

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Meeting

March 7, 2023

Present: Martha Belury, Cheryl Boop, Michael Bowman, Steve Brindza, Kevin Fix, Betsy Gillespie, Brenda Hammersley, Jodi Hess, Julia Johnson Davis, Bruce Johnson, Barb Keyes, Anna Markwardt, Ted, Meyers, Jody Porreca, Roman Skoracki, Andi Waller, Vicki Zust

Absent: Phil Glandon

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Cheryl Boop. Vicki Zust led Vestry in an opening prayer. Cheryl welcomed all.

1. **Introduction and Vestry Binders:** Since there are several new Vestry members, introductions were made around the table. Each shared their names and what it is that makes them excited to be a member of St. Mark's.

Updated bylaws and calendars were distributed for the binders.

2. **MINUTES** of the February 2023 meeting were reviewed. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, the minutes were approved as written. St. Mark's seeks to be transparent. All minutes are available online. Any member of the parish community can access them.

3. Reports

a. Rector's Report: Vicki

February flew by

- i. We hosted Godly Training: It is a Christian Formation method that St. Mark's uses for younger children, based on Montessori philosophy and focuses on exploration and storytelling. This occurred February 23 – 25.
- ii. Planning session for MLK Day next year. Discussions are being held for ways to acknowledge MLK Day next year.
- iii. Members of our knitting group began participating with the CRIS (Columbus Refugee and Immigration Services) Sharing knitting groups, in conjunction with other church knitting groups. They work with new immigrants to our country, making them feel welcome, teaching a craft and practicing language skills. They meet on 1925 E. Dublin Granville Rd.
- iv. We have gotten two grants!
 1. Culture and Artisan fair which promotes the work of refugees and immigrants. It will take place May 6, 2023
 2. \$3,500 to support our diaper initiative for NEMAP

b. Treasurer's Report: (Phil)

- i. Attached is the February statement of activity. I have only had time for a very cursory review of the numbers. We have had a larger than normal number of members who have paid their entire pledge early. We have collected more than a third of our pledged contributions by the end of February. There are a few monthly bills that we have not yet received for February but nothing very significant.

It is nice to be above budget on receipts and below budget on expenses.

Vicki answered questions that were posed by the members.

4. Discussion Items

- a. **Rescheduling April 4th Meeting:** This is in the middle of Holy Week. After some discussion, the meeting was rescheduled for April 11, 2023, to take some of the pressure off Holy Week.

- b. **Regional Vestry Gathering April 29:** The regional vestry gathering includes vestries from all over the area. It was held at St. Mark's last year. It was due to meet at St. Patrick's, Dublin, this year, but due to family losses with the St. Patrick's rector, St. Mark's has agreed to host it again. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and end with morning prayer at 11:30 AM. There will be a speaker. We will need people to handle hospitality.
 - c. **Sign Ups:** Vicki presented a list of committees and events that members of the Vestry are expected to assist with from April to October 2023. Each Vestry member chose in turn up to four committees and/or events. Vicki provided a short description of the duties of each one, then the Vestry members divided the duties between them. Members are encouraged to bring their creative ideas to these efforts.
 - d. **Vestry Member of the Week:** A Vestry member is present at each service to represent the Vestry to the congregation. Members signed up for their weeks.
5. **Open Discussion – Parking Lot Issues** – Discuss things here rather than in the parking lot (meeting after the meeting)
- a. There is a new program where children can get early release from school to be bussed to a church for Christian education. St. Mark's was approached about participating in this program. Vicki turned it down because the program teaches several things that do not align with the teachings of the Episcopal Church. One of these is an anti LGBTQ agenda. Another is the belief that women should not be able to teach men. It takes funding from the public schools and deprives classroom teachers of precious contact time with their students. There is the possibility that children who choose not to participate may be ostracized by those who do. Nothing was proposed in the way of a response by St. Mark's, but the concern has been expressed.
 - b. Calendar Brainstorming:
 - c. UA High school students from a comparative religion course are coming to visit the church. Vicki will show them the church and talk about Episcopal beliefs and how they fit into religions at large.
 - d. Busy schedule coming up the next couple of months.
6. **Blessing and Adjourn**
Upon motion, seconded and passed the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Porreca