

Vestry Digest August 5, 2018

PRESENT: Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Junior Warden Janet King, Rose Buck, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Susan McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, Luis Pedron, Berenice Rodriguez, Bob Waters. **Absent:** Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa and John Pruessner. **Guests:** Two representatives from Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

The meeting opened at 2:03 p.m. with a short prayer and check in around the table.

CONSENT AGENDA: While appreciating the new format of the financials, Gordon stated and the vestry agreed that keeping the financials short makes them more readable and meaningful. Gordon moved that the consent agenda be adopted. Rose seconded the motion, and it passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Gaithersburg gardening project. The guests from the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake gave a presentation on becoming faithful stewards of God's water. They suggested that we create a conservation garden on the church's property. The City of Gaithersburg grants funds to do so, and then the Interfaith Partners would provide professional planners to design the garden; Ascension would provide the labor. Lin will get further information.

OLD BUSINESS

Contracts review. Zadinga and Berenice met last week to review and work on updates to the contracts for use of the chapel and for Sandy Ridge preschool. The most recent contract with the school covered the period 12/1/2012 – 6/30/2013, to continue indefinitely unless notice is given. Zadinga and Berenice prepared a review of the Sandy Ridge Academy Lease with an illustration of what an average rent increase since 2013 would look like today, and a proposed new rent schedule. After discussion, the vestry voted on a motion put forth by Gary that Berenice and Zadinga move forward with negotiations. The motion was approved.

Chapel HVAC. Repair of the HVAC system will cost about \$10K. Due to the roof situation (addressed below) and the limited amount of funds available, the vestry agreed to delay a decision about this for 60 days. It should be re-addressed in the October vestry meeting.

St Barnabas deaf church is now using the chapel, as authorized at the 7/1/2018 vestry meeting. Paul Cooney of the diocese is working on creating a contract between Ascension and St Barnabas.

Mission statement. The church needs to revise and update our mission statement. Javier is working with Eleni to come up with suggestions and ideas; this will be further discussed at a special vestry meeting to be held soon. Javier also related that some churches he knows sell advertising to be put in the Sunday bulletins and/or on our website. He gave out handouts with prices for such advertisements.

Minister of Music. Gordon reported that the search committee had found an excellent candidate in Andrew Kullberg, and described Mr. Kullberg's qualifications. Zadinga made a motion that the position of Minister of Music be offered to Andrew Kullberg; Susan seconded and the motion was passed.

The kitchen drains have been repaired but there is still further work that needs to be done before it is usable. Also it needs to pass a Maryland Inspection.

Susan addressed the certificate class offered by Montgomery College on **Food Handling**; we are required by law to have a certified food handler at any event serving food where non-parish members are present. If taken at the school, the cost is \$100, but the online class is free. Both Susan and Arturo Rodriguez have received their certificates. Susan will write an article for the Sunday bulletin addressing how to get certified and encouraging many people to do so.

Roof repairs. Luis and Ed Neal have researched companies to repair our leaking roof and have received several bids for the work. The Facilities Committee is reviewing the bids and will present them to the special vestry meeting to be held shortly. The vestry will select a roofer, who can then begin the work. There are related damages from the leaks (carpet, ceilings, etc.) but the vestry agreed to address these after the roof repair is complete.

OPEN MIC

Zadinga gave a report on **Sunday school**. There are very few children and few teachers; some of our long-time teachers are stepping down. Recruiting new teachers will be part of the upcoming annual September Ministries Fair. Several ideas to improve Sunday school are being considered. The third year of Joyful Path instruction will be purchased for around \$650 from previously authorized funds. Gordon noted that we should be on the lookout for assistants to the **Youth Group** leaders; Angie and Trevor have served for many years and may wish to step down soon.

Susan is the new chair of the Annual Giving Campaign, with Zadinga as her co-chair. She wants to have a large committee this year with many members including all vestry members. The kick-off date of the campaign is September 29, the next One Ascension Sunday and the day of the bishop's visit. All vestry members will hand in their pledges together on that date, for all to see.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next vestry meeting will be on Sunday, September 9th at the usual 2:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: At 5:02 Meredith moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rose seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard
Clerk of the Vestry