

The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
June 21, 2016 Meeting

Present: Rev. Stewart Tabb, Bill Willey, Michael Murphy, Sam Webster, Susan Meredith, Mark Strickland, Courtney Wheeler, Suzi Montagna, Donna Killmon, Lynn Farlin, and Anne Doyle.

I. Welcome: Rev. Stewart Tabb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the opening devotion. Stewart noted that a vestry meeting would not be held in July, making August 16, 2016 the date of the next vestry meeting. Michael Murphy volunteered to lead opening and closing devotions for the August meeting.

II. Register: The minutes of the May 17, 2016 meeting were approved. Anne is to send them to Nellwyn for posting.

III. Treasurer's Report: Upon the completion of Doug Thompson's term, Michael has agreed to serve as the vestry's finance committee chair. He reported that expenses to date are higher than budgeted. He noted also that pledge payments to date are coming in at a slower rate than budgeted. Stewart thanked Michael for his service.

Ascension is in search of another bookkeeper. Any referrals for this part-time (15-20 hours/week) position would be most welcome. In addition, an anonymous parishioner has requested to make a major gift to Ascension. The vestry discussed various ideas: a bell tower, a stained glass window, and the remaining construction cost of the playground. Cost estimates will be obtained for each idea.

IV. Warden Reports: Bill Willey stated that the new table cart has been delivered and pressed into service with the pew relocation job. He asked Mark Strickland to elaborate on the pew relocation job. Mark noted that the first two pews and corresponding modesty panels had been disassembled and moved to Rose Hall. Stewart thanked the Buildings and Grounds committee and all others involved for performing this difficult job.

V. Clergy Report: Stewart noted that completion of the pew disassembly gave rise to two new challenges:

A. How to address the uncarpeted floor at the front of the church: It was agreed that Stewart would ask parishioner Susan Pilato, an interior designer, for input on refurbishing the space. She will also discuss with Mike Jones, a parishioner with tile expertise, about the efficacy of tile installation.

B. Finding a better place onsite to store the pews/modesty panels: It was agreed that, Mark Hattler from the day school could move the pews/panels out of Rose Hall in the short term provided he moves the pews back. Lynn agreed to make phone calls the following day to various individuals/businesses to whom the modesty panels (dimensions are 15 feet long by three feet wide by three inches thick) could be donated.

The cluttered state of the narthex was discussed. Courtney agreed to move the plants. The Buildings and Grounds committee will make improvements/installations to the cross-holders

Stewart expressed that her door is open to vestry and parishioners; she is receptive to candid feedback. Finally, Stewart distributed the Parochial Report, listing Ascension's revenue/expenses, attendance, number of services, baptisms, confirmations, etc., for the calendar year 2015. The motion to approve the Parochial Report for 2015 passed.

VI. Vestry Task Group Reports, Staff and Written Reports:

1. Communications and Web – Stewart announced that Ascension had received \$1,000 diocesan grant for which it had applied. Bob Postle, Tracy Frank and Anji Harris will begin website improvements and updates. There is a possibility that George Minnigerode will assist.
2. Christian Education – Lynn reported that Vacation Bible School was on track. The youth mission trip would take place between July 24-30th.
3. Liturgy Committee – Marilyn Meek has retired from the Layreaders. It was decided to hold the following services: a healing service mid-week, a monthly service for youth/young adults, a service to bless children as Sunday school begins in the fall, and a blessing of the backpacks to engage the neighborhood and civic leagues.
4. Pastoral Care – Donna Killmon will work with the Pastoral Care committee and to focus on the shut-ins. Susan Meredith would like to have a work crew to work with the shut-ins. Stewart also mentioned that James Hogge may be getting released from the Deerfield Correctional Center during the summer and considers Ascension home.

IX. Schedule/Devotions: Stewart led the closing devotion with the Order for Compline. The next vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

X: Subsequent Votes via email: After the June 21st meeting, the vestry made decisions via email on the following subjects:

1. **Alternates for Council Delegation:** Cindy Jones and Mel Phillips were approved by the vestry to serve as alternate Council Delegates.
2. **Day School Board Member:** Following George Maihafer's rotation off of the Day School Board, the vestry unanimously approved Erin Winn to fill the vacancy.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Doyle