

**The Church of the Ascension  
Minutes of the Vestry  
May 15, 2018 Meeting**

**Present:** Rev. Stewart Tabb, Bill Willey, Michael Murphy, Courtney Wheeler, Tim Westfall, Susan Motley, Donna Killmon, Lana Butler, Mark Hattler, 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 April meeting after making several minor corrections.

**III. Staff Reports –**

**Christian Education Report:** Stewart shared Patti Glowatsky's written report requesting to use the chapel for the Wiggly Ones class for the immediate future. Vestry members thought this was a great idea and approved the chapel's use with the disclaimer that the special committee on space had begun, but had not yet completed its due diligence covering the entire church. Stewart also reported to the Vestry that Patti is doing an excellent job overseeing Christian formation.

**Day School Report:** Mark reported that he is close to finishing the five-year plan for the Day School. He also discussed the processing of repair bills of the Day School. Finally, he noted that the school would hold a train-themed fundraiser in Suffolk on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**IV. Buildings and Grounds Report:** Tim Westfall and Bill Willey reported on the committee's May meeting and action items as shown on the committee's written report. Bill noted that, through perseverance, Chuck Beers had nearly completed the trash can/dumpster project, which would eventually produce a cost savings to Ascension of \$1,200/year. Tim discussed with Mark the issue of the Day School wing's circuit box reliability, and noted that it was on the committee's list for action. Tim also reported that the Sanctuary flooring project is currently underway. In conclusion, Tim reported on the progress of the special committee on space, noting that the task force is thoughtfully researching options and possibilities as it continues to receive valuable input from stakeholders. He noted because the stakeholder community is so broad and diverse, the survey process is ongoing.

**V. Fellowship Report and Food Pantry:** Lana Butler noted that there would be a reception for Pentecost this Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, after the church service. She noted she hoped that the Food Pantry would be reopening in September 2018. It was generally agreed to keep the Food Pantry in its current space. An anonymous donor would be giving the replacement flooring, and she and her husband would donate the paint for the pantry's refurbishment. Stewart thanked both Lana and Tim for all their efforts toward moving, rearranging, fixing, building and finally reopening the Pantry and its ministry.

**VI. Pastoral Care Report:** Donna Killmon reported on a number of activities in progress for parishioners who are ill or elderly. She noted that parishioners may drop off household items to the church by Friday, 5/18, for Rachel Sedge, a parishioner's relative whose house burned down in GA.

**VII. Treasurer's Report:** Michael Murphy gave the Treasurer's report for April, noting that pledges were down for the month, but expenses were down even further, producing a net income that is close to being on budget. Stewart reported that the residual of the Ed Johnston estate would amount to \$10,800.

**VIII. Clergy Report:** Because this is an election year in the diocese, Stewart noted that delegates are needed. Patti Glowatsky and Nancy Long will be Ascension's delegates, and Rick Jones and Anne Doyle will be alternate delegates. The Vestry affirmed the delegates. Stewart announced that Ben Brafford, a talented musician, would give a free concert at Ascension on Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. This free will concert (donations are voluntary) will be open to all; proceeds will go towards one of Ascension's outreach ministries. Stewart will let area churches know about the event.

Stewart discussed the take-aways from the parish meeting. She suggested the concept of *stealth formation*, which is a broadening of the meaning of Christian Formation. Included would be more multigenerational activities and additional cross-pollination between the 8am and 11am services.

**IX. Old Business:** Stewart noted the following items:

Talbot Park Baptist Church is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She noted that she continues to meet weekly with the ministers of neighborhood churches to pray, suggest ways to share resources, and facilitate community conversations.

The Potato Drop outreach ministry was very successful and included a broad cross-section of volunteers working together very effectively. The Vestry suggested it would be good to do two-three of these service projects a year.

The parish's annual meeting went very well. Comments from younger adults included a concern on the church's overemphasis on buildings and grounds. Stewart noted the Vestry needs to make a compelling case that we're called by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work.

**X. Schedule/Devotions:** Bill Willey led the closing devotion. The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19th at 7:00 p.m. Susan Motley will lead the devotions for this meeting.

**XI. After the Meeting:** Stewart announced in an email that the Vestry had approved Susan Motley as Senior Warden and Chuck Beers as Junior Warden.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Doyle