

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2023

Present: Fr. RJ, John Willoughby, Jr. Warden (via Zoom); Kent Clark, Carol Hayn, Joe Hoot, Mandy Pelger, Sara Strattan, Rick Werren

Not Present: Leslie Redmon, Sr. Warden; Gene Little

Guests: Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm with devotion and prayer provided by Sara.

Rick **motioned** to accept the minutes of the August 2, 2023, meeting. Carol seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Wardens' Reports

- **Senior Warden**
 - Leslie provided a written summary of the outdoor chapel refurbishing that was done by Eagle Scout candidate Aiden Lyngge. Repairs and improvements were made to the fence, benches, altar, and landscaping.
- **Junior Warden**
 - John appreciated everyone submitting articles in the Lion's Pause, making Facebook posts, and encouraging others to do so too..
 - We should see if there are Sunday School classes in other area Episcopal churches that are similar to our older age group class that we could interact with.
 - There will be a youth retreat on October 7-and 8 at St. Pauls' in Canton. John will send information to Emily.
 - John urged anyone who has not completed their safety training to do so. If anyone notices any inappropriate behavior, they should report it to Fr. RJ or the Wardens.

Rector's Report

- **Outdoor Service**
 - There will be an outdoor service of Morning Prayer on September 24. Several Scouts and Weaver families will be attending. Morning Prayer was chosen because it may be a more comfortable service for a lot of guests.
- **Weaver School**
 - Weaver is looking for volunteer lunch monitors on Tuesdays and will welcome interested parishioners.
- **Seating of Bishop Jolly**
 - Fr. RJ will attend the Seating of Bishop Jolly at the Cathedral on Saturday, September 9. This service is similar to the Celebration of a New Ministry for clergy.
- **Vacation**
 - Fr. RJ will be on vacation after the September 24 service until October 2 or 3. Bruce will conduct Morning Prayer on October 1.

Old Business

- **Lazarus Committee**
 - The Lazarus Committee submitted a **motion** for the Vestry to approve raising the price of a niche in the Columbarium from \$1,000 to \$1,200. Carol seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.
 - The Vestry decided to table further discussion of the various Lazarus Committee documents until they have been reviewed by Fr RJ and the Wardens.
- **Buildings and Grounds Update**
 - Tree trimming has been completed.
 - Waterproofing of the foundation is needed on the walls of the former choir room and the playground side of the undercroft.
 - The undercroft outside doors have been replaced by Weaver.
 - A new system using fobs will be used to open exterior doors.
- **Stewardship Committee Update**
 - The Stewardship Committee will host dinners on Wednesday, October 11 and Thursday, October 19. The theme of the dinners is "Continuing to Grow our Family". There will be 2 or 3 parishioners speaking about why they like St. Mark's and their involvement in the church. There will be an update from the Finance Committee that will focus on positive trends.
 - Pledge materials will be given out on October 11 and 19, and will be due November 5.
 - Fr. RJ commended Joe on what a good job he has done with the Stewardship Committee.
 - Kent confirmed that Vestry members will not be required to contact those who do not pledge.
 - Sara confirmed that the Vestry will send out thank-you notes to those who do pledge.
 - Non-pledgers will get 2 gentle email reminders and then a phone call.

New Business

- **Trunk or Treat?**
 - Since so many schools and churches are already doing Trunk or Treat, we will look into donating candy and costumes to Gibbs School for their Halloween event as outreach.
- **St. Francis Blessing of the Animals**
 - Fr RJ will do a special service of Blessing of the Animals on October 7 or 8. It will be held in the outdoor chapel or the pavilion depending on the weather. It will not be part of our regular church service.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm with a **motion** by Joe, seconded by Rick, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 6:00pm. Mandy will provide the Reflection and Prayer for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand
Clerk