

**The Church of the Ascension**  
**Minutes of the Vestry**  
**February 21, 2017 Meeting**

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

**I. Opening Devotion:** Rev. Stewart Tabb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Suzi Montagna led the opening devotion.

**II. Register:** The minutes of the January 18, 2017 meeting were reviewed and amended to correct the spelling of Suzi Montagna's name. They were then unanimously approved.

**III. Treasurer's Report:** Michael Murphy gave the treasurer's report prepared by Jane Webster. He noted that January's pledged receipts of \$33,239 were above January's budget (\$33,000) by \$239. January expenses of \$44,563 were \$6,200 lower than the month's expense budget of \$50,763. The current budget deficit reflects large insurance payments. The difference between income and expenses for January 2017 is \$7,835 with expenses outpacing income, but it is lower than that projected in the budget for January, which was for a deficit of \$14,315.

Michael Murphy responded to budget questions posed last month. One question whether gifts/items to acolytes were broken down. Sam Webster noted that \$200 is the line item budgeted for acolytes. Another question raised was concerning the budget for the Buildings and Grounds committee. Coming up with a dedicated source for funding for Buildings and Grounds was discussed. Sam also noted that the Outreach line item is a misnomer, that it is the pledge to the diocese. Also, the purpose of the Mission and Outreach fund is confusing. Sam will get clarification on the definition of this fund. Stewart would like to have seed funding for the new mission of Laundry Love. Sam will further research. The Vestry accepted the combined funds report.

Sam noted that we need to have Chuck Beers and Jane Webster as designated signers of the Davenport Investment account, a mutual fund. A motion was made and seconded to have Chuck and Jane be signers of the Davenport Investment account, as well as to have Michael Murphy added as the third signer of the account. Two of the three signatures would be required for any withdrawals or additions to the account. It was decided this issue would be tabled until next month.

**IV. Wardens' Report:**

Bill Willey's report: The bell tower must be inspected by a certified weld inspector. The tower looks great; it must be shipped from Cincinnati and then be erected in the prepared location. Once the tower is erected in place, there remains lighting, which will be completed quickly. The concrete has already been poured for the bell tower, and Larry Bergmooser did a fantastic job of digging the holes for the bell tower foundation. Bill noted that the bell tower fund is currently being pledged. The money will be borrowed and then paid back.

Bill noted that two very large trees were removed on February 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition, there is a ladies' restroom remodeling project going on. The drink machine space has been promised for another use. The drink machine is no longer being used.

Fundraisers: Bill requested Vestry approval to hold two fundraisers: A Wild Tree Food Fundraiser, 3/25/17 from 2-5pm, with 100% of the funds going to the Playground. Second, a Casino Night and Silent Auction are planned for 5/13/17. The Vestry unanimously approved the two fundraisers.

**V. Clergy Report:** Stewart discussed nuts. There are children in the day school who are allergic to nuts. There is nut dust that causes problems to the children who are allergic. Question is whether there should be a ban on nuts in the church. Discussion ensued. Thought was to say no loose nuts, and have it apply to all groups coming into Rose Hall. And then come up with a standard cleaning procedure for the kitchen/hallway. Vigilance is required from parishioners. Sam asked what other day schools are using/doing about peanut allergies. He recommended the head of the day school find out how other day schools handle the peanut allergy. Stewart would like a Vestryman find this out--Susan Meredith will find out what other churches do. Also, there's a need to come up with a standard cleaning procedure for the volunteers using the kitchen and for Rose Hall. Courtney will have a conversation with Peggy Hackett. Lynn will talk with Mark Hattler. Expectation would be that each group completes a cleanliness checklist.

A season of gratitude: At diocesan council, there was a speaker on stewardship and getting folks excited about stewardship, or appreciative inquiry. So Stewart posed the following three questions to the Vestry:

1. What is your best experience at Ascension?
2. What are the core values of Ascension?
3. If I had three wishes for Ascension, what would they be?

Vestry members went around the table describing their favorite experiences of Ascension. It was acknowledged that Roy Burton's skill was to raise children up in the church and that was also his gift.

Regarding core values, looking out for each other was mentioned. Fellowship and friendship, open mindedness, teaching young people to take on active roles in the church. Education is also a core value at Ascension. Valuing young people in the church from age two to age 18. Parishioners live their faith. During the worship service, people do a good job of looking for people they don't know.

Stewart asked the Vestry about potential new Vestry members in advance of the parish meeting on May 21, 2017. She noted there would be some changes to the worship service during the season of Lent. She also reported on the Laundry Love ministry's evening that was held at Ward's Corner and its impact on the community.

For pastoral care, Donna Killmon reported on the bleak conditions at the home where Arthur Bynum is staying. She wants Ascension to do something to help this man.

**VI. Schedule:** The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Anne Doyle will lead the opening and closing devotions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Doyle