

Galilee Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Attending: Jamie Rawles, Jimmy Jordan, Mel Sautter, Jim McCaa, The Rt. Rev. John Buchanan, Acting Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, Interim Senior Warden, Hugh Patterson; and Junior Warden, Tim Robertson

A special meeting of the Vestry began at 5:30 p.m. in Tucker Hall with Coleman Tyler leading prayers before a brief dinner period. Bishop Buchanan was formally introduced to the Vestry by Hugh Patterson and the meeting was formally called to order.

Mr. Patterson opened the meeting by indicating that several parishioners (Emily Slingluff, Shelby Balderson and Sandra Baylor) had expressed a desire to discuss an issue which they considered to be important and which they felt could not wait for the Vestry Open Forum the following Wednesday night. Ms. Slingluff presented comments for 10 to 15 minutes and all three ladies then left the meeting.

A discussion was held concerning the addition of five new members to the current Vestry. The Vestry at Galilee Church as historically included twelve persons and with recent resignations, only seven persons now serve. The Vestry unanimously determined that Vestry persons should not be appointed by the Vestry to fill vacancies as allowed by the Canons of the Diocese of Southern Virginia but instead, should be elected by members of the Church. Pam Everett, Jamie Rawles and Mel Sautter will serve as the Nominating Committee since their terms will expire in March of 2008. Notice of the pending elections will be published in the service bulletins on April 29 and additional information will follow in following weeks.

The Vestry next discussed the open forum to be held at the Church on Wednesday, April 25, for all members of the Church who wish to attend. All members of the Vestry and Coleman Tyler as the Rector will be present to answer questions concerning recent minister resignations and other staff and church issues that may come up. Jimmy Jordean will serve as the moderator.

The issue of clergy and staff resignations was discussed with Bishop Buchanan in the same manner as will be presented to members of the Church on Wednesday night. He felt that the idea of an open forum was a good one. The Vestry intends to hold these meetings from time to time during the year.

The Vestry again encouraged Coleman Tyler to take a well deserved vacation for several weeks following the services on April 29, 2007, when the Church helps celebrate the 400th anniversary of the "Fist Landing" on American soil by worship and a procession to the Beach for the "Planting of the Cross". Coleman will be away for several weeks and will return on May 23. In the interim, The Rev. Bill Brake will assist Galilee Church with its services on May 6 and May 20 and on May 13, the Church will welcome The Rev. Ron Greiser who is Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, Virginia. Bill Brake was John Jordan's First Assistant

Rector who served at Galilee Church from 1968 to 1974. Bill and his wife, Jeannie, currently reside in Duck, North Carolina.

The Vestry had earlier named Hugh Patterson as the interim Senior Warden and Tim Robertson as the interim Junior Warden and on motion duly made and seconded, the Vestry affirmed their election and asked them to serve in a permanent capacity as Senior Warden and Junior Warden during the current Church year.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded with prayer at 10:30 p.m.

Submitted by Hugh L. Patterson