

**The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
October 18, 2016 Meeting**

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

I. Welcome: Rev. Stewart Tabb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Donna led the opening devotion.

II. Register: The minutes of the September 20, 2016 meeting were approved. Anne is to send them to Nellwyn for posting.

III. Laundry Love Presentation: Genevieve Nelson invited the vestry to learn about, share and serve the ministry of Laundry Love. It is a partnership program Genevieve has activated in Hampton Roads to serve those in need. The laundry washing ministry empowers those with limited resources to do laundry, offsetting the estimated \$4.25 cost of one load of laundry at a laundromat. In Ghent, the ministry takes place at Soaps and Suds. Genevieve will be expanding to Wards Corner in January, 2017. It is a bridge ministry, with the opportunity to add a tutoring program. Genevieve noted that St. Andrews, St. Paul's and the Mission of the Holy Spirit participate in the event held at 5:30pm on the third Thursday of the month. It is publicized through flyers and email. Suzanne will go to the event in October. Regarding the expansion to Wards Corner, Bill asked whether non-Episcopal churches like Talbot Park Baptist would be interested in participating with Ascension. Stewart agreed to talk about it with Jim Goodbow. There was some concern about diluting manpower from other ministries, but all agreed that there was little overlap/conflict. The vestry expressed gratitude to Genevieve for her presentation.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Michael Murphy announced that an annual audit of Ascension's finances found Ascension to be employing good financial practices with good organization, accurately reflecting the financial condition of the church. The vestry unanimously accepted the audit. Sam agreed to scan the audit report to the Diocese. Regarding financial results for the month of September, Michael noted that pledges were above budget, but under budget for the year-to-date. Expenses for the month of September were well below budget. Michael noted that planning for the 2017 budget would begin shortly. He concluded by saying that utility expenses would be broken out between the church and the day school. Stewart thanked Michael for his report.

V. Jr. Warden Report: Bill noted that repairs were needed to several roofing tiles. Regarding tree and brush clearance along the shoreline, Bill noted that a Request for Proposal had been issued for all interested bidders. Air Quality had performed an assessment of the air quality in the choir room and found it to be within standards. Bill expressed gratitude for the air conditioning filters/vents being cleaned out in the school and church. He brought to the vestry's attention an outside request to use the church on Saturday nights for a regular Girl Scout troop meeting. The vestry expressed concern about the cleanliness of Rose Hall on Sundays, given that no cleaning staff would have time to perform work. There was also concern that a Girl Scout troop already meets regularly in Rose Hall.

A brief discussion was held regarding the Diocese' guidelines for maintaining certification of insurance. Lynn reassured that the Diocesan's guidelines were included in Ascension's policies and procedures. Nonetheless, it was agreed that Ascension should develop an inventory of the outside groups currently using church facilities. In addition, Sam agreed to develop a hold harmless agreement that organizations would sign in order to be able to use church facilities. Bill concluded by stating that work on the bell tower was moving forward on all fronts.

VI. Clergy Report: Stewart discussed the plans and progress made on the Conversation on Marriage. She noted among the several options for holding the conversation with the congregation that it might be possible to have Susan Sherrod as a facilitator for the conversations. Stewart agreed to ask Susan if this might be possible.

Stewart also gave an update of the annual stewardship program currently underway. She noted that pledge cards would be handed out on November 6th, and that parishioners would have an opportunity to put pledges in the offertory. Accounting statements would also be sent out so that parishioners would know where they stand with their 2016 pledges.

VII. Church Refurbishment: It was noted with appreciation that Bob Postle had created a collage of the Apostle pictures. The vestry agreed to ask Bob to create a collage of the Rector pictures. Also, repairs have been made to the wall area that had incurred damage due to a leak. Other improvements to Ascension's interior were discussed. The desire is to have more pictorial representations that describe the efforts of the church.

VIII. Christian Formation: Stewart noted that fewer people attend Christian formation on Sunday, demanding that we re-think how we do it. Lynn noted that Sunday School attendance is down. EYC is doing well with the Junior members. For the young adult offering, Lynn reported that she is holding a class for parents with small children.

IX. Schedule/Devotions: Donna led the closing devotion. The next vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Bill agreed to lead the devotions.

X: Subsequent Vote Via Email: After the October 18th meeting, the vestry discussed/voted via email to approve a proposal submitted by a landscaping company to perform the shoreline clean-up work.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Doyle