

Annual Meeting – January 19, 2020

2019 Vestry:

Senior Warden: Chuck Philips, '19	Kelly Corcoran, '21	Sam Pilato, '21
Junior Warden: Kyle Jones, '21	Sall Fisher, '19	Adam Ross, '19
Treasurer: Jeff Jennings	David W. Howell, '20	Carey Rowan, '20
Clerk: Marte Toohill	Molly Jennings, '19	Jodi Sibson, '21
Kathy Biddle, '20	Margaret Metz, '20	

2020 In-Coming Vestry members:

Clark Lea, Jr.
James McArthur
Rachael Moore
Karla Myers

Qualifications for voting at the Annual Meeting:

1. Joined the parish
2. Giver of record
3. \geq 16 years old

Election occurs with majority plus one vote.

2020 Diocesan Convention Delegates:

Peter Gibson, Daneen Rice & Senior Warden, James McArthur
Alternate: Ann Crutchfield

Nominating Committee - Retiring Vestry members: Sally Fisher, Margaret Metz, Chuck Philips, Adam Ross

Next Vestry Meeting: January 20, 2020

Vestry Retreat: February (TBA)

Diocesan Convention in Punta Gorda, FL: October 16-17, 2020

Father John called the meeting to order at 11:37am with an opening prayer.

Father John called the meeting to order and thanked the Fellowship committee for lunch. We will eat during the meeting. He established the number of voters and votes needed for a majority (61 + 1). Quorum is 122 voters. Old vestry (retiring) members were thanked for their 3 years of service.

Retiring Vestry members were recognized: Chuck Philips, Molly Jennings, Adam Ross, Sally Fisher

New slate of vestry members was presented. Nominations from the floor were asked for and not seeing any nominations, Jeff Jennings moved to close nominations and seconded by Al DeNeve to accept the slate presented. It was so moved. The next vestry meeting is January 20, 2020. And the vestry retreat will be announced later.

A motion to accept the slate for vestry was made by Jim Philips, and seconded by Jeff Jennings. The slate was accepted unanimously. They were invited to the vestry meeting on Monday, January 20th.

Slate for the diocesan convention was presented. And accepted. Moved by Jeff Jennings and seconded by Sue Williams. Slate was unanimously accepted. In addition to our Senior Warden, James McArthur, our two representatives are Peter Gibson and Daneen Rice; Ann Crutchfield will be our alternate. Karen Crown nominated them to be accepted by acclamation and seconded by Bill Jahnes.

Minutes for the Annual Meeting of 2019 were presented for approval. Michael Kline moved to accept and Bill Jahnes seconded. They were unanimously accepted

TREASURER REPORT

Father John thanked Jeff Jennings for serving as the treasurer. Father John presented the report.

Jeff is gracious to let Father John give his report. These are the financial miracles of 2019: We have added over \$180,000 during the last year to the trust fund. And we have had multiple 5-figure gifts that have been given anonymously by donors to the operating budget of Ascension.

Sue Williams started the Legacy Society, and because of her efforts we have a healthy endowment fund. We have also been blessed by the estates of some who have died: Bob Whiteacre (\$20,000) and Carol Clobridge, and Jane Price. A third set of miracles.

AND because of your generosity to Ascension, the year 2019 ends in the black. With your giving and help we should have a strong financial year in 2020.

The Day School is not only a ministry, it is also under our 501-C3, their deficit was able to be covered and keep them operating in the coming year!

I am continually astounded, each year, by the generosity of Church of Ascension. Your generosity allows us to reach out into the community to touch others.

Our endowment is \$1.934 million. THIS. IS A MIRACLE. We had NO funds in the year 2000. We are able to spend, from our endowment. Last year we were able to spend \$74,000 in outreach and in-reach. Please put the church in your will.

Linda Haydon is directing THE SHED (our thrift shop). Over \$22,000 was raised last year - a record. Every penny goes back into the community - to help those in need in our community.

As my wife (Brenda Hiers), moved my mom into assisted living, we now have a house full of STUFF. We are donating a lot of stuff to The Shed - which means The Shed needs more customers! Thank you Linda for your leadership.

Linda asked people to volunteer — come have fun with us!

The monies that come into our church is roughly \$1.2 million. Ascension's budget report is posted for your reading pleasure on the bulletin board next to the Lambert Room.

2020 budget was passed last week (January 13th) by the Vestry. They will continue to work on the budget all year. Insurance is a major expense, so is the diocesan assessment, and then staff salaries.

Our senior warden is going to share the successes and surprises of the last year.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Chuck Philips, was our 2019 Senior Warden.

Farther Shiflet covered it in his sermon. We remember the changes that began.

Quotes:

Jim Rohn: Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better with change.”

Henry Ford: If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got.”

Henri Bergson: To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.”

“Continuity gives us roots, change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.”

Vestry went into tailspin, and then “What do we do now”, and then we began. We accomplished the Possible! Those who made it happen: Molly Jennings, David Howell, Sam Pilato, Jodi Sibson, Kathy Biddle, Margaret Metz, Sally Fisher, Marte Toohill, Kyle Jones, Carey Rowan, Adam Ross

Father John gave us the gift of a year to work on transition. He does what’s in the best interest of the congregation (not necessarily diocese). The procedures of the diocese created a situation of treading on egg shells. It took the work of everyone Vestry, staff and, especially, congregation.

Jodi Sibson, Ann Crutchfield, Sally Fisher developed the parish profile. It was sent out by email, snail mail. They gathered a 50% response. (30% is typical). They produced a 29 page book of data. This will go to the search committee so that they will know what the congregation wants. Copies will be made available once the search process starts.

The search committee is about 6-8 months ahead. We were also allowed to have a compensation committee to present to potential candidate with their compensation package. O’Keefe’s and Panera have plaques for meetings held. Members were: Joanna Andriola Jim Philips, Jeff Jennings, David Howell and John Thomas

Kelly Corcoran, Alyce Goldsmith, Sally Fisher, Molly duPont Schaffer, Mary Margaret Florie head up the Web page committee

We have formed our search committee and they will begin meeting after February 1st.

Our Search Committee:

Kelly Corcoran

Bette Crown

Elizabeth Dale

Molly duPont Schaffer

James McArthur

Joan Kline

Drina Meyer

Sam Pilato

Mary Margaret Florie

Hanna Moore - Youth Representative

Margaret Metz
Bennett Walling
Jeff Jennings

We were also able to move forward by hiring our Interim Rector: Father Leo Crawford.
We were able to hire our Interim Associate Rectors as well.
We couldn't be in a better position. It's about Jesus Christ.

Thank you to my side-kick, Kyle Jones, your Junior Warden for his invaluable help throughout this process and this past year!

Final quote: "Sometimes the best thing you can do is not think, not wonder, not obsess. Just breathe and have faith that everything will turn out for the best."

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Kyle Jones, was our 2019 Junior Warden.

Buildings and grounds report.

One of the first things we had to do, was to hire a new sexton. We hired Brian McCracken. We are in great hands with Brian is taking over the Sexton's responsibilities.

A/C for church was replaced and the new system is up and running..

Pipes had to be replaced in the back parking lot, then repave and reline the lot.

We hired a part-time gardener. Thank you to the sacred gardens committee for their excellent work! Library was re-finished and renewed thanks to Celia Kottmeier.

We replaced our chillers above the education building.

Painting, electrical equipment replacement, window repairs, flooring repairs on the Sexton House were made.

Solar is ON!! As of Friday, January 17th.

The city's code changed and required a 6 foot fence around the Day School playground.

The Sacred grounds committee has done so much for the beauty of our properties.

I could not have had a better senior warden!! Chuck Philips was wonderful!!

Father John could not have been a better person to lead Church of Ascension!!

RECTOR'S REPORT: The Rev. John Hiers

The miracle is that Kyle had to give monthly reports on solar (ugh) it is finally working since Friday. We were able to replace the air conditioning in the church without a capital funds drive, because of the Play For Preservation fundraiser.

Year of change: Larry Clem retired; Father Dan is now rector of Holy Trinity; Molly duPont Schaffer is retiring end of January

The head of the church is Jesus Christ. This church has been here since 1885. God is calling someone who will continue to lead. Father Leo will lead as will Father "R.H.". The success of Ascension is not about John Hiers. It is about Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit moving us forward.

We don't have to rush to get things done so that we can move forward. I'm thrilled to tell you that our next senior warden will be James McArthur. We need a picture of James to see how he ages over this year! Thank you, James, for helping us during the year of transition.

Attend church faithfully, continue to give, be faithful. I have been blessed to brag on YOU. I inherited a parish that is deeply concerned with the welfare of others. Beanie Korosy helped found RCS — helping those who are hungry, abused, homeless, suffering. We help raise money for another church - Salvation Army!! Ringing bells for a week to help others. We help to change the lives of children by tutoring at Belleair Elementary — thank you Ron & Caryl Mack for leading this group! We lead a mission trip to the DR and built a church and minister to the children with VBS. We have helped with the medical mission trip to Jamaica - which led to a relationship with a local school where we held a teachers' workshop. We have also adopted 40 children in Jamaica so that we can help enable their education and success.

Brenda and I are not allowed to attend Ascension. We will continue financial support and prayerful support of this wonderful parish.

Our staff works hard and views their job as a ministry. Our staff is:

Helen Avers, Assistant Children's Minister

Dr. Matthew Estes, Music Director

Alyce Goldsmith, Parish Life/Formation/Small Groups

Susan Katte, Middle School & High School Youth/Outreach

Brian McCracken, Sexton

Marcia Nauman, Financial Secretary/Membership/Outreach

Pam Rilling, Day School Director/3rd-5th grade youth/Sunday School

Seth Hunnicutt & Clay Farrar, Technology Ministries

Maggie Talbot, Parish Secretary/Visitor & Member Liaison

Thank you to our staff for all that you do to make Jesus known at Ascension.

We are also blessed by the clergy who help us: Father Bill and Mary give of their time and energy. Deacons Linda and Sandy, Father Norman — and so many others who give their time to serve Jesus.

We have to learn how to invite and welcome others to Church of Ascension. People will not just show up. We need to embrace the "Father Leo plan": "When you hear accolades about Ascension, take the next step and invite them to come WITH you to worship."

On behalf of Brenda and myself, thank you for your love, support, friendship. You've been family to us for 20 years. We've shared so much, joy and sorrow, and incredible miracles. Thank you for being family to us. We don't expect to lose your friendships. Many of you are closer than my own family. Thank you for your love and support. You will always be in our heart and prayers. The thank you's go to Jesus Christ, Ascension's staff and this community.

Our challenge is to see that Jesus is still in the midst of us and in the changes. The Bible says that God has nothing but blessings prepared for you.

CLOSING THE MEETING

Any old business?? Any new business??

Alex Williams, 2nd by Mike Kline to adjourn.

Prayer to close.