be brought in by parishioners.

On the preceding evening, after the conclusion of the Saturday@5 service, chili bowls will be offered to congregants.

### Signage

Michael indicated that a new church sign is now being planned and Brian is researching companies to create it. He also mentioned that Katie and Jessie are working on a digital slide show to run on the TV screen behind the front desk that will highlight some of the work of All Saints.

### Budget Preparation & Stewardship

Vestry members offered a variety of comments about All Saints finances and the 2024 Stewardship Drive:

- Bob felt Stewardship should be separated out from Finance as its own category.
- Referring to the 2024 budget, Jack noted that expenses were projected at almost \$100,000 more for 2024 than '23 ( \$800,000 instead of \$715,000). This relates to many things: inflationary costs and outside services, the 12 month salary of our new associate minister, and the expansion of several ministries' like the CDC.
- With this in mind, Charlie felt strongly that each Vestry member should commit to increasing their pledge amounts by 10% and this should be announced to the congregation.
- In addition, stewardship pledge cards and letters this year will be more personalized, with an increase suggested.
- Individual Stewardship moments will also be a part of all services during the drive.
- This year's theme is "Deeply Rooted – Growing Together," suggesting our past church ties and our outreach to our surrounding community.

- Denise noted that financial support is needed to make all of the new programs happen. This needs to occur in light of the decrease in pledge numbers related to the many deaths of former pledgers, their spouses moving out of state, and the elimination of government COVID funds.
- Michael reminded everyone that programs are put in place first and they are followed by expansion of attendees and church growth (not vice versa). He strongly feels that we are on the verge of fairly dynamic new growth in membership because people go where the programs are.

## 6. Reports:

Though all were read, verbal commentary during the meeting occurred for some topics within the liaison reports:

<i>Rector's Report</i>	Denise Trogdon
<i>Senior Associate Rector's Report</i>	Pam Fahrner
<i>Associate Rector's Report</i>	Katie Presley
<i>Senior Warden Report</i>	Mike Binford
<i>Junior Warden's Report</i>	Joyce Emmett
<i>Finance/Foundation/Stewardship</i>	B. Colgrove/B. Forbes/J. Case

Becky noted that “there was only a very slight uptick in September revenue; so things did not even out with original budget amounts. We are just barely hanging in there.” She felt we needed to separate out our aspirational goals from those of Stewardship. A discussion then followed about inspirational vs. aspirational goals as they relate to Stewardship.

<i>Building &amp; Grounds</i>	Pam Neyhouse /Anita Hill
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Anita noted that in light of plans for the new sign to be installed, the area on Main Street where it is to be placed should experience a serious general clean up: weeds and grasses removed, present plantings pruned back, and mulch spread to top the overall island.

Michael reviewed key items of accomplishment in the Columbarium, indicating that research is now being done for the cost of building new vaults.

<i>Worship/Music</i>	Howard Coonley/Jerry Simmons
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Howard reminded everyone to read what he described as a terrific report by new President Jennifer Gajdalo; it describes the work of the Daughters of the King.

<i>Adult Education</i>	Nancy Tillinghast/Mike Binford
<i>Communications</i>	Charlie Forbes
<i>Welcoming/Newcomers</i>	Marilyn Roper
<i>Social Justice</i>	Zeke Hanzl

*Outreach*  
*Children & Family*

Joyce Emmett  
Joyce Emmett

7. Calendar Items:

- October 7&8 “Homecoming Celebrations”
- February 11 Bishop to visit All Saints.

8. The next Vestry meeting will be held on October 24 @ 7:00pm. Members were reminded that the Book Study for the October meeting will continue to cover Brian McClaren’s ***We Make the Road by Walking***. Following readings in the church calendar, members are to read Chapters 6-11, then respond to: What one thought or idea from these chapters especially intrigued, warmed, provoked, disturbed, challenged, encouraged, warned, helped or surprised you?

9. A closing prayer was offered by Katie.

10. Adjournment occurred at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anita L. Hill  
Clerk of the Vestry