

Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting  
April 23, 2017

Attending: Bill Caudill, Drucye Cox, Rebecca Crowley, Martha Dimon, Bob Hamilton, Jennifer Milton, Phebe Robertson, Jeff Jackson, and Patty Hamilton

Attending telephonically: Sue Halmrast Absent: Steve Morse, Nick Simpson

Drucye provided lunch and the opening prayer.

Father Jeff brought up the need for additional work in the Memory Garden. Discussion centered on low turnout for work days and a lack of ongoing maintenance of the grounds. It was suggested that work days be planned in advance and include snacks or lunch for participants and that our Cub Scouts and/or men from Valley Rescue be called on to help. Anne Huie was asked to provide a quote on monthly maintenance. In lieu of monthly work, Martha made a motion that another work day be planned for the fall and in the meantime, authorize spending up to \$100 from the Memorial Garden Fund for Anne Huie to clean out weeds, etc. Bill Caudill seconded and the motion carried.

Phebe updated the vestry on the acquisition of the adjacent Callaway land. The Ida Cason Callaway Foundation had promised the land to St. Nicholas before the new building project was begun. The members of the ICCF board voted to give us the land. A letter from Senior Warden Sue Halmrast has been sent to the foundation board asking for a copy of the minutes memorializing the agreement. Phebe will follow up on this.

After discussing the amount to be paid to the Rev. Jeff Jackson as a housing allowance, the Vestry, on a motion duly made by Bob Hamilton and seconded by Drucye Cox, adopted the following resolution:

*Whereas The Rev. Jeff Jackson is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Hamilton, Georgia, which does not provide a residence for him, the Vestry resolves that of the total compensation to be paid the Rev. Jeff Jackson during 2017 that \$30,000 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.*

Jeff updated various ministries:

Back Snacks project – volunteers needed to help pack bags; Harris County Jail Ministries – continues on Mondays; Homeless Coalition – meeting this week; Safe Families for Children – training will be on May 20, 2017 from 10:00 – 12:00.

Father Jeff then presented background on a proposal for Blessings to Go relating to the murder of Henry Gilbert in 1947 by the Harris County sheriff. The complicated story resurfaced after a public apology was issued by the Police Department of LaGrange, Georgia to the family of another black victim of lynching. Father Jeff attended that apology ceremony on behalf of the convocation where he heard the details of the Henry Gilbert murder. Father Jeff has spoken with Mr. Gilbert's family members in an effort to seek racial reconciliation. They suggested replacing the Gilbert gravestone, located at Union Springs United Methodist Church, right inside the Troup County line. The vestry suggested that Christian Valley, the Harris County Men's Group and the Social Justice group be contacted to see if there is interest in pursuing avenues of reconciliation.

Bob reported that the Rite 13 program used this year for youth has been successful. A liturgical rite of passage will be led by the youth Sunday, April 30th.

A Listening Session for CVEM will be held at St. Nicholas Sunday, May 7 at 2:00.

The Vestry Retreat Day is still scheduled for May 13 at 9:00.

Our Stewards of the Month for May are the volunteers for Harris County Prison Ministry.

Drucye reported that she is looking for someone to take over as Communication Chair for Carleen Frokjer.

Jennifer announced that the Daughters of the King will hold an informational luncheon after the services on June 4.

The next meeting will be May 21. Father Jeff ended the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Patty Hamilton, Clerk