

## Minutes of Vestry Meeting October 18, 2002

Present: Stewart Tabb, Susan Meredith, Rick Jones, Kris Huddle, Cindy Jones, Katherine Lawrence, Carol Evans

Absent: Mitch Burton, Doug Thompson

The opening devotion, presented by Katherine, centered on re-imagining yourself in relation to the Kingdom of God as we experience it in the present. Are we dealing with the old or the new? The Beatitudes are the best example of how we can move forward into God's Kingdom.

Members were challenged to think about a time when they were asked to move out of their comfort zone. Most of the responses given included asking God for help, and members shared times when they had to ask God for help in meeting their challenges.

Financial Report: reported that the church is doing "pretty well", amazingly so.

Pastoral Care: Doug Knight's funeral will be held on Saturday, October 23rd at 12:00 PM.

Rev. Canon Willis Foster, Canon of Diversity (or as he likes to be known, Canon of Transformation) will be here speaking on Sunday, October 30th. On November 13th Rev. Canon James Harlan, Canon of Evangelism, will be speaking at the services.

Stewardship Presentation: this year the church will not have a speaker addressing stewardship; a letter will go out to everyone on Ascension's mailing list. In the coming weeks; stewardship education will be the focus on Sundays. Topics will include "everyone is the church" and stepping out of scarcity and trusting God. Stewardship will also be a Formation topic.

The neighborhood walk that has come from Thursday's Re-imagining sessions will be November 5th from 4 to 6 PM. The plans for the walk are to observe the neighborhood, the people in it, and to ask and look for needs in the neighborhood.

A member suggested a reverse Advent wreath. Each day one food item is placed in a basket, and then the items are donated to the Food Pantry. The Vestry is concerned that the Food Pantry is too much for one person to do. Jane and Sam Hedgecock have borne the responsibility of picking up Food Pantry orders and doing additional shopping for the needs that are not supplied by the Food Bank. The Vestry decided to talk with Jane Hedgecock before coming up with any ideas, and she will be invited to present her needs and challenges at the next Re-imagining session. The November 6th Sunday Formation will also include the Food Pantry as a discussion focus, again with guidance from Jane before proceeding.

The next No Sermon Sunday will be an Advent topic—exploring with others what we are yearning for in the Advent season.

The closing Devotion was the last part of the Beatitudes. Members were reminded that it's a challenge to be like Jesus, and even more challenging to rejoice in suffering.

Carol Evans will provide the opening and closing devotions for the next Vestry meeting which will be held Tuesday, November 15th.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol Evans