

**The Church of the Ascension Minutes of the Vestry  
October 16, 2018**

Present: Rev. Stewart Tabb, Lana Butler, Courtney Wheeler, Susan Motley, Ann McMellin, Chuck Beers, Tim Westfall, Suzi Montagna, Patti Glowatsky, and Kristan Huddle

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

**II. Register:** The minutes of the previous month's meeting (September 18th) were approved.

**III. Staff Reports -**

**Christian Formation Report:** Patti Glowatsky reported that she continues to receive positive feedback on the Pray Ground in the sanctuary. Fred Poorman has graciously donated \$300 to the children's programs at Ascension in memory of his wife, and Patti will use some of that money to order a few things to make the Pray Ground better. Children's Sunday School in the small chapel continues to go well, but at some point we need a plan to separate the younger and older elementary aged children. The Children and Youth Pledge Card has gone out and we have already received 2 pledges.

She further made several suggestions for future EYC needs and space:

1. Install a large flat screen TV in Rose Hall and provide storage for bean bags and gaming chairs. The cost of \$3500 should be funded by the Day School who will be using the space as well.
2. Build a permanent fire pit outside near the labyrinth and storage for firewood at a cost of \$350.
3. Update the small conference room completely to reflect a space that is relevant to youth and young adults (cost to be determined).

**Upcoming events:** Trunk or Treat on 10/31 and the Christmas Pageant on 12/22. Also on 12/1 in Rose Hall, Advent Fun Day for children ages 4-10. (Parents can drop off their children and do some Christmas shopping, etc. Patti would like to advertise this to Talbot Park and Royster in addition to Ascension and Day School families). On 12/9 there will be an Intergenerational Sunday school event where we will create a nativity scene out of Legos.

**IV. Building and Grounds Report:** Tim Westfall reported that the trees are coming down slowly using Colonial Tree Service. The holes in the Labyrinth are being filled. Line painting in the Parking Lot is being addressed. Faucets in the kitchen have been fixed and the dirt pile where the trash cans used to be is being eliminated. He further stated that the estimate for carpeting in the Sanctuary is \$7000, so they are looking at alternatives to carpeting the entire area.

**V. Pastoral Care Report:** Suzi Montagna reported that Peggy Hackett is going in for an MRI and Bob Motley will take her. Gloria Carter fell and broke her orbital bone. Anita Mitchell is not feeling well and asked for our prayers.

**VI. Food Pantry:** Lana Butler reported that Kathy Davis will be doing the Reinstatement Inspection of the Food Pantry on 10/25. Once the inspection is passed, computer training will be done. All "paperwork" will be done online in future; all reports, ordering of food etc. Once training is completed the Food Bank will open again in January.

**VII. Outreach Report:** Courtney Wheeler reported that she has contacted the Salvation Army about the stockings and will have more information at the next meeting. She stated that 6 bags of clothing have been received so far for the Holiday Clothing collection. The Motley's hosted the first Financial Get-Together which went well.

**VIII. Treasurer's/Finance Report :** Chuck Beers reported that the Financial Audit report indicates we're in good shape and made a motion for the Vestry to accept the Audit report. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

In talking with the Treasurer it has been determined that there is \$81,000 in uncollected pledges for this year. Of that amount, approximately 19% may not be collected. Fortunately that shortfall may be offset by salaries and the Buildings and Grounds budget surplus and we may finish the year in the black.

Chuck further reported a Request for Fundraising from the Day School for a Book Fair from Oct 25-Dec 1. Parents purchase books for children and proceeds above \$200 would be distributed as follows: 80% to vendor, 10% to Day School and 10% to Christian Education. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the Fundraising Request. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

IX. Clergy Report: Stewart reported that the Bishop's visit has been rescheduled to Nov 8 at 7pm for service and confirmation.

She made a motion to accept the election of Pam Evans to the Day School Board. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Stewart is still looking for additional people to serve on the Board.

Stewart reported that the emphasis in Christian Education is shifting from Children and Youth to Family Formation in order to "weave the fabric of community tighter" and stressed the importance of the congregation engaging with the younger members in an intentional way. Children are not just the future of the church, they ARE the church.

Stewart then discussed the importance for the Vestry to invite people to volunteer.

She further discussed a new procedure for the Agenda, Minutes and Highlights: The Vestry will submit "highlight bullets" to Chuck Beers following the meetings which will be included in the announcements the following Sunday.

X. Stewardship Campaign Status: Ann McMellin reported that things are going well. The Stewardship speaker next Sunday will be Debra Griggs; and the following Sunday, George Maihafer. A suggestion was made to have someone videotape the speakers so that they can be added to Facebook. The Celebration following the Nov 4 service will be a normal lunch with a special dessert. The Financial At-Homes are going well.

After 11/4, the Vestry will be calling the pledge non-responders. The treasurer will provide a report by 11/6 and the names to call will be divided among the Vestry members.

Ann was recognized for her hard work on the stewardship campaign.

## **DISCUSSIONS**

How We Gather a Report on the Millennials: Lana Butler led the discussion. The report was done by the Harvard Religion Department on why the millennials are not interested in organized religion. Lana stated that the report indicated that millennials were very much interested in finding community but that they are discovering other activities that meet that need. Millennials are finding communities in such activities as Social Justice Organizations, Arts and Culture, Yoga, CrossFit etc. Everyone was surprised at the case studies and examples of how the millennials are creating meaningful communities. But the question was raised as to where the God aspect is in such other activities? Stewart stated that millennials are seeking communities that offer personal and social transformation, that are purpose-finding and that value creativity; the church is tasked with offering an authentic Christian community. The report gave everyone a lot to think about and consider as they formulate the Mission Statement for the coming year.

Music committee: Tabled until after the first of the year.

Service times: Ann reported that the acolytes and couples with children generally liked the earlier service. Because of all the current changes, it was decided to table this discussion until after the first of the year.

Goals: Stewart requested that the Vestry be considering its Mission Story and goals for the coming year, and will begin discussion at the next Vestry meeting.

XI. Schedule/Devotions: Susan Motley led the closing devotion. The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. Lana Butler will lead devotions for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Kristan Huddle  
Register