

Special Vestry Meeting with Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows
Sunday, May 14, 2017

Attendees: Rector Rebecca F Nickel. Vestry Members: Karson Dennis, George Greene, Scott Trauscht (Junior Warden), Edith Collins (Senior Warden), Margaret Cook, Charles Park, and Tim Kramer. Mikki MacDonald (Co-Treasurer), Audrey Corne (substitute Clerk and Co-Property Manager), and David Nickel (Husband to Rector).

1. Opening Prayer by Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows.
2. An “around the table introduction by all (reflecting role, when they came to St. Timothy’s and why they stayed.
3. Comments by Bishop Jennifer on the references to the environment of welcoming and friendliness. She hypothesized that the configuration of the sanctuary, whereby everyone can see others faces, not just the backs of heads contributes to a closeness. There was general agreement.
4. Rev. Rebecca offered a brief history of St. Timothy’s. Connection to Christ Church Cathedral via St. George’s. St. Timothy’s becoming a home for members of St. George’s. Sanctuary designed by Woolen Evans, III and his acclaim as an architect. How the church had been without a rector for 17 years before she arrived as Priest-in Charge. Within two years, she was called to be the Rector. Her goal was to revitalize the church, but rather uses the term “faith community.” Many grants have been obtained under her leadership, Godly Play was adopted for the children, and thoughts are being given to what might be offered as children get older. Her goal is not that the church becomes “self-sustaining” but that becoming a “sustainable faith community” keeping growth and development always moving forward. Building trust is a continuing effort because the long time members had developed a “fear of failing and dying.” Two major formation ideas are teaching covenantal relationships (between her as clergy and church members) and teaching governance. Having accepted the call to St. Timothy’s meant taking a significant cut in income, and efforts to improve her salary in reasonable increments has been planned. However, an unexpectedly need (red tagged furnaces) required the use of the “savings” set aside to help restore her salary level. In spite of information from the Diocese that help to replace the savings could be expected, follow-up information from the Diocese indicated there would be not help. No one would like to face giving up a building because it needs lots of repairs, but the most important component at St. Timothy’s is the congregation, not the building.
5. Responses and thoughts from Bishop Jennifer: She expressed gratefulness for sacrifice, and from her office, we can expect honest communications, willingness to listen to issues and problems and to share in correcting and solving those things. She agreed with the value of the congregation and teaching governance (how the institution functions). Regarding VITALITY: Talking about the focusing on real things that matter (not little things that have no impact on spiritual growth); paying attention to needs of long time members and new members; recognizing that growing requires change; and a continual need to look to needs of the future (i.e. activities for junior high and high school children). She mentioned Rev. John Omer, Falls Church, VA as one with similar experiences and a potential resource. She referenced the Pathway to Vitality program, that because of changes, it may be friendlier, and less demanding of everyone. Its purpose is to build better leadership.
6. Rev. Rebecca’s concluding remarks included a plan to speak to Canon Gray about the Pathways to Vitality program when he attends the May 23, 2017 Vestry. The meeting closed with all praying the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by
Audrey Corne, Substitute Clerk