

## **Vestry Digest September 2018**

**PRESENT:** Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa Rose Buck, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Susan McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, Luis Pedron and Berenice Rodriguez. **Absent:** Junior Warden Janet King, John Pruessner and Bob Waters. **Guest:** Angie Hight-Walker, Youth Group leader. The meeting opened at 2:00 p.m. with a short prayer and check in around the table.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Several items in the Vestry Minutes from the August 5 and August 15 meetings were corrected. Then Gordon moved that the consent agenda be adopted, Susan seconded the motion, and it passed.

**GUEST PRESENTATION.** Angie Hight-Walker, co-leader with husband Trevor, reported on the Youth Group. With 20 members, Ascension's Youth Group has been the largest one in Montgomery County, although with four seniors having graduated in June that may change. They are looking for new 6<sup>th</sup> graders to join; being a parishioner is not a pre-requisite. The group does at least one service project each semester, Comfort Cases being the most recent. At Angie's request, the vestry agreed to continue having the Comfort Cases collection bin in the narthex. St James School in Philadelphia has been the site of summer work camp for several years now. The group also leads the services on Youth Sunday each spring. The vestry applauded Angie and Trevor's work.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**The Giving Tree recipient.** Every year Ascension chooses a charitable organization to support through donations to our Christmas Giving Tree. Javier asked the vestry for ideas for this year's charity, and asked that suggestions be emailed to him. The vestry will vote on this next month. As a start, Susan suggested the Bishop's Appeal.

**Our new deacon Eugene Nat Wright.** Javier told the vestry that Ascension will be sharing a deacon (Eugene Nat Wright) with St Ann's, Damascus, this coming year. Eugene will be ordained at the same ceremony as our own Enid Cole on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. He starts work on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Security cameras for the building.** The vestry had previously discussed purchasing security cameras; Javier requested that the vestry decide on whether to pursue this. The vestry, considering our financial status, tabled it indefinitely.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Contracts review.** Zadinga and Berenice reported in on status of our contracts. The Rental Agreement contract is completed and has been in use already. The current contract project is the one for Sandy Ridge Academy (SRA). Berenice and Zadinga will meet with Lin on Thursday 9/13 to discuss the draft. The contract should include a floor plan to concisely define the school's premises. They suggest that the rent be a single amount (currently SRA is charged separately for

space and for cleaning). Other things they recommend be covered are cost of pest control, snow removal, insurance, bathroom supplies, use of the playground, and use of the restrooms.

Ascension will be charging SRA a higher amount in the new contract. Zadinga and Berenice feel that although the contract needs to set rent at a cost that's more reasonable and more specific, it should not be too aggressive an increase. Betsy said that only when the new contract is ready will Ascension meet with SRA.

**St. Barnabas contract.** Paul Cooney of the diocese emailed Javier with recommendations for the to-be-developed contract between Ascension and St Barnabas deaf church, now using the chapel. Berenice and Zadinga will review them.

**Giving campaign.** This year's chairperson Susan reported on plans for the campaign. The committee will send out a request for pledges on September 24, with a new kind of pledge form included. Not only will there be a place for financial pledges but also places for parishioners to choose an activity to volunteer for that may interest them, and a place for writing about concerns and requests.

A pledge envelope "stuffing" party is scheduled for September 19th from 4 pm to 8 pm; all are invited. The September 23<sup>rd</sup> services will include an announcement that the packets are being mailed. And on September 30th, when the Bishop will be with us, all vestry members will walk forward together with their pledges and place them in the font.

Susan also plans a list of topics for vestry members and others to use in our weekly "pledge moments" talks during services, as well as a list of topics to write about for the weekly bulletin.

**Roof.** Luis reported that two more bids are coming in from companies referred by other churches. The vestry would prefer bids from companies specializing in roofing, not general contractors, and wants to have all estimates no later than September 21. The contractor will be chosen by vote at the October meeting; the later in the year we wait, the more difficult it will be to get the job done.

### **OPEN MIC**

**Kitchen.** Berenice reported that the kitchen was being cleaned downstairs while the vestry meeting was taking place. Special material was needed to clean and seal the area where the grease trap had been lowered. Once the cleaning is done, the county inspection can take place; we are hoping it will have taken place by our next One Ascension (1A) Sunday.

**Chapel humidity problem.** Betsy reported that the priest of St Barnabas has requested help with the high level of humidity in the chapel. The vestry discussed purchase of a dehumidifier but was unable to work out a plan to keep it emptied. No action was taken.

**Car Wash, Yard Sale and Bake Sale.** With the upgrade of the kitchen, the old dishes were sold in this event. Javier reported preliminary income, with the final total expected to be above \$1,250. The vestry had previously discussed using the funds in support of parishioner Fredy

Diaz, who has been imprisoned by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A review of past vestry minutes showed no conclusion about designation had been made.

**Vestry Clerk** Sari Stoddard announced her resignation as of the end of the year. She asked for all present to consider who might make a good candidate for the position. She was asked to come up with list of qualifications and duties, and how the job is done.

**Miscellaneous “good deeds”.** **Gordon** suggested reviving new member luncheons; overall, the vestry felt that this is covered in our One Ascension luncheons now. **Luis** suggested that something be done to honor long-time members at the 1A luncheons. **Javier** noted that he’s started sending birthday cards to our parishioners.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 5:05 Rose moved that the meeting be adjourned. Luis seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.