

All Saints Episcopal Church – Hilton Head, S.C.

Vestry Meeting Minutes (ZOOM)

August 26, 2025

Present: Rev. Denise Trogdon, Rev. Eric Bash, Charlie Forbes, John Gilbert, Becky Forbes, Anita Hill, Howard Coonley, Joyce Emmett, Judy Cote, Nancy Tillinghast, Bryce Edwards, Cristina Giroux, Ron Niclas, Irene Pedersen, Bobbie Helbig

Absent: Dana Duncan

Sr. Warden Charlie Fobes called the Vestry meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

1. The Rev. Denise Trogdon opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Senior Warden Charlie Forbes then called for *approval of the minutes from June 24's Vestry meeting; the motion was seconded by Joyce Emmett and unanimously approved by Vestry members present.*
3. The Rev. Eric Bash then led a book discussion on Chapters 6 & 7 of **The Book of Forgiving**. Individual Vestry members shared reflective responses on granting forgiveness, then renewing or releasing any hurt-filled relationship.
4. A new replacement fence was erected around the CDC playground. Charlie indicated that the Finance Committee recommended that the expense for it be re-categorized as belonging to All Saints rather than tax the CDC budget since it is part of the church grounds. Ron Niclas and Becky Forbes said their committee went back and forth discussing where to place these charges, for example the church reserve maintenance fund or operating budget. The “where” decision was deferred until a later date to see how revenue progresses. Ron Niclas then *moved that the Vestry follow the recommendation of the Finance Committee to place the \$4,900 fence charge in the operating budget, temporarily; this was seconded by Charlie and approved unanimously by the Vestry.*

Discussion Topics:

A. Review of Progress Addressing Three Top 2025 Goals

- I. Develop an Infrastructure Strategy upon which to base a Capital Campaign and with which the Foundation can work (also simultaneously promoting the Foundation and developing long range views and plans):
 - Charlie indicated that there is a tremendous amount of activity and progress occurring in this area right now, with discussions, meetings and plans taking place in the past couple of months.
 - He indicated that our cornerstone number for the Capital Campaign will be around \$589,000. This overall number might need to be slightly fine-tuned to accommodate unexpected minor needs that arise.

- Future infrastructure expenditure needs, repairs, and replacements will be put into a graphic display chart to better assist parishioner understanding.
- Immediate next steps will be to form a Capital Campaign Committee and then create a road map for a silent campaign that will precede the official launch.

II. Younger Family Engagement Strategies

- Denise described the strong possibility of a children's choir forming for the fall of this year. Details are in the process of being fleshed out.
- Additionally, the reopening of the church nursery is anticipated. She and several others cleaned the nursery, its toys, and the flooring, hoping to draw more families into All Saints for worship. Nancy Tillinghast suggested placing a picture of the nursery on our website to assist awareness.
- Denise then suggested that "Trunk or Treat" will likely be expanded this year to include neighboring nearby churches. Games or other components could also be added.
- St. Nicholas Day will also be celebrated and offered; similarly, it will include the greater community's participation.

III. Expanding Volunteerism and Participation in Church Ministries

- Charlie said he feels All Saints has made considerable progress addressing this 2025 goal:
 - The after church hospitality ministry has been totally retooled.
 - Many parishioners are actively working on plans for both the Ministry Fair and Homecoming weekend in October.

B. Coffee Hour Management Update

- Denise said that a lot of the credit for after-church hospitality revitalization has to go to Debbie Orbach who personally has reached out to get almost all of the Sunday slots filled with volunteers.
- Eric said he met with the new hospitality team that is in charge of the year; he helped them outline what their individual and collective responsibilities are, for example, educating and supporting ministry members who are in charge of hosting on any particular Sunday.
- Judy Cote asked about a schedule or calendar of who is responsible and when. Denise said that it will be posted on both the bulletin board and in the kitchen.
- Eric then indicated that he had cleaned out and reorganized the entire pantry. He will also be in charge of keeping dining-disposables resupplied.
- Denise added that the clergy plan to wash and dry all hospitality linens on Mondays since the washer and dryer have been installed.

- Judy asked if coffee hospitality could be extended after the 8:30 am Sunday service. Denise replied that “We’ll have to see if there’s an interest.” Judy suggested using the Pelican Post for this conversational offering.

C. Diocesan Capitol Campaign

After polling the members present, only three were contacted by the Diocese consultant, Vandersall Collective, for their opinions; each of these will meet with the consultant on different days in September and October.

D. Stewardship 2025

Bryce Edwards indicated that Stewardship now has opened up their discussions.

- They are focused on themes and getting the message out. The 40th church anniversary will be woven into the theme for both the Stewardship and Capital campaigns. Stewardship’s next meeting will also focus on selecting potential Stewardship speakers.
- With two campaigns running, Stewardship this year needs to finish in ample time before the Capital campaign begins.

E. Capital Campaign

- Charlie reemphasized that “we need a silent campaign prior to the actual launch of the Capital Campaign.”

F. Homecoming Weekend and Ministry Fair

- Denise said there will be a very festive coffee hour on Fair Day, with some extra support from outside catering.
- She reminded all liaisons that they need to communicate with their ministry soon since all ministries are expected to participate in the Fair.
- Additionally, as many groups as possible should be persuaded to have a display, not just formal ministries. Examples include the scouts, social groups, etc.

G. Liaison and Committee Reports

In addition to the written reports already read by members, these additional comments were offered:

- In lieu of a written report, Eric updated members on his recent activities. These included things like the Hospitality Committee, reorganizing the pantry/nursery areas, pastoral care visits, several other committee meetings, Wednesday CDC chapel, Men’s breakfast group, funeral planning and assisting, celebrant and preacher for services.

- Concerning Finance, Anita corrected a portion of the Columbarium report that was distributed earlier to members. Jack Case had misinterpreted Blake Robinson's comments about the Foundation participating in helping to fund the Columbarium if the survey results were favorable.
 - Charlie then concurred that the Foundation cannot fund a loan for the Columbarium.
 - Nancy said that the Columbarium survey will provide needed information that will help the Vestry and committees directly involved with improvement plans for the near future. The survey will be shared online, on the website, and through mailings to some.

- John Gilbert then shared that the Building and Grounds Committee is being rejuvenated. He is in the process of interviewing a potential future organizer of the group.

H. Next Vestry Meeting

September 23, Tuesday, 7 pm

Read and be ready to discuss Chapter 8 – **The Book of Forgiving**

I. Closing Prayer

Eric offered a closing prayer.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita L. Hill

Vestry Chief Clerk