

Episcopal Church of the Ascension

Vestry Meeting

June 3, 2024

(Note: The May Vestry Meeting was moved to June 2 due to a scheduling conflict)

Mission Statement

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension's mission is:
"To restore all people to unity with God and each other."

We strive to be a radically inclusive community with diverse and vibrant worship, intentionally focused on children and youth, caring for each other, and on being the hands and feet of Christ in all that we do.

Present: Fr. Paul, Tom, Chris, Katie, Herb, Todd, Joan, Steve, Aaron, Marsha, Audry

Absent: Ginger

Devotional: Audry

Prayer Requests: Mary Ann, Joe and Betty, Eva, Keith, Jerry, David, Jeannine, Hoover, Sandbranch Community, Steve and Julie, Coach Burgess and family, Jimmy

Ordinary Business:

1) Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes; Motion to approve made by Herb, second by Todd, minutes approved.

2) Financial Reports; the finance committee proposes to make a change to where we put funds in excess of \$250,000 in one bank. We could move the funds to CoMerica from Fidelity. The ADS board has to make some decisions about that also. We need to balance the account considering ADS and Church liquidity needs, so we maintain a secure account balance. Regarding the audit, were the issues that were previously identified resolved? This is a bookkeeping abnormality but it isn't critical. Perhaps we should do the audit just starting from the previous year and stop looking back over previous years. Motion to approve reports made by Katie, second by Chris. Motion approved.

New and Continuing Business

1) Security Update - Marsha; We had a meeting today with Lupe Salazar and leaders in the church and ADS. All were very impressed with his background and sincerity. He is experienced in law enforcement and security. He is the head of security at the church where we went to the active shooter training. This church has about 1500 participants each week on 65 acres. Lupe said church size doesn't matter. He told us that we are on the right track because we know we need a plan in place. We must make sure we have identified who does what in any emergency. We have to think proactively, and practice for any type of emergency before it happens. We took him to ADS, and then walked through the church and looked inside and outside. He will come back with a plan that is specific to Ascension. Lupe and Bill Dunham will be in communication soon, and we will possibly meet again with him in August with a training session tailored to Ascension. They came up with a list of people who ought to attend the training. We will also ask the Dinka and another church to attend. The congregation will be told before hand so they are aware that the training is occurring and all is well. Lupe continually said that main emphasis is to be safe. He also talked about the balance between security and welcoming. Be aware not afraid.

2) Update on potential capital projects (doors/bathrooms, etc.) - Fr. Paul; We don't have enough details to make any decisions yet. He shared some information onscreen. The first bid for three bathrooms (parlor, men's and women's bathroom near the main entrance) from Strong is roughly \$104,000. What we have for the doors is incomplete. The doors we need to replace are the Main Entrance, Bell Tower, Kitchen Door. The current bid is \$30,000. There's an additional door \$3300. Unfortunately, the bid is unclear right now. Also need to make sure we understand bids for doors for security as well. The HVAC bids need to be arranged as well. Right now, we expect it to be about \$250k to \$300K.

3) Sunday duties, moving the offering money to the safe - Fr. Paul; Fr. Paul gave us a schedule for who is responsible for each month.

Reports

1) Junior Warden - Todd: The Upper building gutter guards and tree trimming have been done. The undercroft has significant leaks and the drain was plugged. The drain is being unplugged, and may need to have some repairs made to stop the leaks. We had a power outage after the storm. We didn't have a lot of damage or issues. The power supply for the sound booth and the switch in the ceiling in the choir room have to be manually reset after a power issue. Our landscape company is removing the debris and tree trimmings. All the fences are intact with no damage.

2) Senior Warden - Tom: The security project needs a process so we don't have to do it again. There should be a vestry member on the committee. We reached out during the picnic to people who might want to be on the vestry. Should we invite them to a vestry meeting so they can see what it entails? What's important to our members?

Growth, security, finance, etc. He would like to understand what's important. It is the duty of each vestry member to ask people. Then bring that back to the total vestry the results so decisions can be made about priorities.

3) Rector - Fr. Paul: We had a baby shower for Eva a couple of weeks ago. Vestry and Staff gave her a car seat. Eva is staying. We may need to review and/or boost the church's contribution to HSA on our health insurance. We are making our move on YouTube to another more public channel and there will be info in this weeks @ascension on how that will work, with the new channel. We need to continue to send photos to the new account. Bishop Sumner has called a committee to identify another Bishop CoAdjutor.

Calendar of upcoming events: Podcast Group June 8 and 27 ; Burgers and Brews with Fr. Paul Monday June 10; Musical Theater Camp, June 10 to 14, Sign up for Saints and Sinners, Family Movie night this Friday.

Moving Money to Office for July: Katie and Chris

People to Thank - Lupe Salazar for his presentation today, Forest Green Library for letting us complete VBS at their facility

Next month's devotional - Katie

Closing Prayer