

Meeting Minutes, December 18, 2011

HOLY, REASONABLE, ENFORCEABLE

Our December 18th meeting included Bishop Scott Benhase and guest speaker, Ms. Abby Drue.

Bishop Benhase met with us once again to respond to our concerns regarding Diocesan Canon I, "Ethical Standards." This Canon reads as follows: *Aspirants, postulants, and those accepted to holy orders shall accept and conform to the following standard: "Marriage between a man and a woman or abstinence from sexual activity are the only acceptable forms of sexual behavior for a Deacon, Priest or Bishop in the Diocese of Georgia."*

The Bishop has established a commission and tasked them with rewording this Canon with a focus on ethical behavior that is "truly enforceable." This commission has until December 1, 2011 to report back.

Heartfelt thanks for the hospitality provided by St. Anne's, Tifton and the most delicious southern lunch sponsored by St. Margaret of Scotland, Moultrie. We were treated to a tour of the original chapel constructed by a crew of shipbuilders. As you might guess, the woodwork was over the top ornate and watertight. This was followed by noonday prayers in the main sanctuary where we were treated to a specially composed piano piece "What Child is This" by Maestro Duke Miles. There were at least 8 new attendees and 35 travelers from Albany, Augusta, Martinez, Metter, Statesboro, Savannah, Tybee Island, Valdosta, Bainbridge, Moultrie, Quitman, and of course the beautiful and quaint city of Tifton.

NEW WELCOMING CHURCHES

Many thanks to the vestries of St. Margaret of Scotland, Moultrie and St. John's, Bainbridge for the unanimous decisions to be added to our list of Welcoming Churches.

ABBY DRUE, SPECIAL GUEST

Ms. Abby Drue of the Ben Marion Institute of Atlanta spoke on bullying and growing up and coping in an environment generally hostile to the gay community, or any community where one is placed as a "minority." With humor and storytelling, she sighted examples of those times when we ourselves want to respond with anger and revenge when forgiveness is in order.

NEW SUB-CHAPTER

Mr. Richard Gorley announced that he and Larry Lee have formed a new sub-chapter of Integrity GA at St. Paul's, Savannah. It is believed that this group will meet more frequently than our diocesan meetings and this will facilitate communication and project planning around the Savannah/Tybee metropolitan area. Richard has agreed to share meeting minutes with Integrity Georgia and they will be posted on our website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Integrity Georgia has a small, but growing balance of \$342.00 thanks to all the dues-paying Integrity Georgia members. If you are not a member of Integrity, please click on the JOIN/RENEW/DONATE link below. Your support helps us with website improvements and with planning new outreach projects similar to our special fundraiser for St. Stephens HIV/AIDS Ministries in 2010.

We are truly grateful for the support all of you have given Integrity Georgia through your presence, gifts, and prayers.

On behalf of the Integrity Georgia Board,

Jamie Maury, Chair