

**The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
April 18, 2017 Meeting**

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

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

II. Register: The minutes of the previous month's meeting were approved.

III. Treasurer's Report: Michael Murphy noted that both pledges and other revenues were below budget while expenses were above budget for the month of March. He announced that the bell tower fund had been credited. There will be a formal dedication of the bell tower on May 21, 2017 immediately prior to the parish's annual meeting

IV. Wardens' Report: The Davenport Authorization Resolution and its addendum, which the vestry had received earlier via email, was discussed. The vestry voted unanimously to accept the resolution and its addendum. Bill Willey briefly summarized the key action items of the Building and Grounds Committee's written report, noting that 1) the ladies' restroom is almost complete, 2) new cabinets would be built in repurposed space that will be used by the day school, 3) there is a need to replace the kitchen hood by the end of 2017, and 4) there has been discussion surrounding the desire to make the bell chime louder. In addition, recent cleaning projects and cleaning services were discussed.

V. Clergy Report:

Stewart discussed the vestry slate that will be put forth at the annual parish meeting, to be held on May 21, 2017. The vestry slate includes: Susan Motley, Lana Butler, and Tim Westfall. Rotating off of the vestry at the conclusion of their terms are Sam Webster, Suzanne Tate, and Mark Strickland. Finally, Stewart reminded everyone about the vestry retreat on June 2-3, 2017.

Parish Vitality Audit: From survey findings, Stewart discussed the need to work on two things: 1) clearer communication – to the vestry, parish, and the larger community audience, and 2) having a vision to communicate. She noted we are in the business of helping people follow Jesus in everything we do, but we need to be intentional in our actions. We need to make the way clearer for people to follow Jesus. Stewart discussed the vestry's ability to articulate this vision. She asked the vestry what would keep us from sharing our faith, noting that God wants us to share our faith story. Discussion ensued during which time the vestry talked about offering potential faith-building programs along the lines of *Alpha* or a parish-wide retreat. Donna asked that the vision be printed and posted.

VI. Schedule/Devotions: Anne led the closing devotion. The next vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Suzanne Tate agreed to lead the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Doyle