

## **Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting**

### **Emmanuel Episcopal Church**

**December 5, 2010, 9:00 a.m.**

The 2010 Annual Meeting began with the service of The Word in the Common Room at 9:00 a.m. After the exchange of the Peace, the service was suspended for a brunch and the annual parish meeting.

Father Robert Salamone called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and distributed the Annual Report. It was moved and seconded that rather than reading the minutes, they would be posted to the website and any questions or corrections would be examined. The motion passed. Lee Albright was nominated by the Vestry to serve as secretary for the meeting. This was seconded and approved. It was announced that Sue Boatright would begin to serve as the Clerk of the Vestry at the end of Lee's term at the end of December.

The following tellers were nominated by the Vestry: Mark Wheeler (head teller), Hal Cofer, Randy Forester, Erwin Greene, Erik Kahlstorf, and Merry Stovall. Seconded and Approved.

The nominating Committee included Lisa Yarn (chair), Anne Brightwell, Matthew Hicks, Vince Howard, Nancy McDuff, Erwin Greene, and Heidi Simmonds. The slate of nominees approved by the Vestry was introduced: John Albright, Carol Bowles, Rob Byrne, Brian Freese, Debra Harden, Weyman Johnson, Ann Scoggins, and Beverly Sligh. Fr. Robert thanked them for their willingness to serve.

Ballots were distributed and the qualifications for voting were reviewed by Fr. Robert. One must vote for five nominees for the ballot to be counted. Those voting must be at least 16 years of age and be faithful communicants in good standing. The four nominees receiving the most votes will be elected for a 3-year term. The person with the fifth highest number of votes will be elected to complete the final year of Chuck Galis' term. That person can then run for a full term beginning in 2012.

#### **Senior Warden's Report and Update on Recent Vestry Initiatives**

Butch Bush began his report saying that 2010 has been a historic year. The parish has ventured out in faith together on a capital campaign to meet the growing needs of Emmanuel. Results of the campaign should be available by the end of the year. About twelve people built the sanctuary around 110 years ago. The size of the sanctuary is still adequate even if more services are added to accommodate growth. Space is badly needed for children's programs. The campaign has raised almost three million dollars from about 150 out of 400 member units. If the \$6.9 million is reached, building can begin in 6-8 months. Butch praised Hank Houser of Houser-Walker as a great architect for historic church renovation and expansion. He also commended Fred Stoltz of

the James Company, our consultant for the capital campaign. The recession has not held back pledges. This year has made history with the number of parishioners working to get the campaign underway. The Vestry could not have done this alone.

Concerning the Annual Report, Butch urged anyone with questions to call him, Dee Forester (junior warden), or the Commission chairs. He noted that in the December issue of Vestry Papers it is proposed that the church has always grown by word of mouth. Now social networking is “word of mouth on steroids”. He commended the Emmanuel website [www.emmanuelathens.org](http://www.emmanuelathens.org) as an excellent resource.

The Senior Warden’s report in the Annual Report profiles the activities and accomplishments of the 2010 Vestry. The Capital Campaign is of great importance. He thanked the staff, Fr. Robert and Fr. Edwin, Matthew Hicks (Formation leadership, bus acquisition, refugee ministry), Nancy McDuff (Finance Committee, arranging parking lot rental to UGA for special events), Lisa Yarn and Vince Howard (MEMC), Anne Brightwell (Pastoral Care), Priscilla Golley (Thrift House), Naomi Norman (past senior warden), Bob Wood (website), Blue Wood (Tower), Mike Fitzgerald (Endowment Fund), Katrina and Chris Evans (architect consultants), Lee Albright (clerk), and others who have helped make 2010 a successful year. Butch encouraged everyone to let the Vestry know what you think and how you feel.

In closing, Butch outlined initiatives that will need the parishioners’ help. One is to determine how to raise up leaders among the parish. The second is to learn about tithing and giving back for what we have been given. Emmanuel needs to bring our annual giving in line with the other area churches.

Three youth representatives have been appointed to the Vestry to serve with an active and passive voice in all areas except fiduciary issues. One will represent the youth at each remaining 2010-11 Vestry meeting.

#### Financial Report

Nancy McDuff observed that we are fortunate that the parish is growing, but this takes additional resources. This includes staffing, new formation teachers, and facilities. Emmanuel is contributing money to the community through the MEMC and the Thrift House. Our reserves would have covered deficit budgets for the past few years if needed. In the last three years the budgets have not had a deficit in the end. It is important that members make pledges so that a realistic budget can be planned.

#### Endowment Fund Report

Mike Fitzgerald thanked Nancy for all the work of the Finance Committee. Emmanuel has a financial history of leadership and strong donations. The Endowment Board has been evaluating risk vs. safety to grow the endowment. Almost \$1 million has been given out in outreach in the

last few years. State Street Global is our current financial advisor along with the Diocese of Atlanta.

#### Questions Regarding the Annual Report of Financial Reports

Carter Stanfield: How much will it take to cover the loss of income from tearing down the buildings in the adjacent shopping center rental property?

Answer: \$67,000 plus \$500/month. Additional contributions from each family of \$178/year would cover this lost income.

Lisa Yarn: She gave credit to Terrie Seward and the MEMC for all their work and success. The Thrift House also raised \$20,000-\$25,000 per year for grants. They need more volunteers. Lisa urged everyone to thank them for their work.

Andy Simmonds: How many families does Emmanuel have as members?

Answer: Around 450 families.

Jay Shinn: What is the date of the 2011 Annual Meeting?

Answer: December 4 unless there is a reason to change the date.

Fr. Robert announced that the 2011 Emmanuel calendars are available.

Erik Wells reminded everyone that the first building date for Emmanuel's new Habitat for Humanity home will be on December 11, 2010.

#### Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members

Fr. Robert shared that three years ago he felt the need to look for a focus for the parish. Much planning occurred and included the Outreach Summit attended by around 250 people. During this time, he held contributions to outreach until a plan was solidified. At the first meeting of the returning Vestry and the new class of 2010, he posited that Emmanuel must be even more generous with our resources. This was a broadening of focus and an adjustment to some of the serving Vestry. He recognized these now outgoing Vestry members with his thanks for their hard work to carry out this new vision.

Nancy McDuff – He admires her dedication and hard work through her efforts in finances, ethics, straight-shooting, and having the good of the parish at heart.

Anne Brightwell – He recognized her wonderful presence on the Vestry, working hard to take care of those on the fringe of the parish because of illness, disability, or need for pastoral care.

Lisa Yarn – She had worked hard in her first Vestry term on planning that got stuck and did not come to fruition. He thanked her for being faithful through this later second term when it all came to fruition in the capital campaign.

Vince Howard – He noted that Vince has always had a wonderful passion for youth and youth work. Also in the last couple of years Vince has been a great proponent for the homeless through Interfaith Hospitality Network and other initiatives.

Matthew Hicks – He praised Matthew for serving the Vestry and the parish well, joining the staff at a critical juncture to bring Christian formation back into focus. Matthew and his wife Angie have set a great example for all by their gift of bringing the Myanmar refugees to our parish and community.

Presentation of the New Vestry Class

Elected were: John Albright, Rob Byrne, Debra Harden, and Beverly Sligh to serve a 3-year term through 2013.

Carol Bowles will serve a 1-year term and may run again for her own 3-year term next year.

Youth representatives are: Tim Moore, Johnny Miller, and Ryan Williams.

The meeting was adjourned for the congregation to proceed to the sanctuary for the celebration of Holy Communion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee L. Albright

Clerk of the Vestry and Secretary