

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

## FEBRUARY 15, 2024

The February Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Fr. Josh Stephens. Those attending included: Senior Warden, Jerry Holt, Junior Warden, Will Rodriguez, Clint Adams, Jon Fitzpatrick, Patrice German, E.R. Haire, Jill Owen, Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders, and Sandy Skelton. Absent were Jim Gibbs and Laura Merherg Teel.

Following the general welcome and Vestry member check-in, Marisa led the opening devotion by asking members to close their eyes and point to the north. Then she led a discussion on finding one's 'True North' and reflecting on priorities during this season of Lent.

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

**Rector's Report:** After noting several upcoming events, Fr. Josh discussed the Parochial Report that is completed each year and submitted to the diocese. Tom, Sarah, and Fr. Josh compiled the needed information. The Vestry unanimously accepted the report.

Fr. Josh also discussed the upcoming pilgrimage to Charleston, which has no more available spaces. In addition to the two planned pilgrimages this year, the possibility of future trips is being considered. Fr. Josh also announced that the next Vestry meeting will be held on March 14. September's Vestry meeting will also be moved to September 26.

**Senior Warden Report:** Jerry discussed the reorganization of the Buildings and Grounds Committee comprised of Will Rodriguez, Jerry Tanner, and Gibson Sims. They will be working on the area surrounding the Education Building as well as other projects.

Jerry also presented an updated list of ministries and asked Vestry members to sign up to become liaisons to one or more ministries.

**Junior Warden's Report:** In his report, Will listed the tasks that were completed in 2023. He discussed the new Buildings and Grounds Committee that will be led by Jerry Tanner. In addition, he outlined the projects that are forecasted. They include 1) installing Parish Hall gutters and downspouts; 2) expansion and renovation to the Education Building with a nursery expansion; and 3) repairs to the Parsonage that include upstairs HVAC, gutter replacement, and patio replacement. Will also discussed some noncapital maintenance that will need to be budgeted. Will stated that he wanted the Vestry to be aware of pending projects and bids that will need to be approved by the Vestry.

**Treasurer's Report:** In this report to the Vestry, Tom noted that with a few exceptions due to the increase in the general cost of living, all Operating Expenses were within the annual 2023 Budget. He also discussed the current policy on capital replacement funds that are maintained in the reserves. Further, Tom noted that all expense items have been reviewed and monitored by the Treasurer and the Finance Committee.

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

**Curate's Report:** In his report, Fr. Ian stated that he continues to work with Mary Anne 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 while picking key scripture lessons to provide a solid foundation for our younger members. He noted that the current rotating system with different teachers leading the class for 3-4 weeks has worked well. In addition to his regular responsibilities of coordinating, preaching, and celebrating, he has attended numerous meetings. Fr. Ian will be leading a Lenten Formation class on Sundays and Tuesdays about the "Seven Deadly Sins." In closing, Fr. Ian discussed upcoming joint youth activities with other groups in our deanery as well as intergenerational meetings in the future.

Following a closing prayer led by Fr. Josh, the February Vestry meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker  
Clerk of the Vestry