

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MARCH 14, 2024

The March Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Fr. Josh Stephens. Those attending included: Senior Warden, Jerry Holt, Junior Warden, Will Rodriguez, Clint Adams, Jon Fitzpatrick, Patrice German, Jim Gibbs, E.R. Haire, Jill Owen, Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders, Sandy Skelton, and Laura Teel.

After the general welcome and Vestry member check-in, Patrice led the opening devotion by reading a poem by Wendell Berry and portions of scripture followed by prayer.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda for March: Will made a motion to accept all committee reports as well as the minutes of the February Vestry meeting; E.R. seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh discussed a recent conversation with the NC dept of Transportation about the crosswalk on Rutledge. While the cost of this project is prohibitive, other options for ensuring safety in this area are being considered. Additionally, Fr. Josh talked to the Village of Flat Rock about the situation to seek possible solutions. Fr. Josh noted important upcoming events including the schedule for Holy Week and the Summer Scholars program which will begin May 26.

Senior Warden Report: In his report, Jerry noted that he has been attending meetings including the Appointments Committee, Executive Counsel, Heritage, Archives, and Gift Committees. He has also updated the Church Ministries file and hopes to have a Vestry liaison for each ministry. In addition, Jerry said that he has been studying the results of the church survey and will present the findings to the Appointments Committee.

Junior Warden Report: Will began his report by outlining work currently in progress at the Parish Hall and the Parsonage including the gutters and leaf guards for the Parish Hall, the Education Building, and the Office Building as well as replacing the gas meter to the Parsonage. Jerry Tanner provided details about the plans for the Nursery Expansion and Education Building Refurbishment Project. Bids have been reviewed and Trip Jeter has been selected for the overall project. Since the project is expected to take approximately eight weeks to complete, the Education Building will be closed for the next two months. The Nursery will be temporarily moved to the conference room in the Parish Hall; the Youth Sunday School will be temporarily moved to the Parish Hall Atrium Chapel, and the Elementary Children Sunday School will be temporarily moved to the Library in the Wilderness Room. Will made a motion to approve \$73,000 from Capital Reserves for the Education Building Renovation Project. Patrice seconded the motion, and it was approved by the Vestry.

Continuing, Will discussed the repair of the Parsonage Patio which requires removing a concrete slab that has risen from underneath the patio. The project is expected to take approximately three weeks to complete. Will made a motion to approve \$13,000 for the Parsonage Patio Project. Clint seconded it, and it was approved by the Vestry.

Working with the Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair, and Treasurer, the long-range budget for the future has been reviewed. Will stated that the group's focus is to prioritize projects three, five, and seven years into the future with attention to dividing them into Capital Reserve Projects and Non-Capital Reserve Projects.

Treasurer's Report: In Tom's absence, Fr. Josh discussed and highlighted several aspects of the financial report including Capital Asset Replacement and Noncapital Assets & Maintenance Projects. After examining Operating Reserve and Capital Replacement Reserve Policies, and discussing the 2024 Budget, Vestry members considered various options. Following the discussion, Jon made a motion to move \$60,000 from the Vestry Special Projects Fund to the Capital Replacement Reserve. Kim seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Will made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Sandy seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Curate's Report: Fr. Ian reported that our youth group had a successful meeting with the youth of St. James. Other meetings are being planned. He is continuing to work with Mary Ann Inglis to develop Sunday School curriculums for the elementary and middle/high school age classes using the Episcopal Church's "Lesson Plans that Work" Curriculum and picking key scripture lessons to provide a solid foundation for our younger members. The rotating teacher system with a different teacher leading the class for 3-4 weeks at a time continues to work well.

Fr. Ian also mentioned that the Nursery and the other Sunday school classes will be relocated due to the upcoming renovation of the Education Building.

Old Business

Debby Staton and Cynthia Easterling discussed the recent Charleston pilgrimage by Debby Staton and Cynthia Easterling. Both highlighted various aspects of the trip that were particularly interesting.

Executive Session

Fr. Josh made a motion to move to an Executive session at 6:40 p.m. Jerry seconded the motion. The executive session ended at 7:00 p.m.

Following a closing prayer led by Fr. Josh, the March Vestry meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker
Clerk of the Vestry