

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA
APRIL 26, 2023**

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Sonja McLendon, Senior Warden
Julia Greene, Junior Warden
Jim Brim
Stuart Deaderick
Daniel Grizzle
Vance Holifield
Beth Neidenbach
Sally Pittman
Frank Rinker
Helen Scovill
Anita Smith

ABSENT:

Barbara Batog

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Munn, Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham opened the meeting with a prayer and a discussion of two translations of Psalm 23: "I shall not want" vs. "I shall not be in want" and "enemy" vs. "those that trouble me."

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of Treasurer's Report and March 29, 2023, minutes. Neidenbach/McLendon Unanimous.
- Approval of funding for Fire Alarm system replacement and HVAC repairs to the choir loft (from Building Reserves) and boiler repair for the nave (from Maintenance). Finance/Holifield. Unanimous
- The Endowment Committee recommended that Bob Pennington and David Hauserman rotate onto the committee. Pittman/Rinker. Unanimous

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Julia Greene reported on the Finance Committee meeting on April 14 and enumerated the proposals approved (see above in the consent agenda). Also, to take advantage of FDIC, it was decided that Grace will divide its accounts into smaller individual accounts at Truist Bank (Children of Grace) and Peach State & Ameris Bank for all other accounts.

- **Capital Campaign:**
The campaign has resumed with \$392,500 already on hand from 61 parishioners who pledged in January 2020 before COVID necessitated a hiatus in fund-raising. Since the start of the 2023 campaign, \$176,000 has been raised from 20 households. People seem to be grateful that the campaign has been scaled back and that construction in the nave will be deferred. There will be follow-up with 31 parishioners who did not complete their pledges in 2020.

An ice cream social will be held later to thank all those who contributed to the campaign.

Sally Pittman, Stuart Deaderick and Scarlet Pendarvis are currently in dialogue with young families regarding the campaign. A suggestion was made that they could challenge the families to furnish the youth room or something similar relevant to their specific needs.

After an upcoming meeting with Tipton Construction Company, the target for the May vestry meeting will be to sign off on using the funds gathered to date after the Finance and Building & Grounds committees have given their approval.

- Columbarium construction will begin early in May.
- A note of interest, Stuart observed that the late Rosemary Dodd was the last survivor of the pre-tornado church, having been baptized in 1935.
- The *Friends of Music* campaign mailing will go out after the capital campaign concludes.
- **Compassion:** Kathie Futrell is working with Beth Neidenbach to enhance our connection with community partners. Helen Scovill offered to assist them and suggested that we list our community partners on the Grace website in the future. In the fall, we will bring in partners during the 9:30 hour to share their stories with parishioners.
- **Participation:** The decision was made that May 7 will be the last day for Sunday School, with a celebration for the end of the regularly-scheduled Sunday School year. There will be no Vacation Bible School this year. Other activities will be planned throughout the summer. The summer parish picnic will be replaced this year by a Back-to-School parish covered-dish luncheon on August 6.

Reverend Dr. Cynthia Park closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey
Clerk of the Vestry

