



The Word

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

May 2016

Rector Search Committee Update

The Rector Search Committee (RSC) is blessed to have an outstanding group of talented, motivated and hard-working members. Two new members, Betsy Knoizen Bosworth and Allyson Showalter, joined existing members Shon Beury, Tom Davis, Catherine Lamoureux and committee chair, Bill Odio. Allyson and Betsy jumped in enthusiastically and are contributing important talent and parish experience to the group.

In April, the RSC invited members of the congregation to share their thoughts and priorities with the committee during informal meetings. This initial focus group approach is meant to engage parishioners in an informal setting to learn about key priorities in searching for a new rector. The RSC also kicked off the congregation wide Timeline event. The historical recording of milestones in St. Timothy's history will help the RSC in preparing the "Where Have We Been" portion of the Parish Profile. This collaboration with the congregation offered them a valuable opportunity to participate in the rector search and contribute to the work the RSC is doing to expand the church history.

The RSC has been meeting each Sunday following the services to outline our roles and develop a process to survey the congregation and begin research for the Parish Profile. The Parish Profile is a multi-section document that expresses the history of St. Timothy's, our current financial picture, and the personality of our congregation. Future rector candidates will be interested to know what defines our parish. They will wonder about our financial health, what type of worship and music is most popular, how important is outreach to our parish, what is expected for pastoral care, and many other factors. Collecting and expressing this data is a detailed and deliberate process that, most importantly, relies on the help of everyone in the congregation.

An initial focus group meeting included former members of the 1992 Vestry and Rector Search Committee. These committed people offered valuable pointers on what worked well during the 1992 search. They also expressed the wisdom of what can be expected going forward, limitations to avoid, and appreciating the role of spirituality. In late April, the 2016 RSC promoted a Timeline event to engage the congregation in sharing their memories of significant occasions at St. Timothy's and record historical milestones. The Timeline project will be promoted at Shrine Mont and over three Sundays, April 24 to May 8 in order to give as many people as possible an opportunity to participate.

Another key activity the RSC focused on during our weekly meetings is to identify the leadership roles each of us has in creating a survey, writing the Parish Profile and, once the Vestry approves the Profile, interviewing candidates. With the leadership of our chair, Bill Odio, all of the RSC members have chosen roles that suit their talent and interest in pursuing these areas. RSC members are all contributing experience in serving St. Timothy's and a dedication to discerning, with God's help, the best candidate for our new rector.

At times the rector search process may seem slow and drawn out. Although Fr. Brad retired in August 2015, it is helpful to recognize the RSC was not commissioned until February 2016. Since then the RSC has made much progress and, with your continued support, we will move steadily forward. The RSC welcomes the opportunity to discuss parish priorities for the rector search with any ministries or small groups. If you're interested in meeting for a focus group, please contact us. Everyone is encouraged to share your questions and concerns with any of us either in person or by mail. We all have nametags identifying us as RSC members and you may email us at RSC@saint-timothys.org. Thank you for keeping St. Timothy's and the RSC in your prayers. *"Grant us faith to appreciate one another and shepherd us toward your will in selecting a new Rector."*