

The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
January 18, 2021

Present: Rev. Stewart Tabb, Anji Harris, Doug Thompson, Susan Meredith, Mitch Burton, Olga Gonzalez Nichols, Cindy Jones, Debra Griggs and Kristan Huddle.

I. Welcome: Stewart Tabb called the meeting to order at 7pm. Susan Meredith led the opening devotion.

II. Register: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last meeting (November 16th), seconded and unanimously approved.

III. Check in: What new things are you seeing God doing in the church and/or in you? (and if nothing - what do you hope to see?) Discussion followed.

IV. Committee reports:

A. Finance: Mitch Burton present:

[Treas -November 2021.xlsx](#)

[Treasurer's Report as of November 2021 for General Fund.pdf](#)

[Consolidated Fund Activity Report for November 2021.pdf](#)

[Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2021.pdf](#)

Audit Update: Doug will provide draft to Mitch this evening. Stewart to provide checkbook and documentation to Mitch also.

Pledge Update: As of 12/28/21 40 pledges have been returned for \$181,000. (Last year 66 pledges had been returned for \$269,000). Mitch to provide a list of those we may need to contact who have not yet committed. Vestry members will also be sending thank you notes to those who have already returned their pledges. Developing the budget is the next step.

Diocesan pledge: Last year's pledge was \$15,000. Following discussion a motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved to aspire to a pledge of \$10,000.

B. Building and Grounds: Susan Meredith present.

I met with Mark yesterday about the quotes for Extra Cleaning. This has not been done in several years(to my knowledge).

Based on talking to Mitch about where we stood for next years budget, the church cannot commit to any funding for this cleaning. We will visit this later after pledges all come in and budget in set to see if we can contribute to any of the cleaning.

Mark has areas that need cleaning now, Main Hall to Day School, Day School wing Hall, Rose Hall and several classroom areas. He will cover the cost right now.

C. Pastoral Care: George Maihafer submitting

Jimmy Fields died. We continue to call and to check in on our homebound parishioners as well as those in convalescent centers, when visits are permitted. I along with a number of the committee members, have sent out get well cards and notes of condolences to our members who have experienced loss and/or illnesses and surgeries.

Peggy update. Peggy has COVID-19 and is in quarantine at Bayside. She does not know when she will be released. She says she is feeling ok, but slightly worse, and she sounds like she feels puny but is able to talk.

The plan has been slow moving because the lawyer for one reason or another has not been able to finalize the deed of transfer or power of attorney. We will see about getting that done as soon as the quarantine is lifted. The lawyer did tell me that Peggy will have to spend down more than we initially anticipated, but that makes it so that she has choices regarding who her caregivers are.

Nellwyn and Ann McMillen are on the cat detail – trapping “Regina – the wily cat case,” Nellwyn will start Peggy’s car whenever she is there. I will be taking a video of her house to see if we can identify those things we need to save for her before Serve-Pro comes in to clean. Time is coordinating that when the power of attorney is signed. perhaps by that time we’ll be ready to roll on getting her house cleaned by Serve-Pro.

D. Fellowship: Tailgate. Bill Willey and Susan Meredith organized non-traditional/traditional eggnog after the 9 p.m. service – it was a tailgate and it was a lot of fun.

E. Day School: Mark will be present to report at the next Vestry meeting.

F. Liturgy: Greening worked with everyone bringing their own poinsettias. We are grateful to Jane Webster for the food! We were able to have services on Christmas eve including a pageant at 4 – moved up slightly when we moved it outdoors out of concern for COVID.

Christmas Eve 9 p.m. included the choir! Processing!

Christmas day and December 26 were quiet.

Streamed service only on the 9th. Back to in-person – no congregational singing now.

Next Liturgy meeting is February 7

G. Formation: Susan Meredith Submitting for children and youth

We set the schedule for the first part of this year for Sunday school and Youth Group. See below. Courtney will send out stories to be told on these dates for SS.

Youth Group will start with a Movie/Discussion, then some Outreach activities, The story of Esther and Purim, the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper, Stations and Meditations in Lent, and a modified Seder meal on April 10th.

Cindy will talk with Olga about outreach possibilities.

Courtney will talk to the Rabbi about going to Synagogue.

In Adult Formation Anji and Kris will be offering The Difference Course again, with an introduction and ending with a speaker(Kristoff).

V. Vestry Items:

- A. Covid policy:** Discussion regarding the measurement to use to determine our policy. (We have been using the positivity rate.) Doug to investigate other more meaningful data to use. In the meantime the Vestry is continuing to monitor and we're trying to keep church open and in person, but no singing. If a parishioner is ill, they should stay home and watch online.
- B. Vestry vacancy:** Search continues for someone willing to serve.
- C. AED replacement:** Doug said the contacts he had at Sentara are gone. He will continue his search.

VI. Clergy Report: Stewart Tabb present. Nothing new to report.

VII. Schedule/Devotions: Stewart Tabb led the closing devotions. The next regular Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Olga Gonzalez Nichols to lead the devotions at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Huddle