**The Church of the Ascension**

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of September 19, 2023

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

I. **Welcome**: Kris Huddle called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Sally Miller led the opening devotion based on the quote, “Let us be silent that we might hear the whisper of God.”

II. **Special Presentation**: Carol Evans shared plans for stocking essentials for Thanksgiving food distribution that will commence on November 2nd. No food will be distributed the week of Thanksgiving. She anticipates the need for approximately 80 turkeys and accompanying items such as cranberry sauce and stuffing mix. She will put an entry in the bulletin announcements to ask for donations of food or funds as well as the need for shoppers to get the turkeys. Several Vestry members will again be assisting.

III. **Check in:** If the church had an unlimited budget, what would be on your wish list? And how much money would you need to see your wish come true? (Related to budget process and thinking of wants and needs.) Each person offered their wish list item(s): Christian Education Director - $50,000; funds for music for creative liturgies; greater outreach; neighborhood carnival - $10,000; handbell refurbishing, purchase of tone chimes - $20,000; pay for staff hours; opening the church to groups to use our facility – Scouts, AA, Civic groups, possibly facilitated by changing the school opening to the back; revived theatre program open to members and outreach for both liturgical drama/musicals and performances to raise funds for programming and spiritual seminars and retreats; providing transportation, mentoring, opening to the community for possible after-school programs, tutoring. A lot of discussion arose as each item was offered.

IV. **Approval of the Minutes – Register**: A motion was made to approve the minutes for August 15, 2023. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

V. **Safe Church Training** – Kris Huddle will review the status of each member as training is for 3 year periods and alert those who need to renew. All Vestry members must receive the Specialized Training.

VI. **Committee Reports**:

**Finance/Stewardship** – The Stewardship Committee wants to meet with the Sr. Warden Kris Huddle, Doug Thompson, and Jane Webster on October 5 to discuss development of a narrative budget and having barometers for essentials. This would include listing of programs, committee needs, information of what is done in each area and charts detailing the budget plan. The congregation wants and needs this information.

Due to a lengthy discussion of monies in funds versus budgeted dollars, sources and uses, as well as questions about how to secure funds for programming, it was determined that a separate meeting will be necessary for the vestry to specifically address all budgetary issues and review restricted funds, as well as discuss a wish list versus needs. That date is to be determined.

Preparation for this year’s Audit is process but the actual date for completion is not yet scheduled.

**Building and Grounds**: Susan Meredith reported that the repairs of the facility are approximately 90% completed. Work continues.

**Day School**: Susan Meredith reported that the school is scheduled to be reopened on October 9th.

**Pastoral Care, Fellowship, Formation**: No report

**Outreach**: Report from Sally Miller was provided in Vestry email on September 17, 2023.

Items continue from the August report.

Discussion of the Public Policy website for the National Church has yet to be added to the agenda.

Plans are progressing for Trunk or Treat for October 31.

**Liturgy** – The committee will not be meeting until November. Katherine Lawrence submitted a report that was included in the Vestry email on September 17, 2023.

The services continue in Rose Hall. Karen Parthun is recovering from surgery but is playing piano and the choir has resumed.

Special/creative liturgies are a topic for future planning.

Lay Readers and Chalicers are scheduled but we need more people doing this ministry. The next scheduling meeting is November 12.

VII. **Vestry Discusssion**:

1. A Racial Healing presentation will be hosted by Ascension January 27, 2024 9am-3pm. Attendance is Mandatory for the Vestry.
2. Our 8am Contemplative service. Anji Harris led the discussion. Several churches have eliminated their 8am service so this could be a strength for our church. An article will be sent to the Diocesan weekly email – Tidings – to let people know that we have an 8am Traditional Rite 2 Contemplative service. Also, this will be emphasized on our signage.
3. Vestry Highlights - Communication with the congregation. Kris Huddle will note 5 items discussed at the meeting to be included in the bulletin announcements.
4. Due to the meeting’s running long, other items listed on the agenda will be moved to next month’s meeting.

VIII. **Next Meeting will be Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 7pm via Zoom.**

Opening and Closing devotions will be led by Katherine Lawrence.

**Closing devotion** by Sally Miller

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Lawrence