

**The Church of the Ascension  
Minutes of the Vestry  
August 16, 2016 Meeting**

**Present:** Rev. Stewart Tabb, Bill Willey, Michael Murphy, Sam Webster, Susan Meredith, Mark Strickland, Courtney Wheeler, Suzanne Tate, Donna Killmon, Lynn Farlin, Mark Hattler, Ken Meek and Anne Doyle.

**I. Welcome:** Rev. Stewart Tabb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Michael Murphy led the opening devotion. Stewart asked Mark Hattler to provide an update on the playground construction project. Mark noted that the total playground project cost is in excess of \$90,000. Funding of \$82,500 had been raised and was expended on the project in 2015. Approximately \$10,000 is what remains to be raised and expended in order to complete the project. The vestry asked Mark to prioritize all of the remaining items on the punch list. Donna Killmon suggested listing each item from the punch list separately on the bulletin board, and then allowing parishioners to sign-up to donate for each specific item. Mark Strickland suggested putting photos of each item on the Ascension website as well as on the bulletin board, and getting word of the “silent auction” out to the congregation.

**II. Register:** The minutes of the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved with one change (noting Marilyn Meek resigned as head of the Lay Readers.) Robert Baird has taken on. Anne is to send the minutes to Nellwyn for posting.

**III. Memorial Gift and Procurement of the Bell Tower:** Ken Meek was asked to give an update on the procurement of the Bell Tower. He reported on the proposal submitted by The Verdin Company, the corporation that is currently storing Ascension’s bell. After discussion, the vestry voted unanimously to accept The Verdin Company proposal and to authorize the concrete foundation and electrical work needed to complete the project of the bell and bell tower’s installation. The Finance Committee will determine the source of funds for the electrical circuitry and concrete work to be performed for the foundation. Upon execution of the proposal, The Verdin Company will endeavor to install the bell and tower by the end of February 2017 (before Easter). A memorial plaque will be made and installed to honor the family of the donor. The vestry thanked Ken for his efforts towards this important parish project.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report:** Michael Murphy gave the report for July and noted that the Finance Committee meetings will resume on a monthly basis. He reported that both expenses and pledges for the month of July were higher than budgeted. Year-to-date expenses are roughly \$12,000 above budget. Stewart thanked Michael for his service.

**V. Warden Reports:** Sam Webster, Senior Warden, circulated a vestry roster as well as a report entitled *Conversations Regarding Marriage*. He noted that the vestry would discuss the report during the September meeting. Bill Willey, Junior Warden, discussed several updates and provided a written report, attached. He asked for volunteers to give rides to and from church

on Sundays. He noted that the Holy Open Golf Tournament was held the first Friday in August, and raised \$1,500-\$2,000. He also noted that yard work and tidal marsh clean-up projects have been proposed. The Building and Grounds committee will further discuss the proposals before bringing them to the vestry.

**VI. Clergy Report:** Stewart discussed plans for adding a service of intercessory prayer on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. In addition, Ascension is trying to engage children and adults on the second Sunday of each month. She also discussed the concept of a parish retreat. Several provided input on the purpose of such a meeting and whether it should be held locally or out-of-town.

Stewart asked the vestry to consider how Ascension welcomes newcomers into its congregation. She distributed an example, in use by another church, of how a parish integrates its welcome into the Sunday schedule.

**VII. Old Business/New Business:** The vestry discussed the topic of décor changes needed in the entrance hallway, the narthex and other areas of the parish. Lynn suggested contacting Susan Pilato. It was noted that the artwork depicting the saints could be further discussed with the suggestion of replacement or some freshening up

**VIII. Vestry Task Group Reports, Staff and Written Reports:**

1. Christian Education – Lynn reported that Vacation Bible School was a success with 46 kids. The youth mission trip was also a success.
2. Evangelism – It was noted there are a number of new attendees. Donna raised the question of whether we had greeters at Sunday services. She also suggested having a newcomers dinner possibly in the fall.
3. Liturgy Commission – Stewart noted that the vestry needed to think about the time of the Christmas services, carols and activities. A decision has been made to move the Christmas Eve service to 10:00 p.m. from 11:00 p.m. Regarding the regular service times, she noted that based upon input from the congregation, the Sunday service times of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. would not be changing. Feedback from parishioners is that Ascension is unique in some strongly held convictions regarding the schedule of Christian formation and the choir. Finally, Robert Baird has replaced Marilyn Meek as head of the lay readers.

**IX. Schedule/Devotions:** Michael led the closing devotion, and Stewart closed the meeting. The next vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Doyle