

**The Church of the Ascension**  
**Notes from the Vestry Retreat**  
**August 11, 2018**

**Present:** Rev. Stewart Tabb, Lana Butler, Courtney Wheeler, Donna Killmon, Susan Motley, Ann McMellin, Chuck Beers, Sherlyn Horton, Tim Westfall

**Courtney Wheeler** offered the opening devotions.

With Stewart's reminder that the Bible is full of God's promise that we should not fear, Vestry members reviewed and discussed their individual fears for Ascension:

- Concern about anxiety felt by many members
- Concern for the challenge of remaining relevant
- Fearful for the future of all churches
- Fear of young adult members being discounted

The discussion of our fears and concerns led to an exploration of the value of a strong fellowship program and of the value of instituting commissions. We believe strengthening Fellowship will knit people together and that we will engage more people in the life of the church through the commission system. We looked to find a balance between tradition and moving forward, and the following structure resulted from the discussion:

Liturgy Commission to include ushers and greeters    Ann McMellin, Vestry member and Liaison  
and a review of 5th Sunday Creative Liturgy

Finance Commission	Chuck Beers, Vestry member and Liaison
Buildings and Grounds	Tim Westfall, Vestry member and Liaison
Christian Formation	Patti Glowatsky, commission chairperson
Outreach	Lana Butler, and Courtney Wheeler, Vestry members and Liaisons
Pastoral Care	Donna Killmon, Vestry member and Liaison
Stewardship Commission	Sherlyn Horton, Vestry member and Liaison
Fellowship	Roni Porfert, commission chairperson
Evangelism	Falls under liturgical commission and outreach
Communication	Tim Westfall, Vestry member and Liaison

Patti Glowatsky, the Director of Religious Education, and Stewart are actively involved in evaluating and possibly restructuring our Christian Formation program.

The names of Vestry members and their contact information must be returned to the weekly announcements.

The meeting closed with an acknowledgement of some but not all of this year's successes:

- The Potato Drop
- N.E.S.T with Talbot Park Baptist Church
- EYC Harvest of Hope Gleaning on the Eastern Shore
- The Mission Trip to Harlan County
- Vacation Bible School with Talbot Park Baptist Church
- Our Day School Program
- The reinvention of our Food Pantry

- The joint worship services with Royster Presbyterian and Talbot Park Baptist
- The Ben Brafford concert for N.E.S.T
- Laundry Love at Wards Corner Soap n Suds
- The increased attention on our Labyrinth
- Our worship services

Courtney Wheeler offered the closing devotion.

Ann McMellin will offer the opening and closing devotions for the September meeting.