

**The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
February 20, 2018 Meeting**

Present: Stewart Tabb, Susan Meredith, Donna Killmon, Lana Butler, Courtney Wheeler, Suzi Montagna, Courtney Wheeler, Michael Murphy, Lynn Farlin, Mark Hattler

I. Welcome: Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Susan Motley led the opening devotion.

II. Register: Minutes of meeting. The minutes of the 16 January 2018 minutes were approved with two corrections: Under the Christian Education report, "children" was corrected to "adult." Under the Senior Warden's report, "Bill Motley" was corrected to "Bob Motley."

Staff and/or written reports:

III. Christian Education Report: Lynn Farlin updated the Vestry on the number of youth signed up for the Mission Trip.

IV. Buildings and Grounds Report:

In a written report the Junior Warden reported that the lighting project and the kitchen stove hood are complete.

Stewart asked the Vestry to consider whether we should proceed with the following projects:

The dumpster project includes the installation of a concert pad and a fence. At a cost between \$8,000 and \$13,000 the project promises a savings of approximately \$100 a month as well as safer disposal of trash and improved appearance.

The installation of an appropriate floor covering over the exposed floor tile at the front of the church.

The Vestry is in agreement that it is time to do something. Building and Grounds will continue to explore both projects.

V. Pastoral Care – Donna Killmon reported that the Valentines for shut-ins project was successful. She is planning Blessing Baskets for Easter.

VI. Fellowship – Lana Butler reported that the chili cook off was a success and raised \$325 for food pantry.

VII. Day School- Mark Hattler

The Vestry voted to approve two new Day School Board members: Shana O'Boyle and Kathryn M. Hughes.

Stewart reminded the Vestry that the church and day school are connected parts of the mission and ministry of the church.

The Vestry reviewed the Day School's Executive Summary and Mission Statement.

Mark Hattler, the Day School Director, reviewed the Business Plan.

With a goal of maintaining revenue neutral status and providing a living wage for teachers and teaching assistants while providing high quality infant care and early childhood education. Mark noted that:

- All teachers have degrees in early childhood education
- Assistants earn \$10.50 per hour. Subs earn \$10
- Lead teachers earn \$29,000 per year. /\$13 per hour
- Top teacher earns \$33,000.

- Infant care is comparable to other Day Schools
- Scholarships are available.

As the Day School begins its budget development for the coming year, Stewart and Mark ask us to consider:

- How do we improve our mission to bring the finest education to our students?
- How do we address growing pains of day school and Christian formation?

In the future, Mark will periodically attend Vestry meetings.

Stewart noted that nearly every family with young children new to our church came from the day school.

VIII. Treasurer's Report: Finances

Michael Murphy reported that overall the news is good.

Monthly pledges exceeded budget, and expenses were below budget.

Michael provided information about how the 2017 budget deficit was resolved explaining that money was ultimately drawn from investment fund.

Noting the importance of communicating financial information with the parish, an upcoming announcement in the bulletin will explain how we ended the year 2017 to handle the deficit.

The full budget will be released to all parishioners, and on a selected Sunday Vestry members will be available to answer questions after the 8 and 11 services.

Susan Motley will work on a plan to educate the parish about the budget, priorities, money, and mission.

IX. Wardens' reports

Senior Warden – no report

Junior Warden —the written report was addressed previously.

X. Clergy report:

Reminder: The pastors of Ascension, Royster Presbyterian, and Talbot Park Baptist are envisioning a way of coming together for collaboration. Members of the church leadership are invited to meet after church on February 25.

Parish meeting, May 6

At next Vestry meeting we will talk about what conversation at the Vestry meeting might look like

Vestry Slate: Suggestions discussed

Vestry Retreat June 1-2: place to be determined

Laundry Love financing: \$3,000 was dedicated last year, \$500 per month. Suggest that Talbot Park and Royster be asked to join the Laundry Love outreach.

The Parochial Report was reviewed and amended as necessary.

XI. Old Business

XII. New Business: The Bishop is retiring

Next Vestry meeting March 20, 2018

Devotions for next meeting: March 20 Suzi Montagna

Closing Devotions: Susan Motley