

The Church of the Ascension

Minutes of the Vestry

March 19, 2024

Present: Stewart Tabb, Kristan Huddle, Susan Meredith, Cindy Jones, Katherine Lawrence, Anji Harris, Sally Miller, Pat Duncan, Rick Jones

**I. Welcome:** Stewart Tabb called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Cindy led the opening devotion.

**II. Check in:** To what do you have to die to experience the resurrection?

**III. Approval of the Minutes – Register:**

Karen Newbern will provide the February minutes via email for approval.

**IV. Committee Reports:**

1. Finance Report – presented by Stewart. Full Treasurer reports and documents attached below.
  - a. Simon Marius has resigned and is no longer the office administrator. Jane Webster is reviewing the church bills to identify which bills have been paid or outstanding.
  - b. Payroll is paid thru Towne bank and is not affected by the church expenses.
2. Day School Report – No report
3. Food Pantry – Full report attached below.
  - a. Food Pantry Agency has provided new standards.
    - i. Food platforms must be minimum 6 inches above the floor
    - ii. Two people are required to have food handler cards.
    - iii. The temperature in our Food Pantry room must be recorded. A\C will need to run full time during warm months.
4. Buildings & Grounds – presented by Susan Meredith.
  - a. A\C unit in Sanctuary installation is complete. Final cost \$80,000 and paid for through major disaster fund.
  - b. Levers need be set up. Getting rid of Dickens village.
  - c. Building & grounds clean-up day is Saturday, March 23 from 9am-1pm on Saturday. Rain date is Tuesday, March 26 at 10am.
5. Outreach Report – provided by Sally Miller.
  - a. Many people were in need of emergency winter shelter this week at Royster. NEST the organization that has supported emergency housing in the past closed last year. This year left a loose affiliation of churches in our area was trying to meet needs from Wards Corner to Ocean View. Ascension and Talbot Park Baptist planned to support Royster as they hosted a week of shelter. BUT Ocean View Church had promised to provide staffing for the crucial night shift. That staffing never materialized and Royster shut down the shelter operation for the week after the first night.
6. Formation Report – provided by Susan Meredith
  - a. Youth group attendance is good and meeting 2x month. Bowling event on 4/18 with Christ & St. Luke’s Church.
  - b. Sunday School doing “Godly Play” with children.
  - c. Nurse is now available. Need to advertise to church members.
  - d. Just Faith Book Study is April 3-May 22 @ 6pm-8pm. Topic is Faith & Poverty A Biblical Response.

- e. April Creation Care month
  - i. Lynnhaven River & Elizabeth River Cleanup. Join civic groups, i.e. Talbot Park, to participate in clean-up activities.
- 7. Liturgy – No report provided
  - a. Discussion on upcoming Easter Vigil with Good Shepherd and St. Andrews
  - b. Need volunteers to help with folding church bulletins for Holy Week

**V. Clergy Report** - provided by Stewart Tabb

- 1. Parochial Report – presented by Stewart Tabb. Full report attached below.
  - a. Discussion on ways to grow church attendance & membership.
    - i. We need to show our members that we care and reach out to members not attending church on a regular basis.
    - ii. Reach out to neighbors in Talbot Park. Idea presented to get couple members to sit outside in front lawn and talk to people walking by. Offer doggie treats to owners walking their dogs.
    - iii. Work with Talbot Park Civic League to advertise in newsletter as a church for healing, inclusion, and discussion.
    - iv. Extend personal invitation to family members or friends to come to church and go out to lunch afterwards.
    - v. Schedule events to include a food truck, music, etc
- 2. New Vestry Members – there is Vestry training & handbook online.
  - a. Vestry members coming off in 2024 - Sally, Cindy, Susan
  - b. Need to find new Vestry members for 2024.

**VI. Schedule/Devotions:**

Cindy led the closing devotion. The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for April 16th at 7pm. Anji Harris will lead the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Newbern



Balance Sheet as of February 29, 2024.pdf



Consolidated Fund Activity Report for Feb



Treas - Feb 2024.pdf



Treasurer's Report as of February 2024 for



Food Pantry Vestry Report March 2024.pdf



Parochialreport2023.pdf