

Vestry Meeting
Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church
September 27, 2015

In attendance: Father Jeff, Kin Brown, Sheri Cody, Ed Cooling, Rebecca Crowley, Bob Hamilton, Katherine Johnson, Nick Simpson and Bert Tomlin. Phebe Robertson's absence was excused. Also attending were Melissa Hammonds and Patty Hamilton.

Ed Cooling opened the meeting with prayer. Katherine Johnson presided.

The vestry was treated to a delightful puppet show about Lobsterfest put on by Ann Bacher and Tai Jackson. Ann is proposing a new Puppet Ministry. The project will not involve funds. Ann will donate her puppets to St. Nicholas and will coordinate the shows. Tai will be Puppet Master. Kin Brown moved that the vestry accept the new ministry. After a second, the motion carried.

The vestry then had an in-depth discussion about the church finances led by Nick Simpson. The church has been carrying a deficit budget for the past couple of years and our reserve fund is anticipated to reach a low of approximately \$40,000 by the end of the year. There are budget shortfalls that must be addressed. Nick discussed the upcoming stewardship campaign and Consecration Sunday. We must listen to what God is telling us in regard to pledging our time, our talents and how we must spend our spiritual gifts.

The vestry is aware that we are at a crucial point and that we must communicate this to the parish. The budget planning for next year will be tight. In order to maintain our ministries, salaries and other expenses, pledges for the coming year will need to increase.

The vestry recognizes that attendance at Consecration Sunday is vital in order to listen to what God is calling us to do as a parish. Several vestry members volunteered to telephone parishioners to encourage them to attend. Those volunteers are: Sheri, Ed, Kin and Katherine.

Nick also informed the vestry that our bookkeeper, Kristi Nelson is stepping down. She has done a great job of transitioning our finances from the CPA to in-house. Our own Theresa Dorminy will take on Kristi's job of entering data, paying bills and payroll. With the new responsibilities and new title of Parish Administrator, Theresa's hours will be increased from 20 to 25 and her new pay rate will be \$12.00. Any hours over 25 will need approval. Katherine Johnson moved that the new pay rate and hours be approved, Bert seconded and the motion carried.

Sheri Cody reported that the communications committee has finished the new logo and that the logo will be phased in as existing supplies are depleted. Drucye Cox has created a pamphlet with all of our ministries listed to be used at the Ministry Fair coming up this fall.

Bob Hamilton and Father Jeff will attend the Diocesan Council in November. Another lay person is needed.

A review of this year's successful Lobsterfest will be made with an eye to adding other fundraisers.

The vestry named the Lobsterfest Committee as Stewards of the Month for October and Nick Simpson for November. The vestry also recognized the work of Sue Halmrast and Patsy Downs in decorating the narthex.

Kin Brown reminded the vestry of the hot dog lunch fundraiser for the Back Snack program on October 25. The vestry agreed to support the event by purchasing our lunch for our meeting that day.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,
Patty Hamilton, Clerk