

The Word

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Newsletter • Herndon, VA

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Rector Search Committee Update

The Rector Search Committee (RSC) continues to move steadily toward our goal of preparing a profile of St. Timothy's that captures the personality and spirit of the congregation. In talking with many members of the congregation to understand what they believe are the most important characteristics of a new rector we have learned much about "Who We Are". In coming weeks the Search Committee will focus not only on "Who We Are" but also, "Where Are We Going?" These two areas, along with a simple explanation of "Where Have We Been", will inform potential candidates of the generous and welcoming style of St. Timothy's. It will also allow a candidate to understand what is most important to our congregation for worship and liturgy, stewardship, pastoral care, Christian education, and fiscal health. The six members of the RSC are learning as much as possible about "Who We Are" and "Where Are We Going?".

Over the past several weeks, the RSC gathered information to develop the portrait of our parish in several ways. Focus Groups were held with six different small groups of parishioners sharing a similar interest or ministry. Focus Groups will be ongoing through the summer and all are welcome to participate regardless of a connection to a ministry. While Focus Groups offer general information about the congregation's needs, a survey will give specifics. To prepare for the planned parish wide survey in early fall, the committee is developing survey questions to understand specific individual desires for a new rector.

Another tool future candidates will use to learn about St. Timothy's is the Parish Website. Working with the church Webmaster, the committee is recommending changes and additions to the website that will reflect the involved and committed community we are. The website is an all important way of expressing the culture of St. Timothy's and one RSC goal is to tailor the website to be as informative as possible.

The Stewardship and Finance portrait of St. Timothy's is one of the most important pieces of our parish profile. How we approach Stewardship and how successful we are in pledging and donating will be of particular interest to future candidates. Accurately representing our Stewardship approach is an area on which the RSC is especially focused. Not only do we want to portray how we donate but also, why we donate as we do. Likewise, a clear and accurate picture of St. Timothy's finances will be of significant importance to potential candidates. Naturally, they will want to know if St. Timothy's can pay our bills and, they will want to know if St. Timothy's can pay him or her! Understandably, these two areas require careful and detailed attention. The search committee is especially fortunate to have some volunteers who have the talent and interest to focus on these details.

While much of this effort seems slow and drawn out the intent of the RSC is to present an accurate and attractive picture of our congregation. St. Timothy's offers all of us, and the community, a joyous home for worship, fellowship, and comfort. Portraying these gifts in an electronic profile or a printed document is the most important objective of the RSC during this phase of discernment. Hearing from the congregation through surveys, focus groups and one on one engagement is the best way to achieve an excellent picture of the church we all love.

The Rector Search Committee welcomes your thoughts and suggestions about our discernment process and we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at RSC@st-timothys.org. And, please continue to pray for the committee and for our church. *Holy Spirit, thank you for guiding, inspiring and strengthening us so that we may glorify God through our work.*