

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Meeting

October 5, 2021

Present: Mark Drew, Anice Ellis, Phil Glandon, Judith Grant, Barbara Hyre, Jay Iams, Julia Johnson-Davis, Marilyn Karl, Bill Mayr, Leslie Winters, Rev. Vicki Zust,

Absent: Cheryl Boop, Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, Henry Markwardt, Irina Reed, Roman Skoracki, Sam Slee

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm with a prayer led by Vicki Zust.

MINUTES of the September 7, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Upon **motion**, **seconded** and **passed**, the minutes were approved as written.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Vicki updated Vestry as follows:

- The Lemonade Meetings went well
- There are 3 funerals scheduled this week.
- There have been several (5) cases of Covid in the choir, even though everyone was vaccinated and wearing masks. Going forward, the choir will rehearse in the nave for better physical distancing and better ventilation. They will also wear N95 masks. Saint Mark's has a supply of Covid tests that will be made available for free to anyone who needs them. The tests will be tracked as they are distributed.
- Saint Mark's is on the Bishop's calendar for a Celebration of New Ministry on April 30th.
- Vicki met with Rachel and the Youth Group. The youth are going to offer pumpkin carving and games for the younger kids on Halloween Sunday.
- Vicki also had an introductory meeting with Children's Formation leaders. They talked about ways to engage our children in the life of the parish.
- Vicki attended an Outreach Committee meeting.
- Vicki reached out to Tremont Elementary's principal to introduce herself, but the principal is new, too, so Vicki hasn't heard back yet.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Phil Glandon gave the financial report. September was a great month for collections. Saint Mark's received \$43,800 in unexpected and unrestricted gifts. Pledge receipts are slightly below where we should be by this point in the year, so Phil will follow up with members who are behind. Saint Mark's was able to write off the PPP loan and that will increase our positive cash position. Saint Mark's Diocesan Mission Share has increased. Electronic giving is growing. Earnings from investments look like we are significantly ahead this year compared to 2020, but in reality, the Columbus Foundation was just way behind in getting their statements out last year due to Covid.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Building and Grounds – Leslie Winters reported that a Building Committee meeting was held. Larry Anderson will be joining the group. The skylight leak over the altar needs to be fixed. Two bids were received, one from Columbus Roofing and one from Phinney. Leslie is going to ask Phinney to bid on the same basis as Columbus Roofing, so an apples-to-apples comparison of prices can be made. A central question about the roof is whether to patch and fix it in small bites or to do a more extensive repair all at once. Updates to the landscaping are in the works. The ground where the ginkgoes were removed needs to be regraded. Some overgrowth should be removed from the Memorial Garden. Thanks to Roman Skorachi for trimming some trees. Leslie also commented that we have used the patio a lot recently and it would be nice to expand and improve the lighting. She invited Vestry to think about what else we would like to do so that we will continue to use the patio after Covid and as a way to better connect us to the surrounding community.

Piano – Mark Drew reported that there were no nays on the vote to purchase a new piano. The actual purchase price was just what was estimated, so a check will be cut tomorrow. An electronic keyboard is also needed to allow the choir to practice in the nave. Formation could benefit from access to a keyboard, too. There is still money available from a directed donation that could be used to purchase a keyboard.

Copier – Vicki reported that the copy machine is getting close to the end of its useful life. Another down side of the current machine is that it doesn't make color copies. A purchasing group gave us a bid, and we will get another bid from our current vendor. Vicki anticipates a new copier will involve a \$500 to \$1000 increase in operating costs per year; the actual amount will depend on how many color copies we opt to make. We currently have to outsource anything with color, so making our own color copies may result in some savings. A new copier will be leased rather than purchased. Vicki will check to see if the current copier has any resale value.

Stewardship – Julia Johnson-Davis gave a stewardship update. Pledge cards went out Saturday. She got lots of compliments on the "teaser". They are still looking for someone from the parish who can speak on the topic of "what Saint Mark's means to me". Anice Ellis volunteered.

Vestry Retreat – Mark reminded everyone that the retreat is Nov. 6th. Due to the size of the group, the meeting will be held in the City Council chambers in the Municipal Building. The agenda will follow.

Rector's Discretionary Fund Policy – Vicki would like to bring the Rector's Discretionary fund in with the rest of the church's money. She would also like Vestry to pass a policy on what the funds can be used for. The policy should make clear that the funds ultimately belong to St Mark's and should outline broad categories of what the money can be spent on. Anything over \$750 should require approval of one warden and the treasurer. According to Phil, it will be easier from an accounting standpoint not to have two check books. The current balance is about \$10,000. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, Vestry approved the development of a policy regarding the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

November Evensong for All Saints – Vicki is looking for someone to organize a casual outdoor reception after Evensong.

Junior Explorers – Mark reported that Junior Explorers is losing their current building and they are again looking for a space to rent. While renting out our building brought in revenue, with the Diocesan requirements for Covid, it just isn't feasible to host this group at this time. Mark told them it wouldn't be possible right now.

Alarm System – Vicki told Vestry that the burglar alarm has been going off in error lately. The system has been repaired, but it still goes off inappropriately when the internal clock gets out of sync because of a power outage. Vicki is considering asking the company to turn off the burglar alarm only (not the fire alarm). There are a couple of questions to research, including would there be an impact on our insurance rates? And would there be any savings on our alarm system charges?

Vestry Person of Week – Mark indicated that he is reimagining this role and will discuss the topic more at a later meeting.

Name Tags – Vicki reminded Vestry that we took down all the name tags at the beginning of Covid, but they have recently been put back up because it seems unlikely anyone will get Covid from a name tag. Name tags will help new people and Vicki get to know people, and Vestry should strive to set a good example.

Web Site Home Page – Vicki plans to spotlight Choral Evensong the on the home page and wants to spotlight Julia and Cheryl's stewardship message from last Sunday, too.

Organist Search – Matt Bester wants to bring in 4 candidates for the permanent organist position. Saint Mark's is fortunate to have an interim organist locked down from Oct 24th through the holidays.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm with a prayer led by Vicki.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara Hyre