

St. Simon's Vestry Minutes

March 29, 2023

5:30 Stations of the Cross for those who can make it

Meeting was held in the Parish Hall

Members present: Bob Blake, Senior Warden, Matt Smith, Junior Warden, Kristin Shinnick, Liz LaFollette, Carla Hunt, Moe Byrd, Fred Happel, Trace Morris and Elizabeth Hogenkamp

Others present: Bishop Russell Kendrick, Father David Knight, Deacon Clelia Garrity, and Steve Brown, treasurer

1. Call to order and confirmation of Quorum

Father David opened the meeting at 6:01 P.M.

2. Opening prayer by Father David

3. Time with Bishop Russell

Matt and Steve briefed us on several issues:

- The roof was repaired a few years ago but was not done well. We have 3 estimates to fix it ranging from 550K to 750K, discussion.
- A "State of the Property" briefing was given to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Matt briefed about the current state of the church and church grounds.
- Steve briefed on the financials of the church. He said we run about a 500 to 600K operation each year. The following topics were discussed:
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 - A. The Sea Wall
 - B. Parking Lot
 - C. HVAC

Matt did a survey for parishioners to give their feedback. Items of discussion on the survey were: Should we replace the roof? Should we borrow money to do so? Should we relocate to another location?

Matt suggested we form a Task Force. He asked for volunteers. 12 names were submitted. We talked about the pros and cons of staying or going. Once the 2 task force groups are formed and meet to discuss and plan, we will come back together and he hopes we can make a decision THIS YEAR.

Bishop Russell suggested we hire a consultant. He suggested Ann Fleming. Much discussion.

Bishop Russell says we have a "Creative Challenge" on our hands...

He suggested we get the property appraised by someone he knows well, John Griffin. Father David also knows him and has great things to say about him.

4. **Spirit Work:** Deacon Clelia told us she wants to be a "Chaplain for the Vestry" during this important time. She offered a brief prayer for guidance. We all read the Prayer for Guidance together. We will use this same prayer at the beginning of each of our Vestry meetings.

Father David told us we should always refer to the Vestry Resource Page online before we meet for important Vestry-related items. We will discuss these items and vote/approve them at our meetings.

5. Consent Agenda – Minutes and financials

Liz moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by Trace. Motion passes unanimously.

Steve went over the current budget. He was happy to report that in the last 2 months, \$111K as come into the church!

6. Task Force selection and updates

Matt reported on the following: He thinks the number of task force volunteers is too big right now. He suggests we do not include all of the people who signed up. A few of the names were eliminated. He says the hardest part of putting together a task force is getting started. He says we all live busy lives and he will need a lot of help to get the ball rolling on the endeavor. Liz volunteered to help. Matt will come up with a timeline in which the 2 Committees will follow in order to accomplish our task at hand. Much discussion.

Two committee groups were decided upon. Committee 1, who wants us to “stay” and Committee 2, who wants us to “go” (relocate)

Committee 1 will be:

Nick Hogenkamp

Jennifer Lee

Steve Medina

Ellen Sheppard

Marie Leibold

Committee 2 will be:

Marcia Burpee

Van Fuller

CeCe Allen

Matt Scheel

Bob and Mary Hauge

It was suggested that a Vestry Liaison be appointed to be involved with the different committees and attend all of the meetings to be held. Bob Blake, the Senior Warden, will attend all of both Committee 1 and Committee 2 meetings. Carla Hunt volunteered for Committee 1, and Kristin Shinnick volunteered for Committee 2.

7. Committee Reports:

Administration: Liz reported that the Mardi Gras fundraiser made approximately \$4700 in profits.

Property: Matt again brought up that we have a leaking roof and it needs fixed!

Ministries: Kristin gave a report on the following items:

Community Engagement:

1. The Brown Bag Ministry collected food donations for Sharing and Caring on March 19th. It was a success! Deacon Clelia is the POC.
2. Cold Night Ministry provided a Pizza dinner at One Hopeful Place on March 23rd. POC is Gloria Battle.

3. Lenten Mite Bags were distributed to the parish. They will be collected on March 26th. Funds from these bags will be used for the upcoming Community Lunch on the 16th of April.
4. A St. Simons Community Lunch will be provided to our less fortunate neighbors on Sunday, April 16th @ 2:00. POC's are Mary Hauge and Jennifer Lee. Many volunteers are needed.

Faith and Fellowship:

Sundays between services

March 5th-Diocese Convention Delegates will distribute take-home messages to the congregation.

An Adult Christian Ed Speaker Series kicked off this month! POC: Deacon Clelia

March 12th-Sharing and Caring president, Ken Winkler

March 19th-Big Bend Borderland pilgrimage report, Kristin Shinnick

March 26th- Two NPO's from our community, serving less fortunate/struggling women and mothers:

- Saving Grace Women's home, Deanna Trujillo
- Freedom Life Compass, Stephanie Wedel

8. Old Business

- a. **Christian Ed and Youth position:** Father David reported that because of the low attendance of children in our youth and Sunday school programs, Catherine Watson's position is being eliminated. She will stay on until the end of May. He is unsure of how our youth program will be run but knows we will need an army of volunteers to make it happen.

Youth Sunday will be May 14th at the 9:30 service. 4 Seniors will be participating.

b. Installation of the Vestry

Will take place either April 16th or May 7th.

9. New Business

- a. **Approve Parochial Report:** Father David discussed the report and what it means to the Vestry/church. Much discussion. Kristin had a question about item #38 and didn't want to approve the report before we added something to the blank spot. Liz amended # 38 by adding: "More engagement of our church family and within our community, keep commitments, and encourage and continue our interfaith relationships and relationships within our church." After this item was added, Liz made a motion to approve, Trace seconded.

Motion passed.

b. Host Happening in September:

Bishop Russell (and Father David) wants our church to host a Youth Retreat the weekend of September 8-10th. Trace made a motion to pass and Elizabeth seconded. Motion passed.

c. Confirmations:

A visiting Bishop, George Young, will be here on April 23rd to do confirmations. There will be a forum at 9:00 and one service, at 10:00. A reception will follow.

d. Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday will be May 14th, at the 9:30 service.

10. Rector comments:

Pentecost is May 28th. A new Sunday service schedule will begin after this day. Only one service, 9:30, for the summer.

Father David thanked everyone for their prayers on his road to recovery from his recent health issues. He is getting better each day but still needs prayers!

11. Vestry comments: None

12. Closing Prayer: Father David gave the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.