

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING
March 24, 2015

Present: James Berrie, Mike Black, Cindy Breton, Cheryl Coppock, John Edel, Clement Falayi, Thom Fenner, Michael Fox, Carol Goulet, Matt Murphy, Jeri Platt, John Searle, Rev. Todd Bryant

Opening Prayer/Call to Order: Mike Black called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Fr. Todd asked for prayers and opened the meeting with prayer.

Consent Agenda: The fire alarm/internet service was removed from the Jr. Warden report and placed in Old Business. **Motion #1: John Searle made a motion to accept the consent agenda, John Edel seconded the motion, the motion carried.**

Finance:

- a. **Choir Practice Babysitter Reallocation** – Matt Murphy reported there is a need for babysitters during Choir rehearsal Wednesday evenings. Fr. Todd reported that he has spoken to several new parishioners who stated they would be interested in joining the choir but have young children. He proposed that we offer babysitting from April 15 through Pentecost to see if indeed the service is used and by how many and we can evaluate the need for resumption in the fall. **Motion #2: John Edel made a motion that \$600 be moved from other parish activities to babysitters/nursery account for the proposed time period. Michael Fox seconded the motion, discussion followed, the motion carried.**

Mission:

- a. **Summer Mission Trip** – Fr. Todd reported that a family mission trip is being planned for June 7-12, 2015 to Dulac, La. The cost is estimated to be about \$250 per person. He would like to keep the cost per participant at \$100 and is asking the Vestry to approve funding the remainder. Robi Lassiter already has fundraising ideas for the participants and will be in charge of the mission trip as well as any fundraising. **Motion #3: John Searle made a motion to support this mission trip with up to 30 participants with resources as needed, Thom Fenner seconded the motion. Discussion followed and the motion carried.**
- b. **Host of Sudanese Church** – Fr. Todd reported about a Sudanese Church that would like to use our facilities for two hours on Sunday afternoons and every other Saturday afternoon for two to three hours for their services. They currently worship in their Pastor's home. If this is approved by the Vestry it would not begin until after Easter and he suggested a trial period of 6 weeks at a cost of \$100 per week. Fr. Todd and at least one Vestry member will visit the church and worship with them and report back to the Vestry for a vote.

- c. **Church Work Days** – This was tabled
- d. **Fun Day/Easter Egg Hunt/Blood Drive** – This is set for Holy Saturday, April 4. Fr. Todd is coordinating the events

Old Business:

- a. **Alarm/Internet** – John Searle reported on the problem with lack of internet access and the connection to the fire alarm system. He has employed a free monitoring system which monitors the internet every 5 minutes and sends text messages to him regarding internet downtime. He suggested continuing this monitoring for a couple of months in order to ascertain if it is necessary to invest in a more expensive system.

New Business:

- a. **Rector Sabbatical Summer 2016** – Fr. Todd reported he would like to take a Sabbatical following Pentecost Sunday in May 2016 and returning by Labor Day which would include visits to Nigeria, UK, Israel and Washington, DC. He is applying for grants to pay for this and is hopeful to have most of the trip paid for this way. He will keep the Vestry apprised every step along the way.
Motion #4: Cindy Breton made a motion to support the concept of Fr. Todd's sabbatical from Pentecost Sunday 2016 through Labor Day 2016, John Edel seconded the motion. Discussion followed and the motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion #5: John Searle made a motion to adjourn, Matt Murphy seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Todd led the Vestry in a closing prayer followed by the recitation of The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Platt
Clerk