

Vestry Meeting
Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church
May 22, 2016

Vestry members in attendance: Father Jeff Jackson, Kin Brown, Bill Caudill, Sheri Cody, Rebecca Crowley, Martha Dimon, Bob Hamilton, Katherine Johnson, and Nick Simpson. Also attending were Melissa Hammond, staff; Dave Halmrast, treasurer and Patty Hamilton, clerk.

Sue Halmrast, Steve Morse and Phebe Robertson were excused. Bob Hamilton gave the opening prayer and provided lunch. Katherine Johnson presided.

Julie Nordin and Bill Searcy of FOCUS presented an update of the work that FOCUS does in the Harris County community. Discussion followed as to how Saint Nicholas can best help FOCUS. Our Daughters of the King chapter will be making toiletry kits. Other suggestions were to become involved with helping in thrift shop, food bank or helping with clients. This information, along with the results of our parish wide meeting on June 12 will help the Outreach committee target community needs and offer ways that St. Nicholas can help.

Kin Brown reported on Back Snacks. He and Fr. Jeff have met with Katelyn Flynn, Emily King and Grant Flynn. Emily will head up the project this coming school year and Grant will take over after her. The vestry was asked to consider combining funds with their existing checking account and our Caso Callaway memorial fund. The account would have Emily and Grant as signatories along with a signer from St. Nicholas. Rebecca moved that the accounts be combined. After a second, the motion carried.

Martha updated the vestry on Lobsterfest plans. She has almost all chairmen in place and will meet with them soon. She is also looking into sponsorships.

Dave Halmrast presented the treasurer's report. The required annual audit will be done by Burge & Associates at a cost of \$3000. The finance committee recommends approval of First Peoples offer for our mortgage loan. Terms are 4.25%, 20 year term with a re-set every five years. No prepayment penalty; approximately \$975 in closing costs. A reasonable rate increase cap to be determined. The vestry voted to accept the recommendation.

The finance committee also recommends leaving the diocesan loan of \$175,000 as is for the time being.

Nick reported on a payroll tax error that resulted from Father Jeff's 2014 salary increase. The tax liability was not adjusted causing a total underpayment of \$1,452.44 for tax years 2014 and 2015. Nick also pointed out that the current year budget will need to be increased by \$2018.66 to allow for the tax payout. A motion to amend the current budget was tabled. Vestry members were asked to look at the budget for areas to cut in order to maintain our commitment to a balanced budget.

Martha nominated Dave Halmrast for Steward of the Month for his work as treasurer and for securing the mortgage loan. The motion carried.

The Vestry elected to bless the Rotary Club of Harris County for all their excellent projects in our community. There was discussion about how we might bless them, and the idea of partnering with them on an upcoming project was brought up. Father Jeff will contact the Rotary Club president to follow up.

Father Jeff updated the vestry on his recent homiletics workshop and his search for a stewardship chair. The vestry was asked to make suggestions for this important position.

The vestry agreed to skip the June meeting due to a conflict with Pulpit Swap. Members are asked to turn in their June reports to Katherine. The next meeting will be July 24. Rebecca will provide lunch and prayer.

Patty Hamilton, clerk