

The Church of the Ascension

Minutes of the Vestry

October 17, 2023.

Present: Kristan Huddle, Susan Meredith, Cindy Jones, Katherine Lawrence, Doug Thompson, Anji Harris, Rev. Genevieve Nelson, Sally Miller, Pat Duncan, Rick Jones

I. Welcome: Kris Huddle called the meeting to order at 7pm. Katherine Lawrence led the opening devotion.

II. Approval of the Minutes – Register:

A motion was made to approve the minutes for September 19, 2023. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

III. Vestry Discussion – Kris opened the floor for a Narrative Budget discussion. Each Vestry member was asked to bring a list of activities and programs they enjoy at Ascension currently, activities from the past they miss, and ideas of possible future programs and activities. Also, how can we let our members of Ascension know about these activities.

Past activities and programs at Ascension included:

- Services with dramatic liturgy and music events
- Social events after church, i.e. potluck dinners
- Outreach ministries within the church
- Events where members can get together and socialize

Present activities and programs

- Food Pantry, Day School, and Youth Group
- Trunk or Treat event on Halloween
- Small group of members visiting those who are sick or unable to attend church
- Transportation provided for members that do not have a way to get to church

Possible future activities and program discussion

- More outreach in community, i.e fresh food for families.
- Local mission trips for members & youth.
- Music events with musicians and invite public.
- Gather with other Episcopal churches that are struggling.
- Open the church to special groups – LGBTQ meetings, dementia meetings.
- Have a church service centered on the children (monthly, quarterly?).
- Have a retreat for the parishioners.

Additional conversations included:

- Does the church need a new mission statement?
- The church sign in the front needs TLC. Can we repair or replace the sign?
- How do we get younger people and youth to our church?

IV. Reports:

1. Outreach Report submitted by Sally Miller. Full outreach report provided in Vestry email on 10/15/2023.
 - a. An Outreach Committee has been formed with Donna Killmon, Susan Motley, Cindy Jones, Courtney Wheeler, and Suzi Montagna. More information will be provided after the committee meets this month.
 - b. Lunch will be provided at ODU Canterbury on October 26th.
 - c. Trunk or Treat will be held at the church on October 31st from 5-7pm. Flyers and signage will advertise the event.
 - d. All Saints Sunday will have candles available for people to light in memory of loved ones that have been lost.
 - e. Food donations are needed for the Food Pantry for Thanksgiving.
 - f. Information to be provided next month for December events.
2. Finance Report. Initial 23-24 budget submitted by Doug Thompson via email on 10/15/2023 for Vestry review.

V. Schedule/Devotions:

Katherine Lawrence led the closing devotion. The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for November 20th at 7pm. Susan Meredith will lead the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Newbern