

## Vestry Meeting 10/23/25

Present: L. Agan, K. Braid, J. Cunningham, K. Dial, A. Dyer, S. Wilhoite, K. Limbardo, E. Newton III by phone

Absent C. Scott, N. Brunt

Bible Study:

Approval of the Minutes:

**Kristen moves to accept the minutes as written with second from Kelly. All approved.**

Finance Committee Reports

YTD Review

**Pledges are still short for the year.**

**Not as far behind as we thought we were.**

**SECA and pension confusion and has to be caught up.**

**Wynn Callaway at Diocese is helping to sort out the confusion with the SECA from 2024 and pension from raise given to Alex for this year.**

Discipleship Reports

a. Christian Formation

a. Committee: Christian Formation

b. Chairperson: Sallie Stoner-Twyford

c. Members: John Adams, Riley Barrington, Sean Davis, Meg Newton, Denise Ronn and Melissa Schimke

d. Date of last meeting: 10/3/2025

e. What happened at the last meeting? VBS 2026 planning has begun. Youth involvement in local and Diocesan activities planned. Godly play still needs more teachers.

f. UPCOMING EVENTS:

g. -Advent Wreath forms/QR code dispursed-5 October

h. -Advent Wreath making-30 November

- i. How can the Vestry support the work of the committee? Volunteers for Godly Play needs 2-3 more teachers, please.

***Mid-week program has dipped in attendance from about average of 40 to 20***

- b. Pastoral Care
- c. Fellowship
- d. Stewardship

- a. Stewardship Committee – The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
- b. Meeting Minutes from Sept. 7, 2025.
- c. The meeting commenced promptly at 10:00 a.m. The full committee were present: Mike Davis, Chairman, Annette Cook, Sandi Behrens, David Elder, Jimmy Hyde, Jill Meredith, and Erle Newton III, members, in attendance.
- d. This was the inaugural meeting.
- e. The committee agreed setting a theme for the stewardship campaign will be helpful. After careful consideration of many themes, the committee agreed the theme should be both brief and meaningful. The committee agreed on “The Heart of Giving” as the theme.
- f. The committee recognized that our mandate is to communicate and to educate the parish regarding stewardship. New members and younger members are important groups to educate and engage. We should remind the parish that stewardship is not just money but includes time and talent as well.
- g. The committee then discussed our timeline. The committee unanimously agreed that the stewardship campaign should end in late October as November competes with major holidays, property tax collection, and school breaks. Also, to consider the needs of the Finance Committee, having pledges “in” before November will make the formation of a budget much easier. We plan to coordinate this timeline with the Rector, the Vestry, and the Finance Committee.
- h. The committee then discussed strategies for communicating. Sending a letter and an email at the beginning of October (at or near October 1st) is an important goal. Including pledge cards either with the initial mailed

letter or as a digitized attachment to an email were discussed. The digitized version would allow technologically-savvy parishioners to print and fill out a pledge card, which is more cost-effective for the parish. Mike Davis is to inquire with Denise Ronn about a potential QR code that could link directly to an online pledge form. That QR code could be included in the letter, in emails, and in the Sunday bulletins. Mike will also check with Denise about stewardship letters from past years so that we can see what has been written as we craft our letter for this year.

- i. In connection with education, Sandi suggested we inform parishioners that there are tax advantages to automatic drafts from IRAs and other retirement savings accounts directly to the church. The committee felt this would be very helpful as many people may not know of this mechanism that will help both parishioner and parish. The committee agreed to educate “along the way” during the stewardship drive by including educational pieces in the weekly email, in a letter, and in bulletins.
- j. The committee agreed all communications, including pledge cards, should include our theme and a logo. Mike volunteered to create a logo and invited any ideas or designs from committee members.
- k. The committee feels it important to remind everyone that a pledge is not a contract and commitments can be increased or decreased depending upon one’s financial circumstances throughout the year.
- l. The end of October will be “Harvest Sunday,” October 26, when pledge cards will be “due.” We will plan that as a celebration Sunday, and the committee can offer to host Coffee Hour in recognition.
- m. As a follow-up, the committee members will place “thank you” telephone calls to those who make a pledge. The proposal was for the Vestry to craft a script and for the committee members to make the calls. We may also send thank you letters.
- n. Respectfully submitted,
- o. Erle J. Newton III
- p. *Change in date for in gathering Sunday to November***
- e. Buildings and Grounds

## Apostleshship Reports

### a. Local Mission

### b. Evangelism

#### **a. Looking for a Welcome or Connect coordinator**

#### b. Invite

#### c. Welcome

#### d. Connect

#### i. Committee: Welcome / Connect

#### ii. Chairperson: Lola Thomas

#### iii. Members: John Adams, Connie Evans, Marty Knight, Meg Newton, Emma Wilhoite, Brenda Worley

#### iv. Date of last meeting: 10/14/25

#### v. What happened at the last meeting? Discussions of specific newcomers and ways to engage them took place.

#### vi. Adding additional Greeters was discussed at length with the need for them to be assigned to 7:45, 9:00 and 11:00 services.

#### vii. The need for additional Ushers was also discussed. One person had to resign from the ministry recently and another is having difficulty with the amount of standing involved.

#### viii. A Membership Information Class will take place on 10/26/25 from 10-10:45.

#### ix. Planning began for Confirmation at the Cathedral on 12/07/25 with class dates to be determined.

#### x. How can the Vestry support the work of the committee? The welcoming of visitors to Ascension is vital to future growth and vestry involvement is crucial.

## Other Business

### a. 2026 Vestry Nominations Committee

#### **b. Committee to take Vestry Nominations**

#### **a. Judith, Kristen, and Neal as outgoing members**

#### **b. Vestry Nominations, Confirmed, pledging/contributing members, not on the legacy committee**

### c. Comprehensive Campus Plan

- a. Meet with Duo**
  - b. Get committee back together**
- d. Mutual Ministry Review
  - a. Have Sally Uray back from the Diocese**
  - b. February or March**
- e. **Diocesan Council**
  - a. Pre Council meeting on October 30 @ 7:00 PM**
  - b. November 7-8 @ St. Phillip's**
  - c. Delegates are K. Dial, K. Limbardo, L. Hamilton**

Closing Prayer