**St. Simon’s Vestry Minutes for October 16th meeting**

1. **Establish attendance and quorum**: Bob, Steve, Trace, Liz, Elizabeth, Carla, and Father David were present. Matt was out of town on business. Kristin was absent. Meeting was called to order at 6:07 P.M.
2. **Opening prayer by** Elizabeth H.
3. **Consent Agenda-minutes and financials**

Father David shared the minutes from the September meeting.

Steve says the plate contributions are not good and are way behind compared to last year. We are at a $20,000 to $25,000 deficit for the year. Pledges are going down. He suggested we need a much larger endowment fund.

Liz motioned to approve the minutes and financials; Trace seconded.

1. **Committee Reports**
   1. Admin (Liz)- Father David’s health insurance will change soon. He is now covered by Medicare part A since he turned 65 years old. Stay tuned for more information about what insurance he chooses.
   2. Property (Matt)- Per Father David, we recently voted via email to approve the cost of repairs to one of our AC units. All approved.
   3. Task Force updates: Bishop Russell contacted Stewardship Realty and informed them that we are choosing the 90-day study that they offered us. Father David has a call in to the bishop to discuss this but hasn’t heard back from him yet.
   4. Ministries (Carla and Kristin)
2. Beginning September 24th, we are collecting socks, caps, and books for the Blessing Bag project (homeless students in Okaloosa County). Collection bins are in the atrium.
3. October 13th from 6-8 was the Italian Gala Night to benefit the Blessing Bag project. It was a huge success, thanks to many amazing volunteers! We collected $4,000, enough to buy the supplies for 400 Blessing Bags! Woo Hoo!!
4. October 15th, Brown Bags were passed out for a Sharing and Caring food drive. The bags will be collected on October 22nd.
5. October 22nd, during the coffee hour, Diane Freeman from A Bed for Me organization will do a presentation about their program.
6. October 28th, Steven Tomlinson will be the guest speaker at Discipleship Day, to be held at St. Jude’s in Niceville from 10-3.
7. October 29th, during Coffee Hour, we will host “Information Extravaganza”, a time to get better acquainted with our church family and activities you can get involved with.
8. November 9th from 11-12:30, Ashley Bailey from the Okaloosa Sherriff’s Dept., will be speaking about how to avoid Senior Fraud and Scams. A sign-up sheet is in the atrium for all who plan to attend.
9. **Old Business**:
10. Rector’s sabbatical: Father David has not decided about his sabbatical yet. More on that later.
11. Nomination committee: Steve will stay on for 1 more year to finish out Fred’s term. Father David suggested 3 names for possible Vestry nominees. He asked the 3 members whose terms are ending to try and find replacements for themselves. (those leaving are Kristin, Liz, and Elizabeth H.)
12. Annual meeting date: Annual meeting will be January 21st, with one service, food, and a possible Town Hall.
13. **New Business**

The Diocesan Convention is coming up in February. We need 4 Delegates to attend and need to decide on them by January 1st. Van Fuller has expressed interest.

November 12th is Stewardship Sunday. Mary Hauge is heading this up this year. Look for great things from her.

1. **Rector’s comments:**
2. Father David discussed the results of the surveys that were recently completed by the parish. He would like to meet again this week to share the surveys with us because not all members of the Vestry have seen them. We will meet this Thursday, the 19th.
3. **Vestry comments**:

Bob suggested the vestry review the surveys and decide if further action is required.

1. **Closing Prayer by**: Liz L.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted by Carla, 10/30/23