



Vestry Notes

Vestry Meeting September 19, 2017

Larry Smith, Senior Warden

St. Stephen's vestry met for our regular monthly meeting on Tuesday the 19th of September. For those of you who are new to the Episcopal tradition, the vestry is our elected governing body, comprised of the executive officers, nine additional vestry members from the congregation, and the rector. The vestry is responsible for all "temporal" matters of the church, most notably our budgets, properties, and staff, and generally providing oversight and leadership in the life of our community.

During our regular check-in time, many of the vestry expressed their concerns and ongoing prayers for the people of our country who have been affected by the hurricanes and wildfires.

The vestry formally approved two changes to the church by-laws. One addressed the Properties Committee, providing needed clarity around responsibilities, and the makeup of the committee. These changes were in support of our "Stewardship of Place" focus area and in alignment with other improvements we have been making this year to enhance how we care for the properties. The second by-law change was to streamline the leadership of the Personnel Committee and to make provisions for incorporating human-resources professional expertise onto the committee.

Treasurer Chas McKhann reviewed our first cut budget for 2018. We have some additional details to work out before announcing the budget, but I can say that we have some very exciting things planned for next year. Of course, a critical element of the budget every year is our pledged income – so with Covenant Sunday just around the corner on October 29, I want to take this opportunity to thank all who support this community with your pledges, and encourage everyone to be sure to come on the 29th and join the celebration, and pledge for 2018!

As many of you have heard, our choir has been invited to sing with Distinguished Concerts International at Carnegie Hall this coming April. This invitation came as the result of their participation and strong performances in two prior concerts. At Fr. Tom's suggestion, and in thanksgiving and appreciation for the hard work and dedication of this ministry, the vestry approved a resolution to partially cover the modest cost of registration for choir participants in order to support their ministry representing St. Stephen's Church in this national context.

Fr. Tom reported that the new program year has gotten off to a strong start with 3 baptisms, newly launched NOOMA education program on Wednesday evenings, a pig roast, new Sunday School programs, and lots of great energy around the church on Sundays and throughout the week.

See you in church!

Larry Smith, Senior Warden