

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY OF
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Committee Reporting Session

April 3, 2022

On Sunday, April 3, 2022, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension held committee meetings and a reporting session, following Sunday services. Committees began to meet at about 11:30 pm, primarily in the Parish Hall, but also in other rooms such as the Parlor, the Youth & Outreach Center, and the conference room.

Father Paul called committee leaders to the reporting session in the Conference Room at 12:35 pm. Those attending the reporting session were:

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|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Rector Father Paul Klitzke | Joan Romanosky |
| Senior Warden Ashley Rector | Mark Unkenholz |
| Junior Warden Andrew Bolt | Suzan Fenner |
| Julie Baker | Jane Taber |
| Jonathan March | La Bau Bryan |
| Laura Warner Gilmer | Todd Rutenbar |
| Harry Breda | Hope Harbeck |
| Marsha Gadsden | |
| Tom Dwyer | |

Vestry Member Jonathan March performed double duty as Treasurer, and Vestry member Harry Breda continued to perform duties as Clerk of the Vestry.

Father Paul started the meeting with an opening prayer.

Ascension Day School (Brett Rector, Board President)

- Brett did not attend and did not report for ADS. Ashley Rector reported on his behalf, noting that the school picnic for ADS would be on April 22, marking the last day of school for the spring.

Evangelism Committee (Jane Taber, Chair)

- The committee provided lunch for committees - they were thanked profusely.
- The Lenten speaker series is in full swing, with just one speaking slot remaining on Wednesday, April 6. Jane reported that an entire church from Beaumont was connected to one of the meetings, and we all assumed that there were likely at least fifty people present there.
- The committee served as host for the Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 2. Jane shared that there were about 100 people present, including many first-time visitors. The event was considered a smashing success, with many volunteers supporting the effort. There was also a nursery available for smaller children.
- Jane reported that they continue to field questions about the lights that are out in the Narthex. The topic was discussed briefly among several committees, and it was revealed that there will be someone out to look at the lighting issues the week of April 4.

- Last, it was reported that on Easter Sunday, there will be a couple of places in the courtyard for pictures – settings near flowers and other picturesque locations.

Finance Committee (Jonathan March)

- Jonathan shared financial reports with the Vestry and other leaders earlier in the week. We are roughly in line with expenses for the year to date, but well ahead of our expected pace for income. He noted that he will look back through four years of data to gather insights on why this year's income has far exceeded expectations. Some committee members mentioned that we had previously pro-rated large gifts so that the budget impact was lessened; it was a suggestion that will be considered.
- The Finance Committee discussed reinstating the Investment Committee, a subcommittee that previously directed investment activities. The committee stopped meeting when the investment assets were used to support the capital campaign. Given that the investment account has been refreshed, it was deemed a good time to restart.

Formation Committee (Joan Romanosky, Chair)

- Joan reported that they've had fairly low attendance with children at Godly Play, essentially one family. Children's Chapel has seen better attendance, but it's been hit or miss – on March 27 there were 15 children, and on April 2 there were only two.
- The youth curriculum is "Journey Into Adulthood," with many other events happening.
- The opera truck will be on the campus on April 23, with our own Jordan Hammons performing in "Jack and the Beanstalk." Joan wondered if there were additional plans set up for the event, such as traffic control or snacks. Outbound offered to provide snacks and water for free, and several volunteers came forth.
- The Anti-Racism Task Force got two carloads of clothing for their accessory drive. They are currently working on a summer program.
- It was announced that the week of June 19-25 was set aside for Camp All Saints and the Youth, and that a Bible Camp will be the week of August 1-5.
- Finally, it was announced that the Easter Bible study lesson will be the Book of Revelation.

Pastoral Care (La Bau Bryan)

- La Bau reported for the committee, sharing first that training for Stephen Ministers is on hold, which was disappointing to report to friends at St. Michaels.
- It was reported that the choir has agreed to help with meals supporting Food for Souls.

Liturgy & Music Committee (Ftr. Paul, reporting)

- Father Paul reported that the committee met and discussed recruiting for additional positions supporting the service (LEM, Verger, Acolyte, and so on).
- Much thanks was offered to the committee for the extra music during the Sunday, April 3 service at 10:30 am.
- Mark Unkenholz announced that they would be sponsoring four weeks of theater camp during the summer, and they are working with ADS on sharing space to accommodate things.

Outbound Committee (Hope Harbeck, reporting)

- Hope reported for the committee today. Her first bit of news was that Kathy Wendling shared that the Little Diversity Library near the YOC was being used regularly.
- Diane Haack reported that a hose was stolen from the garden, reiterating the need for security cameras covering that area. It's being worked on, according to the PP&E committee.
- The next Austin Street Shelter outing is scheduled for May 7. The committee wasn't certain whether it would be drop-off or serving.
- It was reported that the Food Pantry has a surplus of funds in its account, thanks to donations and prudent purchases. They are making sure to purchase shelf-stable items such as flour and sugar. In addition, they received \$1500 to purchase food for Ramadan; they are in the process of distributing that food.
- They reported that a site on Facebook called "Buy Nothing Richardson" has been helping out with bicycles for refugees. Outbound members are helping with accessories such as a helmet, a bike pump and locks.

Property, Plant & Equipment (Todd Rutenbar, Chair)

- The committee is working on a list of things to attend to during the spring Parish Workday, scheduled for May 7. They are also seeking input from parishioners.
- The lights issue was addressed again. Father Paul reported that he directed Suzanne in the office to seek a solution and one is coming the week of April 4, to everyone's pleasure.
- Todd reported that a couple of car tires were left in the parking lot. Not knowing if they were for any particular purpose, he threw them out in the dumpster.
- Todd finally reported that they are looking at solutions for security cameras around the property, including cameras monitoring the parking lot.

Radical Hospitality (Suzan Fenner, Chair)

- Suzan reported that the committee settled on providing breakfast breads, cheeses, crackers and drinks for Easter Sunday, after both the 8 am and the 10:30 am services.
- There are about 35 people signed up for the Progressive Dinner, scheduled for April 30. There are plenty of hosts who have volunteered, though more are always welcome.
- The All Parish Picnic is on and scheduled for Sunday, May 22. The committee will ask the Men's Group to help with cooking food, and ask parishioners to bring potluck sides. It was not clear if the Bishop would be visiting that day or not.
- Finally, the committee began discussing potential summer activities and get-togethers.

Stewardship Committee (Jon Dunfee, Chair)

- The committee did not meet or report.

Father Paul followed the reports with a couple of calendar updates.

- Services on Sunday, April 11 will begin in the Courtyard, as per our Palm Sunday tradition. Weather permitting, of course.
- Easter week schedule includes Maundy Thursday services on Thursday, April 14, and Good Friday services at noon and 7:30 on Friday, April 15.

With there being no further reporting, Father Paul offered a closing prayer. The meeting was then adjourned at 1:15 pm. The Vestry meeting would start in about ten minutes.

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Regular Business Meeting

April 3, 2022

The Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension held its regular business meeting following committee reporting. Remaining for the Vestry meeting were Father Paul Klitzke, Senior Warden Ashley Rector, Junior Warden Andrew Bolt, and Vestry members Julie Baker, Laura Warner Gilmer, Marsha Gadsden, Joan Romanosky, Jonathan March, Tom Dwyer, and Harry Breda. Jonathan March served as Treasurer, and Harry Breda served as Clerk of the Vestry.

The meeting came to order at 1:29 pm.

Devotional

Ashley Rector read three short prayers for a devotional.

Prayer Requests

As a Vestry and as a congregation, we pray for ...

- Thanksgiving for Curt Gadsden, with positive medical news;
- The Brickell family;
- Randy Nelson, who just had surgery;
- Janie Chrisenberry, who is battling cancer
- Matt Miller's uncle;
- Rita Sands, also battling cancer, who received good news recently;
- The people of Ukraine, fighting valiantly for their freedom;
- All who have been impacted by Covid, including those who have been sick as well as those who are caring for the sick;
- Doctors, nurses, caregivers, and first responders dealing with those impacted by the pandemic;

Following a moment of silence for centering and prayer, the Vestry read aloud the mission statement of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

Ordinary Business

Meeting Minutes

Minutes for previous meetings were distributed via email, including the January 2022 meeting, the 2022 Annual Meeting, the short post-annual meeting gathering, and the February 2022 meeting (held on March 5-6). Joan Romanosky moved that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Marsha Gadsden, and approved unanimously.

Financial Reports

- There was some discussion regarding a personnel matter that is now officially closed.
- Jonathan discussed the investment committee again, in response to a question. Potential committee members have been identified. There is an investment strategy statement, which the committee will revisit and update as needed.
- Joan Romanosky moved that the financial reports be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Tom Dwyer, and approved unanimously.

New and Continuing Business

Recruiting for Clerk Position

- At the last Vestry meeting, several parishioners were recommended as potential candidates to take over as Clerk. The process is moving forward, as a couple of candidates have been approached.
- Additional names may be needed for the position.

Strategic Planning Session

- Following a consensus agreement at the last meeting to seek a strategic planning session for Vestry and committee leaders, Father Paul spoke to Mary Montgomery, who had facilitated a meeting with this group previously. She offered some dates in May for a one-day planning session, which was discussed within the Vestry.
- Ms. Montgomery's fee was raised as a question. Tom Dwyer moved that the Vestry allocate up to \$4,000 to cover costs for the day; the motion was seconded by Laura Warner Gilmer and approved unanimously.

Additional Business

As an aside, Tom Dwyer mentioned that he had been to Children's Chapel recently. He called it "an eye-opening experience," and praised Jordan and others involved with the activity. He recommended that Vestry members occasionally go to Children's Chapel to assist, simply to be part of the activity. More discussion ensued and the Vestry was generally interested in the idea.

Reports

Junior Warden - Andrew Bolt

- Andrew first raised the issue of the lights in the Narthex, and noted that both Todd and Father Paul had covered the subject. For additional detail, Father Paul noted that the contractor for the capital campaign will be on campus the week of April 4, and the intention is to replace all bulbs in the narthex, as they are failing. The bulbs themselves are covered by warranty, but the labor to replace them is not; however, we will split this cost with Strong Construction.
- Regarding the accordion wall in the Children's Chapel room: it's believed that we can take that down as part of the work day in May. More details to come.
- Last, Andrew shared that he had watched the YouTube video feed last month and noted that the broadcast had several issues with microphones cutting in and out. He also had a few additional suggestions based on watching the video feed, including avoiding Comic Sans font for on-screen text.
- Sound issues were also reported. It was noted that the new sound and video board is quite complex and there is a need for more volunteers to help out with the production.

Senior Warden - Ashley Rector

- Ashley noted that most of her reporting had already been covered by the group.

Rector's Report - Father Paul Klitzke

- Father Paul shared that he has updated the job description for nursery help, and has distributed it within the typical circles. We hope to get some applicants and restart that offering.
- He was approached by St. Phillips about using the church on Saturday, April 16 for their Easter services. He agreed to the date, and has asked that the cleaning crew come in Saturday afternoon, as the following day is Easter.

- He announced that he's going to postpone the Pilgrimage, originally scheduled for this summer, to March of 2023 (possibly spring break). There were seven people signed up, with a few more interested. An announcement will go out in the weekly @Ascension newsletter.
- He has not yet begun the search for a new Associate Rector. He wants first to get feedback from the Strategic Planning group.
- After discussing plans for our next associate rector, the Vestry considered Father Paul's likely sabbatical, next year. A small committee was quickly formed, including Tom Dwyer, Ashley Rector, Joan Romanosky and Marsha Gadsden. The group will brainstorm ideas and plans for those dates, as they are firmed up.
- Last, Father Paul thanked everyone for help while he was visiting with family in March. He has plans to return to California in late May for Noah's graduation. He will plan his schedule so he won't miss two Sundays.

Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, April 13 - Sunday, April 17 - Holy week observances, including Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
- April 23 - the Opera Truck will be in the parking lot.

People to Thank

- Catherine Miller, as the web site looks fantastic.
- Rev. Chanta Bahn, visiting priest who led services on March 27.

With there being no further business, Father Paul Klitzke offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at about 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Breda, Clerk of the Vestry