

**The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
January 16, 2018 Meeting**

Present: Rev. Stewart Tabb, Susan Meredith, Bill Willey, Michael Murphy, Courtney Wheeler, Donna Killmon, Lana Butler, Tim Westfall, Susan Motley, Suzi Montagna, Lynn Farlin, and Anne Doyle.

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

II. Register: The Vestry approved the minutes of the December meeting and made one correction to the November minutes: The Parish Secretary's hours in 2018 will move from 35 hours/week to 24 hours/week, not from 30 hours/week to 24 hours/week as was stated in the November meeting.

III. Staff – Christian Education Report: Lynn Farlin updated the Vestry on plans for the Mission Trip as well as on upcoming activities within youth and adult education.

IV. Buildings and Grounds Report: Bill Willey reported on the committee's meeting, discussing items from his written report. He asked the Vestry to support youth fundraisers for the Mission Trip: a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, a cake-ball sale, work crews for hire, and a sponsorship for \$75. A motion was made and passed to support these fundraising requests for the Mission Trip. Stewart requested that the bell chime be outfitted with a microphone so that it can be heard from inside the church. Bill will investigate getting this accomplished.

V. Pastoral Care and Fellowship Reports: Donna Killmon summarized the activities of this committee and asked for someone to cook a meal in the next week. Courtney Wheeler kindly volunteered. Lana Butler reported that the eggnog reception on Christmas Eve was well attended. She announced a Food Pantry fundraiser for January 21st, which would be a chili cook-off. She announced that the Newcomer's Dinner had been changed to February 3rd.

VI. Treasurer's Report: Michael Murphy gave the Treasurer's report for December and year-end 2017, noting a budget deficit for the year of \$31,284. He announced that Ascension received a gift of \$50,000 from the estate of Ed Johnston. In addition, a smaller, five percent portion of the residual of the estate would also come to Ascension and would be placed in the Bequest Fund. Mr. Johnston's wish was to have Ascension spend the \$50,000 gift on items the church needs. Vestry members discussed the following six infrastructure priorities: 1) Replacing funds expended from the Building Reserve Fund for the new lighting program; 2) Making dumpster upgrades; 3) Installing an interior microphone for the bell; 4) Upgrading the sound system in the church; 5) Covering the remaining cost of the kitchen range hood; and 6) Performing other church upgrades, including a projector screen. A motion was made and passed unanimously to fund the lighting program transfer of approximately \$18,500, and to cover the remaining approximately \$1,000 cost of the kitchen range hood.

VII. Wardens' Report: The Vestry discussed the parish survey that is currently in progress regarding the preferred timing of the Christmas Eve service. To have more respondents, it was suggested the bulletin post a notice of the survey.

Gift Cards for NEST: Bill Motley suggested Ascension purchase \$400 in \$5 gift cards for NEST clients. The Vestry unanimously passed a motion to purchase the requested amount of gift cards using the Outreach fund.

VIII. Clergy Report: Stewart announced that the date of the Newcomers' Dinner had been moved to February 2nd, at 3:00-5:00 p.m. The reception will include information on Ascension's outreach activities and fun games for children. Patty Glowatsky will serve sandwiches and snacks. Stewart also announced that the *Herald* newsletter's deadline would be on February 3rd. She asked Bill Willey and Chuck Beers to write an article to describe the lighting changes around the church. Stewart also announced the Shrove Tuesday Dinner would be held on February 13th. On Wednesday, February 14th, there would be two Ash Wednesday services: Noon and 7:15 p.m.

Diocesan Council Meeting: Stewart noted that Cindy Jones and Mel Phillips are the delegates to the upcoming Diocesan Council meeting. Patti Glowatsky and Nancy Long are the alternate delegates. She also noted that Ascension's responsibility for NEST would be from February 21st to February 28th at Talbot Park Baptist church. She noted that Ascension would be co-hosting and team teaching a Wednesday evening supper series with Good Shepherd during Lent. The subject of the series is *Suicide Prevention*. In addition, Stewart announced that during the Easter season, Ascension would lead a small group session on the *Meeting Jesus and John* series, which is about living in, and the power of the resurrection. Stewart asked the Vestry for resurrection ideas that are fun and different. Stewart also asked the Vestry to be thinking of new members to join the Vestry. Finally, Stewart noted that she is doing Morning Prayer every morning. Those wishing to participate can view it on Facebook.

Mission of the Holy Spirit: Stewart updated the Vestry on this ministry, noting that she preaches one Sunday a month at 2:30 p.m. for the Mission of the Holy Spirit at Saint Stephens's church. She desires to begin a *grief support group* that would meet either two or four Thursdays a month, and raised the possibility of using space at Ascension for this purpose. The Vestry passed a motion to allow the Mission of the Holy Spirit to use Ascension space for a Thursday support group.

VII. Schedule/Devotions: Bill Willey led the closing devotion. The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Susan Motley will lead the devotions for this meeting. She has kindly agreed to take the meeting notes for Anne Doyle during this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Doyle