

ATONEMENT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON TOBACCO ROAD

THE MISSION VESTRY MINUTES **January 2004**

Father Miller opened with prayer. The minutes of the December meeting were read. John made motion to accept the minutes. Jeremy seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

John made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Connie seconded. Motion passed. Pan reported the pledges were down this year. People were not wanting to make a pledge because of being dissatisfied with events in the church. A chart was put up in the Parish House asking if anyone would like to make a payment on the mortgage. We have several months pledged. A copy of the 2004 budget was passed out. There was a discussion about the difference in the 2003 and 2004 budget. Some items in the budget were revised and the budget was accepted. Tony made a motion that we move the savings into a different account to avoid paying the \$8.00 a month Service Fee if we do not keep a certain amount in the savings account. Kathy seconded. Motion passed. John asked if Pam could get updated papers from the bank showing our interest rate on the mortgage on the Parish House. Pam reported she still had a \$25.00 donation for a playpen, and a \$300.00 donation for the fence. Jeremy made a motion to place this money in the savings account until it is needed. Tony seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

John made a motion to look into getting another company to monitor our security system. Kathy seconded. Jeremy and Tony will look into this.

New Business:

Due to a drop in pledges it was decided to terminate the nursery worker. Kathy Mullins will talk with her about this. Volunteers will staff the nursery. All nursery workers must be certified in CPR. Michelle Anderson will be in the nursery every week. Tony made a motion that the church pays for Michelle's CPR Certification. The money to come out of the Mission/Vestry Discretionary Fund. Dorothy seconded. Motion passed. Kathy Mullins is certified in CPR. John Smith welcomed the new Mission/Vestry members and wardens.

Junior Warden's Report.

No report from the new Jr. Warden.

Senior Warden's Report:

Tony will order the programmable thermostats next week. He and Robert will put them in.

Vicar's Report:

We have received money in memory of Gloria Blackwell. This money will be used to place a marker in the Memorial Garden for her. We will have our Low Country Boil on Shrove Tuesday. Joanne Kennelly will handle the Wednesday Night Lenten Suppers. Father Miller will have a program for Lent. Father Miller will not be going to Convention as he has a conflict with his job. He will set a Mission/Vestry Retreat later. The ECW will hold a Friendship Tea on February 28th. There will be a program on Spiritual Growth. Tony made a motion to adjourn. Connie seconded. Motion carried. Father Miller closed with a prayer.

"WE ARE **ONE** IN THE SPIRIT, WE ARE **ONE** IN THE LORD."

THE VICAR'S COLUMN

The month of March finds us in the middle of Lent. As we journey through Lent we will have Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7 PM. There will be a Lenten Program on Wednesday evening during the 7 PM service. I will present the main themes of the book we are reading this Lent, "The Purpose Driven Life." This past Wednesday we looked at the topic "What on Earth am I here for?" Each day has three things for us to consider a Point to Ponder; a Verse to remember; and a Question to Consider. For example, last Wednesday night one of the questions to consider was "In spite of all the advertising around me, how can I remind myself that life is really about living for God, not myself?" After the service we will have the light supper [soup and sandwich] and consider the questions raised. Next Wednesday we will look at Purpose # 1. The BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS of the Five Purposes come from the Gospel of Matthew. First there's THE GREAT COMMANDMENT:

³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." [Matthew 22: 36-40]

Here we find Purposes #1 WORSHIP: [Love the Lord your God with all your heart] and #4 MINISTRY: [Love your neighbor as yourself]. Second there's THE GREAT COMMISSION:

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Here we find Purposes #5 - EVANGELISM: [Go and make disciples] and #2 - FELLOWSHIP: [Baptizing them] and #3 - DISCIPLESHIP: [Teaching them to obey].

We have several new people at Atonement. Ron Edson and Merle Bishop have been attending our 8:00 AM service. Ron has transferred in to Atonement from Our Savior. Merle was attending First Baptist and has asked for her letter to be transferred here. Last week we had a visitor Michael Flake at 8 AM and Latonya Huggins at the 10 AM services.

I have available tapes of each Sunday's sermon, if you missed a Sunday or would like to hear a sermon that spoke to you. You can also give the tapes to prospective newcomers. I have included the 8 AM service homily on the same tape as the 10 AM sermon. A homily is a "short" sermon. I am having our Atonement Episcopal web site upgraded and revamped. It will also provide a means for evangelism.

Please remember in your prayers the following: Man Sun Miller, Lee Patton and her sister Geraldine; Melba Jones; Melinda Etterlee; Farris Etterlee; Henry Nieves, Rick McKinstry, the Edens family, Leslie Joseph, our military deployed to the Middle East [Santha Cortes, and Ray Swarmer] and in Korea [Tony Somersall]. Pray for our fellow Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith.

We have a Prayer Team here at Atonement. If you have someone you want the team to pray for please contact either Nadine Grayson or Suzanne Harrow who will notify the Prayer Team. Become a Lighthouse in your neighborhood and keep any others you may know in your prayers. --KDM+

EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Central Florida votes to join orthodox network

By: Joe Thoma

Posted: Thursday, January 29, 2004

The Diocese of Central Florida's annual convention voted January 25 by more than 2 to 1 to join the start-up Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes, formed in

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mid-January by representatives from 12 dioceses to "uphold the historic faith" and maintain a bridge to the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Primates from at least 9 of the communion's 38 provinces have declared that communion with the Episcopal Church is either "broken" or "impaired" over what they see as unbiblical actions taken by the General Convention last summer, including the election of a gay priest as bishop and acknowledgment that same-sex unions have official approval in some U.S. dioceses.

Many at Saturday's Diocesan Convention said they would like more information before committing to network membership. Bishop John W. Howe, in his Bishop's Address to the 35th Annual Convention, urged the Convention not to take up the matter but to refer it "specifically to our Diocesan Board for careful study and consideration as to whether or not we want to be involved in it in a formal way."

Some who voted for membership said that they, too, would like more information, but the way to make that evaluation is to join the network and take part in its growth and formation.

Advocates of the network stressed that the network, as chartered, is committed to working within the Episcopal Church. Howe said he was concerned about the disclosure in the weeks before the network's organizational meeting of a memo by conservatives that outlined a strategy for using the network to circumvent Church canons and find ways to take property from the national church. But that memo was never presented or adopted at the network's organizational meeting.

After the diocesan convention, Howe, who had joined the network as an individual, said that if the network changes its aim and works to break from the Episcopal Church, he would not remain a member.

"To state it simply, the intention behind the Network is to enable like-minded bishops, clergy, dioceses and congregations to work together within the structures of the Episcopal Church to uphold and propagate the historic Faith and Order of the Church as we have received it. It is not to 'break away;' it is not to become a 'replacement province,' or a 'church within the church.' It is, in

the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, to 'network' together for reform, renewal, and revival," Howe said.

The convention supported Howe's call not to ask for the resignation of U.S. bishops who voted to consent to the election of the Rev. V. Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire.

"We have made the position of this diocese extremely well known, and it seems questionable at best whether there is a lot to be gained by restating it over and over," Howe said of the resolution, which was withdrawn at the convention. "I ask you to seek the Lord's leading tonight as to whether we really want to be calling for resignations that we know will not be forthcoming, or keeping a list of bishops who may not be invited here, when the truth of the matter is they are very unlikely to be invited in the first place."

Questions remain

What network membership means in practical terms is unclear. Some who opposed membership pointed out that a significant number of the diocese's 87 parishes and missions, as represented at the convention, voted not to join the network. The convention approved joining the network by a vote of 267 to 108.

Leslie Poole, an outgoing Diocesan Board member and a leader of Episcopal Voices, a group that says its goal is to keep the diocese within the national church, said Saturday's action was taken without due consideration.

"I wouldn't call it dangerous, but I would call it very disappointing. A third of the people here disagreed with it. That's a lot of people who haven't made up their minds. We're on a fast train heading . . . we don't even know where," she said.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**BAILEY'S JESUS**

God recently allowed me to see Jesus through the eyes of someone seeing Him for the first time. Having the advantage of knowing how the story ends, we can easily forget the cost of our redemption and the love of our Savior.

Every year we attend a local church pageant at Christmas time, which tells the story of Jesus from His birth through His resurrection. It is a spectacular event, with live animals and hundreds of cast members in realistic costumes. The magi enter the huge auditorium on llamas from the rear, descending the steps in pomp and majesty. Roman soldiers look huge and menacing in their costumes and makeup.

Of all the years we have attended, one stands out indelibly in my heart. It was the year we took our then three-year-old granddaughter, Bailey, who loves Jesus. She was mesmerized throughout the entire play, not just watching, but also involved as if she were a player. She watches as Joseph and Mary travel to the Inn and is thrilled when she sees the baby Jesus in His mother's arms.

When Jesus, on a young donkey, descends the steps from the back of the auditorium, depicting His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Bailey was ecstatic. As he neared our aisle, Bailey began jumping up and down, screaming, "Jesus, Jesus! There's Jesus!" Not just saying the words but exclaiming them with every fiber of her being. She alternated between screaming his name and hugging us. "It's Jesus. Look!" I thought she might actually pass out. Tears filled my eyes as I looked at Jesus through the eyes of a child in love with Him, seeing Him for the first time. How like the blind beggar screaming out in reckless abandon, "Jesus, Jesus!", afraid he might miss Him, not caring what others thought. (Mark 10:46-52)

This was so much fun.
[To be continued next month]

On the Horizon

- Mar. 3rd- Lenten Program & Supper- 7 PM
- Mar. 5th Stations of the Cross – 7 PM
- Mar. 7th E.C.W. meeting – After Church
- Mar 7th Discipleship Class – 12:30 PM
- Mar. 10th- Lenten Program & Supper- 7 PM
- Mar. 12th Stations of the Cross – 7 PM
- Mar. 13th – Workday 8AM-12Noon
- Mar. 14th Mission Vestry- After Church
- Mar. 14th Angel Food Ministries Order
Day- After Church
- Mar. 14th Healing Service – 5 PM
- Mar. 14^h E.Y.C. Meeting – 6 PM
- Mar. 17th- Lenten Program & Supper- 7 PM
- Mar. 19th Stations of the Cross – 7 PM
- Mar. 21st Discipleship Class – 12:30 PM
- Mar. 24th- Lenten Program & Supper- 7 PM
- Mar. 26th Stations of the Cross – 7 PM
- Mar. 28th Discipleship Class – 12:30 PM

Atonement Newsletter published by The Rev. Dr. Kurt D. Miller; Church of the Atonement, 2616 Tobacco Road, Hephzibah, GA. (706) 796-3545, FAX (706) 796-3597

E-mail: lambogod@atonementepiscopal.org