

**Vestry of St. James-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church**  
Minutes of November 23, 2004

**Present:** Rev. Ron Jaynes, Louis Beacham, Chris Christopher (Senior Warden), Roger Craig, Micki Farrell, Jill Jordon, Frank Gradjan, John Norris, Susan Rust (Junior Warden), Steve Treadgold, Max Webb, Gina Woodford.

**Excused:** John Norris, Brian Williams, Ian Williamson.

**Absent:** Keith Kendrick.

**Appt. Officers:** Carole Scott (Interim Clerk)

**Guests:** Rev. Julie Christian, Sheila Ferguson, Janet Waldo

**Devotion**

Louis Beacham led the Vestry in prayer.

**Minutes**

The minutes were approved unanimously with minor emendation. (M/Craig; S/Webb)

**Rev. Jaynes' Report**

The Strategic Planning Task Force is working hard and will be ready to report the final version of the goals at the December Vestry meeting. Fr. Jaynes noted that it is important that action be taken now to move ahead with the search for the new Rector, and suggested that members of the current SPTF be considered as potential Selection Committee members since they represent a good cross-section of the congregation and are most knowledgeable about the goals the planning process has identified.

Discussion followed and there was general agreement that the Selection Committee be chosen by the current Vestry to avoid further delay, for it will be 9-12 months before a new Rector will be in place. Steve Treadgold will ask other current SPTF members (Midge Coburn, Sarah Davis, Claire Friedman, Kirk Gardner, Leigh Hartman, Alison Lee) if they might be willing to serve on the Selection Committee, noting that this is a new commitment, and not an obligation. Not all will wish to continue, and there will be opportunity for others to join the Committee.

Father Jaynes noted that the Search Committee's power is delegated by the Vestry, whose task it is to decide who should serve. At the December meeting the process for selection should be laid out, and the congregation needs to be informed that this will be taking place.

Fr. Jaynes distributed a draft proposal of the 2005 budget and asked for the Vestry's input in determining whether the proposed budget and assumptions provide the right sense of direction. This determination is especially crucial since the current deficit of about \$100,000 will be increasing, especially when the new Rector is in place at full salary. In particular, Fr. Jaynes drew attention to the new programs proposed to move the Church into a growth pattern, and asked whether the Vestry considered them appropriate.

As on previous occasions, Vestry members voiced their concerns about a negative budget. Some also expressed skepticism regarding such assumptions as the 20% increase in income, and such expenditures as the hiring of an Assistant for Stewardship. Many questions were raised and suggestions for priorities in programming offered. After much discussion it was agreed that expenditure at this stage should be viewed as an investment in the Church, in order to see growth both in size of the congregation and in spiritual concerns. Evidence was offered that shrinking expenditures and shrinking programs lead to a vicious cycle of a diminished and diminishing

Church, whereas investment in forward-looking programs leads to renewed vitality. In order to be fiscally responsible, it was suggested that initial investment propositions be revenue generating, and that raising funds be a year-round activity. We must identify what we need to offer adequate ministry and raise the money to pay for it.

The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday December 15 at 5pm, prior to the next Vestry meeting, to make particular budget decisions; any Vestry members wishing to participate in this discussion are welcome to attend.

Eleanor Ellsworth will be joining us as Priest in Residence to form a Church and the World umbrella organization for all our outreach programs as she discussed in her successful presentation last week.

**Julie Christian** is working with a small advisory group to explore how we will communicate with and relate to one another and to develop behavioral covenants. There will be a meeting early in the year concerning leadership groups for the covenants both in the parish and in the Vestry.

### **Village Café Proposal**

Janet Waldo spoke to the Vestry regarding her written proposal for a Village Café housed in St. James Hall. Its purpose would be to create a meeting place for mothers and young children, and to raise funds for the Church through the positive use of St. James Hall.

The need for the Church to engage in activities involving children was expressed. A number of questions were raised regarding the viability of the business plan, legal issues, tax status, salary/commission problems, safety, and the cost to the Church of initiating such a venture. In addition, questions regarding appropriateness of this activity to the overall mission of the Church were raised. Chancellor Ian Williams had provided a list to guide detailed research into the proposal.

A committee to work with Janet and bring back a recommendation to the Vestry was set up to include: Micki Farrell, Shelia Ferguson, Frank Gradijan, Garth Howe, Ian Williamson and Gina Woodford. This was approved (9-1-0) (M/Woodford; S/Treadgold).

### **Stewardship Report**

No report was made at this time.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance Committee

The report was accepted, subject to audit (M/Rust; S/Treadgold). There are no new or unusual developments or expenditures to report.

#### Clergy Residential Report

No report at this time.

### **Nominating Procedures**

December 13 is the deadline for nominations to the Vestry. One position for one year and four positions for three years are available. Forms have been distributed and announcements made at services and in *The Chimes*.

### **New Business**

Two Parish Christmas Parties have been organized.

- Wade Harris and Frank Franco have signed up over 100 people for a Christmas Dinner Party for adults to be held in St. James Hall on Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Rebecca Williamson has set up a Family Mexican Fiesta to be held on Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2005.

The Diocesan Convention in January will be attended by Louis Beacham, Chris Christopher, and Max Webb.

**Thanks**

Fr. Jaynes extended thanks to the Vestry and to Julie Christian for their hard work.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm (M/Craig; S/Jordan).