

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Meeting September 5, 2023

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

Absent: Roman Skoracki, Andi Waller

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Cheryl. Vicki Zust led Vestry in an opening prayer. Cheryl welcomed all.

MINUTES of the May 2023 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as written.

- **Reports**

- i. **Rector's Report: Vicki**

- i. The Christmas Eve morning service will be at 9:00AM instead of at 8:00 AM. It will follow the usual 8:00 format.
 - ii. Vicki is doing sponsorships for area student groups. Upper Arlington Cross Country, Regatta with the Upper Arlington Crew, Upper Arlington Marching Band, Thomas Worthington Theater Season, Dublin Coffman band 5K, Grove City Flag Football. There are ads for recognition in all these things.
 - iii. Community relations committee wants to be a sponsor with our cultural artisans fair. This is seen as an event that demonstrates Upper Arlington's welcoming spirit to all people. There will be some money.
 - iv. Bishop selection: Meet and greets next week, Some livestreamed, available on the diocesan website. The ones that are local are Friday September 15 at St. Patrick's in Dublin at 1:00 PM and at Trinity downtown at 7:00PM. The bishop selection is September 30 at the cathedral in Cincinnati. If there is not a selection in seven ballots, they will reconvene the next week, October 7 at St. Mark's. This doesn't happen often, but it is a possibility.
 - v. Outreach committee is in process of reorganizing the way they operate. Streamline operations to make it easier for people to get engaged in it. There should be more details in the next month or so.
 - vi. Vicki will guest conduct the Upper Arlington marching band, Friday October 20.

- ii. **Senior Warden's Report (Cheryl)**

- i. Both services are seeing new people coming to worship.
 - ii. Nice to have the choirs starting on Sunday.

- iii. **Junior Warden's Report (Kevin)**

- i. Insulation project is complete \$12,500 is total cost, a little over what the grant provided.
 - ii. Landscaping work quote is \$1900. Work will be done late September/early October.
 - iii. Still waiting for the parish assessment report.

- iv. **Treasurer's Report (Phil)**

- i. Vicki reported for Phil.
 - ii. Contributions are ahead of budget, we expected to be in a deficit at this point but are in the black. The 4th quarter will have a lot of expenses.

- **Discussion Items**

- 1. **Fall Kick-off and Workday (Bruce, Andi, Kevin, and Brenda)** Saturday September 9 is the workday. There is a list, and the equipment is on hand. The Canterbury choir will be rehearsing. Sunday is Fall kick off. Fall adult formation is on Bishop election. Both choirs will sing. Children's formation open house, and table discussions for adults after the 10:30 service..
 - 2. **Stewardship (Julia and Betsy)** Pledge cards are being developed. In-gathering is October 29. The two Sundays leading up to that will be distributing of information and materials. Letters will be tailored to the giving individuals have done in the past, if they are long time members, new members

etc. Vicki is asking the board to pray about what we can give so that the church can say that 100% of the board has pledged. Please submit the form by the next vestry meeting. Any amount is fine. Vicki will not know any amounts for individuals.

People who normally pledge and do not for some reason will be contacted by a member of the board.

3. Sign-ups (Vicki)

- a. Need someone to attend the Upper Arlington Civic association fund raiser across the street. Church leaders will be in Cincinnati that evening.
- b. Vicki went through the list of needs that were presented in list form. Members of the vestry took turn choosing events to help with. Vicki will send the complete list.

4. Electric Aggregation SOPEC is a consortium that aggregates electric purchasing for many communities in Ohio. If the city approves it, St. Marks can be a part of it. There does not seem to be a downside since we can opt out at any time.

5. Update on microphone upgrade (Vicki) The microphones are available now at a cost of \$10,000. They had to be replaced as we can't use the frequencies the old microphones used. The expenditure is already approved.

6. Pet Blessing (Martha and Jodi) October 1. Before the 10:30 service. Neighbors are invited to bring their pets.

7. Crisis Response Policies – fire, weather etc. Is there a policy in place, if not, should there be one? The UA fire department may be able to help with a crisis plan. Other churches may have a plan that could be used as a template. Andi, Kevin, Bruce, Ted, and Cheryl will form a group to discuss and formulate a plan. They will report on progress at the October meeting.

8. Goals for 2023-2024 Program Year

- a. Look at how we are getting newcomers engaged.
- b. Move website to updated platform.
- c. Look at staffing for children's formation.
- d. Small group gathering opportunities.
- e. Plan for the capital campaign.
- f. Discuss 2026 anniversary. Begin planning.

• **Open Discussion – Parking Lot Issues**

Bake sale raised \$1800. Congratulations to Julia and Roberta. The heat was a factor in foot traffic. Come to the Fior Angelico concert.

• **Blessing and Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 8:42.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jody Porreca**