

2010 Annual Meeting

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION Clearwater, Florida Parish Annual Meeting Minutes January 17, 2010

Fr. Mike Branscombe, Associate Rector, opened the gathering of parishioners with a prayer. Fr. John Hiers, Rector, called the meeting to order at 11:17AM in the Parish Hall.

Fr. Hiers determined that there was a quorum present. The parishioners are to be seated and will wait to be called to go through the buffet line. The meeting will proceed through the luncheon.

Fr. Hiers thanked the retiring Vestry Members: Jean Ann Hughes, Bill Crown, Mike Riordon and Carol Lowrey. A gift of thanksgiving was presented to each of those present.

CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY

The Candidates were introduced by Fr. Hiers: Margo Skicewicz, Mary Elizabeth Welpton, Roger Schwenke and Jane Myers. Moved by Patricia Slaughter, seconded by Jean Ann Hughes that the nominations be closed. Approved.

Marte Toohill moved that the Vestry slate of nominees be elected by acclamation. Second by Jean Ann Hughes. Approved.

Fr. Hiers congratulated and welcomed the new Vestry Members: *Margo Skicewicz, Mary Elizabeth Welpton, Roger Schwenke and Jane Myers.* The next Vestry meeting is 6:30 PM , Monday, January 18th, with supper in the workroom of the church.

CANDIDATES FOR DELEGATES FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Fr. Hiers introduced the candidates for Diocesan Convention Delegates: Karen Crown, John Slaughter, Judy Sauers, Steve Marcum and Patti Mulock.

Fr. Hiers reminded the parishioners present of the By-Laws of the church regarding electing Diocesan Delegates; ARTICLE IV, CORPORATE MEETINGS OF THE PARISH; A. Annual Meeting, 4. Nomination, (c) Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates. He then opened the floor for nominations.

There being no further nominations from the floor; Patricia Slaughter moved to close the nominations, Seconded by Mary Anne Crevasse; motion approved.

Fr. Hiers explained that three (3) candidates are elected. The two (2) highest numbers of votes, along with the Senior Warden, will serve as Primary Delegates to the convention. The person receiving the third and fourth highest number of votes will serve as Alternate Delegates, in that order. He then directed the ballots be handed out.

Ballots were collected and taken to be counted by the tellers: Brenda Hiers, Fr. Mike Branscombe and Maggie Talbot.

Bill Nodine moved that the January 18, 2009 Minutes for the Annual Meeting of the Church of Ascension be accepted. Seconded by Roger Schwenke. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Sean Maguire

- In the absence of Sean Maguire, Fr. Hiers explained that the year end finances have not been completed as it takes time to process end of the year donations. He reminded those present that the finance reports are all filed for audit. The Church of Ascension Analysis of Revenue and Expenses is audited annually by an outside auditor.**
- Fr Hiers reports that during two years of recessions God has been faithful and kept his promises. God promises that if we seek him first, all will follow and as we ministered in his name we closed 2008 in the black. When we started in January of 2009 it was pretty bleak economically; The Vestry has tried to be very conservative in our budgeting and in our spending. God has been phenomenally kind. We have closed out the year 2009 completely in the black and I do think that is amazing. The Lord opened up the flood waters and we received more in this December than all the ten years I have been here; we have received over \$280,000.**
- A part of the reason our budget was balanced was because our Bishop, Dabney Smith, heard the cries of people at Convocation so instead of assessing a 10% tithe that goes to the Diocesan budget, the Bishop went to an 8% tithe. Thanks for that gift from the Bishop; of the \$35,000 we will save; we will need to spend \$20,000 in January on Air Conditioning. We will replace the condenser coil for the west condenser on the north side of the church and two A/C units will be replaced to service the Library and Choir rooms. The Bishop will go to a 9% tithe in 2010. Be sure to thank the Bishop when you see him.**
- We have received an increase in our insurance premium and also in our electricity. Electricity was \$10,000 more than budgeted for 2009 due to rate increases although we try to be careful.**
- Ask Sean Maguire any questions that you might have regarding our finances. Sean is Chairman of the Finance Committee and he plans a meeting soon to analyze the programs and needs of the church and prepare a proposed 2010 budget for Vestry consideration.**

DIOCESAN DELEGATES – Fr. Mike Branscombe

Fr. Branscombe announced the new Diocesan Convention Delegates: *John Slaughter, Karen Crown and Judy Sauers and Alternate Delegates are, Patti Mulock and Steve Marcum.* Fr. Hiers announced that the Diocesan Convocation is scheduled for Thursday, March 4th at St. John's Episcopal Church on Belcher in Clearwater.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Patricia Slaughter

I was honored by Fr. John's asking me to be his Senior Warden. The first question I asked was; what does the Senior Warden do? It seems that the job description changes with what is going on with the parish. Primarily the Senior Warden is an advisor to the Rector and presides over Vestry Meetings in the Rector's absence. If there is controversy and turmoil in the parish it is a challenging position and if the Rector announces his retirement or call to another church it becomes a position of great responsibility. Ascension now is in such a positive era that I am afforded the luxury of delightful chats with Fr. John about what is going on in the parish.

I speak of a positive era. Ascension is growing, there seem to be many more young children running forward for their Bible story, we are blessed with generous parishioners so that we ended the year with a financial surplus, our staff works well and hard together and we have also been blessed with three new staff this past year.

Lee Cobb our new music director, organist, carillonneur and choir director has truly enhanced our music program. Did you go to any of the carillon concerts this past summer? They were fabulous and well attended. People sat in their cars, on the lawn, in lawn chairs and streamed out of the church when the concerts were over. Wine and cheese and those thousand cheese wafers the fellowship committee made were served and once you could also hear "the boys of old Florida" being played in honor of one of the sponsors. I went to advent lessons and carols and found it to be a warm way to begin the advent season. The choir is growing and I believe it says something when our interim organist from last spring, Beth Kendall, can be seen singing in the choir. I also want to say a word of thanks to our paid section leaders who remained with us in our time of transition last spring.

Fr. Leo Crawford retired as Rector of Good Samaritan and joined us as pastoral assistant assisting on Sunday morning, Wednesday morning, visiting our shut ins, making hospital calls and teaching on Tuesday morning. It sounds like more than a part time position to me. I have so enjoyed my visits with him and our discussions about our knees. He is having his replaced later on this winter. He will be the priest in charge when Fr. John and Fr. Mike are gone this summer. We are so fortunate to have him!

Our long time financial records and book keeper, Nataline Syzmanski retired this fall and Marcia Nauman has moved into that position and I find her to be pleasant

and hard at work learning the ins and outs of Ascension and always pleasant. You will also find her and her husband sitting in the pews on Sunday morning.

I want to compliment Maggie Talbot on our web site. Have you ever used it? It gives such a warm picture of Ascension with lots of photographs, calendars, links to other sites, a copy of the “Angelos”, lots of other information plus a link to Amazon.com Are you aware that if you access Amazon.com through the Ascension web site that Amazon.com gives Ascension a portion of their proceeds. We made several thousand dollars in that way last year.

I have left out comments about our other long term staff members, Alyce Goldsmith, Linda Amidei, Drina Meyer, Pam Rilling, Larry Clem and, of course, Frs. John and Mike. I once asked Fr. John about job descriptions and I have come to the conclusion that whatever their job description says it must end with the words “and whatever else needs to be done.” It seems to me that they all work well together, support each other and will pitch in whenever necessary and that is one of the reasons Ascension is such a wonderful place.

Last let me say something about *KOINONIA*. Linda Haydon, Jan Watrous and their team along with support from Alyce and the rest of the staff have put together the most amazing program. You, the parish, have signed up in greater numbers than were dreamed of. As Jan said, “be careful what you pray for”. The beginning last Tuesday was meaningful and from the heart. I can’t wait to see what the next 9 weeks have in store for me.

Aren’t we fortunate to be a part of this wonderful parish?

JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT – Jean Ann Hughes

There is a destiny that makes us brothers-none goes his way alone. What we put into the lives of others comes back into our own.

This is a belief that I have. Look around and you will see that we all help one another – we are a growing church and that takes a lot of hands to develop what we have accomplished and where we are going.

When I look around, I see people that I know that I would not be the Junior Warden, if it would not have been for them. There is Gloria Spiner Burton keeping us in line. Patti Mulock Reminding us of what we have to do and what date we are to meet.

There are two parts to this report;

1. Do you know
2. Projects during 2009

Do you know where Fr. John's tree is located?

Do you know where the Gerlach Memorial Garden is located?

Do you know where the list of persons that are interred in the Memorial Garden is located?

When was the Betty Jane Dimmitt Memorial Carillon built?

When was Church of Ascension started?

Who started St. John's Episcopal Church and when?

Why do I ask these "do you know" questions? Part of our history and to encourage you to learn more about our past.

Now for all we accomplished in 2009:

Handicapped parking on the north side of the church.

We now have plans for the elevator and handicapped bathrooms. The fun raisers have started and I know that Celia Kottmeier will bring us to our goal of \$150,000. How fortunate we are to have her talents working for us. Bill and Mary Cummings chaired the Annual Golf Tournament at the Belleair Country Club with the funds going toward the elevator.

Our March Work Day always makes the Church shine and the grounds look great. We had a lot of good helpers this year, however; we could always use more hands. The "Rakes", headed by Chris Nodine, has her crew here once a month pulling weeds and moss. A huge thank you to Chris.

Ascension Day School window sills were repaired which kept the school operating.

Neil Frederiksen and Dan Mettee refurbished the Church floors and repaired many pews that were cracked. What a wonderful project they completed for us to enjoy.

The windows on the east end of the Church were repaired. The windows are located above the Frank Logan Memorial Garden.

A cut-in to the east parking lot has been finished for extra parking. A hedge has been planted to keep from encroaching on the neighbor's property

The burial Memorial Garden on the northwest corner of the Church had new decorative railing installed. The former wrought iron gate was moved to the south entrance of the parish hall. This secures entrance to the second floor.

The Metz Family donated a defibrillator in honor of Margaret's Mother, Patty McCusky. The Ushers have been trained to use the defibrillator and hopefully they will not need to use that talent.

New gaskets have been installed on the refrigerators in the kitchen as well as repair to the dishwasher. The water temperature did not meet the Health Department's requirements and now we are legal.

A new air conditioning unit will be installed for the Church sometime in January.

New book shelves have been installed in the Library where Ann Neller does a great job keeping the Library in shape.

A request was made to stain the doors inside the church to match the church interior. Neil Frederiksen stained the doors and polished the brass knobs. What an improvement this has made in our Church appearance.

And last but not least, how about the new carpet in the Church. Isn't it beautiful?

I would like to thank everyone who has made this all happen. We have the best staff anyone could pray for. The Vestry, our staff and the leadership of Fr. John and Fr. Mike. There is not a better team.

God Bless!

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Mike Branscombe and Youth Minister

About 5:20 on Christmas Eve, as I stepped into a sea of at least 100 small children crawling around on the new red carpet to share a Christmas story, there were 800 people in church for the 5 o'clock service. Truly memorable moments that just shows me how much we've done this last year. I do want to offer some thanks to those who've helped with the youth ministry at Church of the Ascension. First and foremost I want to thank Susan Katte; I'd ask her to stand but she is doing Middle School Youth Group right now over in the workroom. It's Susan's skills in communication in keeping in touch and letting everyone know what's happening that helps me look like a competent Youth Minister. She really is the power that keeps things moving along. As well as Susan, all the volunteers; Linda Barley, John Goldsmith, Patsy Stills, Nick Katte, Rachel Gardner, Brenda Hiers, Pam Rilling all do wonderful work with our Middle School and High School youth. I was so thrilled this year that we also now have a Fourth and Fifth Grade Youth Group that Pam Rilling and Alyce Goldsmith do together. The youth work really is alive at Church of Ascension. They truly are the church of today.

Last year you supported tremendously our efforts to raise funds to take youth trips. We took a group of nineteen to Taize in the Burgundy region of France for a transformative week spent with the Community of the Resurrection there in Taize; ask a high schooler if you want to know more about that.

We took twenty plus to Tennessee rafting with the middle schoolers. Which was also a wonderful experience. You supported our bike rides, our selling stuff all kinds of things to make those happen. So thanks to the whole parish for that.

Coming up in this year there are a couple of things I just want focus in on briefly. I get to have a sabbatical this year as Fr. John got to have sabbaticals over the last couple of summers. I thought that I had everything planned out starting with a wonderful motorcycle adventure around Turkey, but God had other ideas and so did the Lilly Foundation. My sabbatical has changed dramatically in nature, but I think will be a tremendous blessing.

Next month on the 16th of February, 7:15 in the morning, I will be going to Tampa, to be interviewed and tested for citizenship of the United States. Margaret will be following not long after, we are waiting for her appointment and all of that when complete will lead to Margaret's and my pursuing the adoption of a child this year during 2010. Your Vestry has been very gracious to us in allowing the sabbatical time, not spent on a motorcycle in Turkey, will be available to me to go to China and then home when we adopt that child. Tremendous thanks to the Vestry and understanding. I'm starting to get a little emotional now.

I'm going to wrap up the day with a final commercial break; we still have available one or two places left on our pilgrimage to the Holy Land in July of this year, if anyone is interested I really need to hear from you this week. Thank you.

RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. John Hiers

Now is the first time that I am supposed to do most of my speaking; I want to share a few images of '09, where I believe Jesus is calling us to go in 2010. In December of 2009 this Vestry was gracious and gave me the second half of my Sabbatical it gave it generously, no one complained that I was gone and this meant that I got to leave guilt free. So that I spent 21 days in Israel and that was a transforming experience and it helped to lay the groundwork for our pilgrimage this year. So Brenda and I would like to start off saying thank you for all that you have done in administering to us. I believe that in Jan 2009 we had a Visioning Workshop which that image was given to me by Jesus as I stayed with a group of nuns in Oxford in the summer of 2008; the parish gathered and shared a Visioning Workshop in '09 and in essence said we are on course. We simply need to do what we are doing better and to update our facilities. We have been waiting forever to continue expanding our youth program so on an act of listening to God and in spite of a tough financial year; I felt the Lord telling me to hire somebody to do a Fourth and Fifth Grade Youth Group. So we hired Pam Rilling to help with that and she has transformed the Fourth and Fifth Grade Sunday School program; because of that we now have a strong group and 10 to 12 kids who attend, where we had zero in the year before that.

Also I have felt for many years that God has called us to do a service for our young families and adults that is liturgically different from what we do at Church of the Ascension. We had tried that once before, I think, in the years before I came here and did not have the people to do it. After prayer, I felt God calling us to start our chapel service and so beginning in September of 2009 Mike, Alyce and I are rotating on a service in which the children come into the Lambert Room and we have a service for them and parents and anybody who would like to attend. That service has transformed a number of children who are now worshipping regularly at Church of the Ascension. I will share with you more on that.

This year has been a big change in the staff of your church and you have heard about that. I don't need to go on more, other than I believe that the staff at Ascension has to work well together and from us we export the community we invite you to. I never understood in a large church why the priests don't get along or why the youth group director is fighting with the choir person and all the headaches that you see in large staffs we work hard at living a christian life within our staff and it was changed. Lee Cobb came and he has been a gift from Jesus and Marcia Nauman came and she has been a gift from Jesus. We already had Pam, so we just made her do a little bit more extra work; Lord knows she only sleeps one or two hours a night anyway. So the staff is like a marriage and we are learning to care for one another, new gifts and talents come in and all of the people that Jesus brought to us is transforming our lives. Lee has done a phenomenal job of choir and as Patricia has thanked you and thanked the choir members through a difficult year I echo that, it is said with sincerity and love for all that you have done. Thank you so much.

Second part of the vision that Jesus gave me with a group of 30 nuns ages from 75 to 95 was not only the visioning workshop of January last year but a program called *Koinonia*. So by God calling us to go through a retreat called Discovery, Jesus gave me the two names that were supposed to help, Jan Watrous and Linda Haydon. And I called them and met with them. Gee, Jan I don't remember talking at a cocktail party but that could possibly be true. However, we had a serious meeting and in that meeting, I presented it to them and they just said this won't work. That's interesting; God has given me your names, God told me we are supposed to do this but it won't work. So I listened! A male is supposed to listen (my wife is applauding) I listened; Jan and Linda said we have to take a weekend format and rewrite it to ten consecutive weeks. So the Lord blessed us in doing that. Mike and Alyce and I rewrote it, worked hard at it and then Linda and Jan spent over a year writing and calling people; they have been meeting over a year. I can't tell you how exciting it is to see them talk about God answering prayer. All the stuff that I say and believe, they are saying out loud; I believe it will change the parish forever as the Holy Spirit changes us. So this has become a living reality as of last Tuesday. It is God's dream for us.

I can't tell you how excited I am. Jan said how many will come and I said we should have a team of 40 and 40 people will come; and then as we planned I said

well maybe a hundred will come. They said no, a hundred aren't going to come and they were right. No, a hundred didn't come; a hundred and eighty came; we have a few more spots available if you want to join us this Tuesday. It's phenomenal to have that many people gathered to listen to God and have our parishioners take the risk of sharing their lives with you. It is not an easy thing to do.

Our Day School is one of the major ministries of the Church. Ascension Day School has been with this parish for many years. There have been hundreds if not thousands of children and their families who have gone through this program and that is a program changing the lives of two year olds, three year olds and four year olds. My stories were shredded with four year olds; however pogo scares the pants off two and three year olds. So, I am still working with what you do with two year olds when there is more than one. We are working with Mike and Alyce as we go through each and every week we meet with them and I have wonderful news that I'll share with you about a new program for them next year.

I want you to know that in two years of serious recession in this country, this parish has given outside itself over \$500,000. In two years of recession, this parish has not drawn back in just taking care of itself; we have given away in 2009 and 2008 over \$500,000; now that is significant. You can see the pie chart of what we give away (out the door to the left on the Vestry bulletin board). That chart shows the faithfulness and the miracle of this in this parish is making a difference in the community and in the world. We are making a difference in the Dominican Republic. You have seen the news in Haiti, I want you to know that the fault line runs through Haiti into the DR, and we are caring for people in the DR and changing lives. We are going to talk with Haiti; but I want you to know that this parish has done something that I would put against any parish in the United States. hands down. This parish has been in partnership with San Mateos and San Boney that we have gone to for years and years; I think it is five or six years. Steve Marcum please stand; Steve is head of our missionaries to the Dominican Republic and he has worked with us. I want you to know that we are changing lives there. This parish during two years of recession, adopted over 60 kids and provided scholarships that will change their lives. You look at what you see in Haiti; how do you change their lives, you are changing them one at a time because you are adopting people and making a difference. That is incredible and this year we have adopted out of 65 kids, Brenda please stand, 62 of our 65 kids. My wife is asking if anybody feels called to adopt a kid for \$200 to \$300 for a year and to continue their scholarship because some of our people have had a hard time this year. So, if you can fill the gap and help in any way, see Brenda. I don't know of any church in the world that adopts 62 kids and will change their lives through education at a Christian community called San Mateos and San Boney. I thank you for making that difference and doing that, you all are phenomenal.

We are still involved in ministries locally. Shirley Steele, you all know Shirley; everybody should know Shirley. God called Shirley to Church of the Ascension and she goes around collecting jackets and blankets and she goes one by one and cares

for the homeless. That would be a pretty good ministry all by itself if we didn't have Michael Ameidi is also a part of our parish, Michael would you stand up. Michael you look a little older and grayer than I remember. Michael is in charge of the cold night shelters. I didn't know that there are not one, not five, but double that. There are ten cold night shelters in the County that open up when it turns 40 degrees. Michael gets volunteers to man those places so the homeless will have some place to sleep when it is so terribly cold. Many of you all are involved with that as a chaperon; many of you gather and make sandwiches to help them as well. So we are caring for people locally. I want you to know Michael also helps us with a food coop called SHARE. In our parish buy over four hundred meals a year for people who are hungry at about \$20.00 a meal. We spend \$8,000 just on a coop called SHARE because of your generosity. That is phenomenal, phenomenal and you should take pride in recognizing how well we do that. Michael will always take more help with his ministry on SHARE and his ministry on FLASH which are the people who have HIV. So please see Michael if the Lord is touching you to help in that way.

Beanie, please stand up, look closely, she is standing. Beanie, one of the saints of the church; helped to found RCS. You are part of the founding board of RCS with other people. Religious Community Services a group of 45 churches got together to help those in need. Years later Church of the Ascension is the largest monthly giver to RCS. Our eight o'clock people come and bring food every week, our ten o'clock people do as well, but I think that it has caught on better at the eight o'clock and we take food out to the food pantry every week. During Advent and Lent, we focused on that but we continue to support the ministries in the community, that are changing the world.

One that is dear to my heart and Fr. Leo's is FAST. An organization that works with the government for people who don't have a voice. and people who are getting lost in the system. So a group of us are involved in social justice. I don't see how theology can be dismissed for politics. Not the kind of politics that Democrat or Republican, that's ridiculous; God is not a member of a party, but the kind of politics that cause us to move out and pray and work for people to have a chance.

We are involved with that as well. So, you can see that we are doing phenomenal things in outreach. But, I want to give you two quick stories.

There are a group of kids who have chosen to give up their birthday parties to get can goods for those who are hungry. Now when you were eight and nine years old would you ever have given up a birthday party with presents for you and ask people to bring canned goods for somebody else. That would never have even occurred to me in a nightmare much less as a gift and we have two kids who have done this for more than one year and we have another family that some of their children have done it more than one year as well. Now, you tell me that we aren't changing the next generation. I was talking to Harry and Janie Cline; they have two wonderful granddaughters. The granddaughters told me today, they are holding a bake sale to raise a \$100 for Haven. Now, we time share them so I can't claim it all.

Grandma and Granddad did a pretty good job; Mom and Dad might have had a tiny, tiny part in this. But these children are part of our family. The children are getting the message that living out your faith is just not being nice to people but making a difference in the world. Our young kids take the collection each week; you'll see it every week. They come in and plop, plop, plop, it's great stuff; they know we give it to Ryan's Well in which a little boy from Canada chose to raise money for clean drinking water in Africa. And now he's nineteen years old in college and over 500 wells have been drilled by his Foundation. Our children are helping; I believe that there will be a well being drilled in Haiti, and even better now, that needs some help as it is expensive. It started off over ten years ago with \$2000. and now it's quite a bit more expensive; \$10,000, plus; but that's what our kids are giving their money for.

So, it's phenomenal stuff, because I believe we are listening to the Holy Spirit and doing what God's asking us to do. That's 2009, what about 2010? This wraps up my report; give me another five minutes and we are done.

2010 is the year of, I believe, growth and renewal and transformation. I believe that Jesus is going to transform our chapel service and make it a complete service that is radically different from what we do now as we search for a musician to provide the kind of music that will allow it grow. So that is a key area of growth. At Christ Church, Bradenton, within five years the forty people who started that service were over 250 worshipping regularly. Once we get the music person I believe that service in four years will grow to over 250 people worshipping every week.

That's where we are beginning; I believe that God is calling us to update our facilities and I'm excited to see the Elevator Fund moving along. You can see the elevator and the restroom outlined out there in the courtyard. Just take a look at that as we go towards that. Nataline Szymanski was here for twenty years. When she retired she told me "Faaather"; she is a good Roman Catholic and she said that with such dignity; not like the Episcopalians who are saying Fr. Fr., just wonderful! "Faaather". She said to me, for twenty years you all have been talking about an elevator; I can't believe we are actually doing it. Tuesday, we had classes in the morning. Sally Starrett could not attend my class; because she couldn't get upstairs. Now she was benefited by that; she got to attend Fr. Mike's. But she couldn't go where she wanted to because we have no elevator. So, it is hard; we will complete the elevator with the handicap bathrooms when it is God's will and we go forward.

We will also at the same time put in an electronic door to the church. So the people who come up in wheelchairs push a button to get in and don't have to lean out of the wheelchair and try to open a door that is locked and closed. It is time we do some of these things; I believe that we have the spirit and will to do it and I am very excited about it.

OK. Do you all have any questions of me. Is there any Old or New Business to come before the meeting? We have one more important thing to do, so don't run away yet. OK. All right. Then, no Old or New Business; our meeting concludes very differently today; one of the things that we completed in 2008 was a maintenance facility; that has been a blessing in allowing our Sexton Larry Clem to do all that he needs to do and we complain that he doesn't get to everything because he has never had any space to spread out anything. Because of the maintenance facility the youth group, my wife and a group of adults spent hours making reindeer, trees and soldiers. Carol and Roger Schwenke are the Goliaths we call them (the big ones). So in the end we are going; Larry, if you would come up here for a second, you read that:

**“Their duty shall be to assist the descendants of Aaron
for the service of the House of the Lord,
Having the care of the courts and the chambers,
the cleansing of all that is holy,
And any work for the service of the House of God.”
1 Chronicles 23: 28**

For the Episcopalians: That's the old testament!

**The Maintenance Building is dedicated
To the glory of God on Sunday, January 17, 2010
and this plaque is erected by
Father John Hiers, Father Mike Branscombe
the Staff, Vestry and Members of
Church of the Ascension
in appreciation for the faithful service of
LARRY CLEM, SEXTON
since March 18, 1991**

“Thank you.”

Now, what we are going to do is walk over to the facility and Fr. Mike is going to say a prayer at the end of the meeting for those who come and see it and celebrate it being dedicated in honor of Larry's many, many years of service. Almost as long as Natalie's service, but not quite.

Now, the staff has been complimented many times but I want you to know that the staff that serves Jesus and I hope is serving you really believes what we are preaching. We believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior. We believe that he has come to transform the world and that we are agents bringing that ilk. We are people that work a toll number of hours and that is because of our love of Jesus Christ. We are blessed with wonderful people who really do care. If you find that the church is cold and distant. If you find that we are not responding to you; it is simply because we don't know that you have a need. Let's us know how we can care and minister

