

Vestry Meeting
St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
August 23, 2015

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

Father Jeff opened with prayer. Katherine Johnson, Senior Warden, presided.

The vestry welcomed Father Jeff back from his sabbatical. Jeff remarked that he was very grateful for his time off and for the vestry's work in his absence. He then asked for input on what was learned while he was gone. The answers ranged from "Jeff does a lot" to "we worked well together" to "staff grew into their jobs" to "things did not stand still" to "decisions were made".

Each vestry member then gave updates on their programs and upcoming events: the new logo is ready to roll out; looking at a brochure on list of ministries; host a Ministry Fair after Labor Day; Adult Education theme for the year is Prayer; needlepoint kneeler project; Back Pack Snacks program going well; possibility of Art and Acquisitions committee; video of buildings for insurance needed; building security guidelines and suggestions being sought from local law enforcement; discussion underway regarding marking the individual sites in the Memory Garden; Youth Sunday school changes and plans.

Rebecca reported that Janna Morris had interviewed favorably for the SNICK director's job. She made a motion and Katherine seconded that the vestry recommend to Father Jeff that she be hired for the position. The motion carried. There is a budget of \$6000 for the program, including the salary for the director. The funds came from the Pine Mountain Benevolence Fund and from CVEM.

Nick Simpson presented the financial report. The vestry was made aware that the Money Market "rainy day fund" is being rapidly depleted due to a number of reasons. Pledges and contributions are down, unexpected expenses are up. Discussion followed as to ways to improve income and spending. Additional fundraisers? In order to keep the parish informed, Nick will revive the practice of giving a quarterly report to the congregation during services. Nick will also ask Kristi Nelson to run a monthly transaction by detail report for committee chairmen.

The vestry approved the Backpack Snack fundraiser lunch to be held October 25.

Katherine and Bob expressed interest in attending the Diocesan Convention in November. Other nominations from the parish will be solicited at which time the vestry will vote on the delegates.

The vestry was asked to consider recruiting new vestry members as we will have three vacancies at the end of the year. An effort to recruit younger parishioners will be made. Other potential vacancies include treasurer and committee chairs.

Nick Simpson nominated Katherine Johnson as Steward of the Month for her leadership during Father Jeff's sabbatical. After a second, the motion carried.

Melissa Hammonds brought up the subject of the loaner clavino piano. A decision must be made as to the purchase of a new one. A motion was made for a commitment from the vestry to fund the purchase if outside funds do not become available. After discussion, the vestry decided to pursue other funding and the motion was tabled.

Father Jeff informed the vestry that he had had a conversation with an employee of Callaway Gardens regarding the approximately 1 ½ acres of land adjacent to the church. It had been promised to the church by the Gardens management before the new building was begun. Father Jeff will follow up to be sure that the agreement will be kept.

As the meeting adjourned, Father Jeff read a blessing from John O'Donohue's book, *To Bless the Space Between Us*.

Patty Hamilton,
Clerk