

Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting  
February 25, 2018

Attending: Martha Dimon, Judy Jenks, Bill Caudill, Alex Garrett, Ashley Taylor, Drucye Cox, Marci Horne and Jim Gilliam, Treasurer.

Absent: Steve Morse, Jennifer Milton, Michelle Moody

Ashley Taylor provided lunch and the opening prayer.

Lynn Norris, founder of the ONE Harris County organization, shared the group's mission with the Vestry and told them about the Henry Gilbert Memorial project. This project honors a Harris County farmer who was arrested without legal cause in 1947 and died in a Harris County jail. She invited the Vestry to a Memorial Ceremony honoring Henry Gilbert on March 10 at 11:00am at Union Springs Methodist Church, Jones Crossroad, West Point, GA. She requested the Vestry's help with providing light refreshments (finger food) for approximately 50 people, requested some of the St. Nicholas young people serve as ushers at the ceremony, and invited any of our choir members to sing at the memorial. The Vestry unanimously agreed to help. Lynn Norris also provided information on the CVEM's Dismantling Racism program and the Troop County Racial Trust Building training opportunities for Harris County.

Martha reminded the Vestry that we must attend Dismantling Racism training this year.

Martha reported that progress has been made to secure an interim priest for St. Nicholas. The Reverend Christine Belt was approved as a candidate by The Rev. Canon Alicia Schuster Weltner, Diocese of Atlanta. The Vestry senior and junior wardens will interview her soon and a letter of agreement will be signed if a decision is made to hire her. The Rev. Christine Belt will also serve as supply priest on March 11.

Judy Jenks gave an update on the Nominating Committee. She related that they are making excellent progress and that the parish-wide survey should be ready to go within two weeks.

Martha gave a report on Outreach programs. Communion is being taken to Roosevelt Place in Warm Springs, Bright Way Personal Care Home in Pine Mountain, and Oakview Nursing Home in Waverly Hall. Martha and Lynn Hall have found a new volunteer to help lead the singing at Oakview. Katherine Johnson is heading up the Jail Ministry now and it is thriving.

Martha mentioned that the Friends of the Harris County Library will hold a fundraiser at the new Harris County Library on Friday, March 2 at 6:00 pm. She asked for the Vestry's approval to loan them folding chairs from St. Nicholas for the event and the Vestry approved. Martha also mentioned that Puttin' on the Dog, a Harris County Humane Society fund-raising event, will be held on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Judy gave an update on the Pastoral Care Committee. The committee is keeping up with prayer requests received by email and updating the prayer list regularly. They continue to send birthday and anniversary cards to the parish. Marci Horne offered to donate cards as needed.

Jim Gilliam reported that a St. Nicholas Men's Group Dinner was held on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. He said there was a good turnout and the group plans to continue meeting once a month. Drucye asked to be added to the email list so she can publicize it in the newsletter.

Marci Horne gave the Worship Committee report. She said the committee will not meet until our interim priest begins work at St. Nicholas. She noted that more Eucharistic Ministers are needed. We have 6 active, but they serve on teams of 2. She proposed that we use only one Eucharistic Minister each Sunday and the Vestry agreed.

Ashley Taylor stated that the Children and Youth Committee have scheduled a parish-wide Youth Ministry meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> following the 11:00 am service. The committee solicits the parish's comments, suggestions, or concerns. Lunch will be provided. She related that the Wednesday night SNICK program is doing very well; 25 - 35 children attend each week. She reported that our SNICK Director, Emily Turner, will be on maternity leave during the fall of 2018. Emily is not resigning and plans to return as SNICK Director. Several church members have volunteered to teach SNICK classes related to their area of expertise and Ashley encourages others to do so, especially during the time when Emily will be absent. Children's Sunday School attendance is down and Ashley said they might get a regular teacher for this class instead of rotating teachers each week.

Our Vestry Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 24 at St. Nicholas. The Reverend Donna Mote will lead the retreat. She requests all vestry members read the book, The Go Guide, (which she co-authored with Bishop Robert C. Wright) before the retreat. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:15 am and the retreat program will begin at 9:00 am. Vestry member, Alex Garrett, will provide lunch. Our March Vestry meeting will be held after the retreat program.

Jim presented the monthly financial report and reported that an audit is scheduled for April 2. Jim asked the Vestry to approve giving Martha Dimon check signing privileges to replace Sue Halmrast as check signer. Bill moved for approval, Marci seconded and the motion carried. The resolution follows:

RESOLUTION OF  
SAINT NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
February 25, 2018

RESOLVED that Martha Dimon, Vestry Senior Warden of Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church be granted check signing privileges on all banking accounts held by Saint Nicholas, including First People's Bank and Merrill Lynch Banking Company and that Susan Halmrast's check signing privileges be removed.

APPROVED by the Vestry of Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2018.

Jim proposed a \$125,000 yearly compensation package (which includes salary, housing allowance, retirement and insurance) for our new priest. Bill Caudill made a motion to approve this figure and Marci Horne seconded, and the motion carried.

A suggestion was made to Martha by a church member that St. Nicholas purchase a house for our future priests to live in. The Vestry unanimously disapproved this suggestion.

Jim mentioned that St. Nicholas pays a fee when parish members donate stock to St. Nicholas and also when donations are made by credit card using Vanco Electronic Giving. He asked for more information about the Vanco Company and was referred to Tammy Pallot, Diocese of Atlanta Stewardship Commission Chair [tammypallot@gmail.com](mailto:tammypallot@gmail.com) telephone 478-954-5441.

The Vestry agreed to continue the Steward of the Month nominations. The Steward of the Month for February 2018 will be Wyatt Poe, St. Nicholas Music Director, for his work to find and install our new organ. Drucye and Judy will do the write-up.

Martha adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by

Drucye Cox, for Michelle Moody, Clerk