

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2019

Present: Fr. Gaston, Derek Gordon, Sr. Warden; Rhonda Warren, Jr. Warden, Linda Deuble, Grace Giammarco, Bob Kennedy, Beck Rand, Sara Strattan, Christy Thorley, Caroline Willoughby, John Wise

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. Derek led opening devotions.

Sara **motioned** to accept the minutes of the October 2, 2019 meeting. Linda seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Finance Committee

- **Revenue and Expenses 3 Q 19**
 - Third quarter positive income vs. expenses is driven by the positive 2019 stewardship pledged amount and the reduced spending based on the revised interim rector agreement.
 - We are keeping just enough cash on hand in the checking account for what is needed for expenses, which will allow any extra to be invested.
- **2019 Stewardship Campaign** – Charlie and Derek have done reflections for the parish.

Senior Warden's Report

- **2020 Vestry Recruitment/Leadership** – At the December Vestry meeting, the Vestry will need to approve new language to amend the by-laws to allow the Junior and Senior Wardens to remain on the Vestry through the time of transition to a new rector. After approval, it will be presented at the Annual Meeting for parish approval.
- **Security Committee** – The new North End entryway door will be installed either over the Thanksgiving or the Christmas holidays. The cost of the door is \$7,375 plus hardware.
- **Online Directory** – The Online Directory has been sent out to the parish.
- **Bishop's Visit** -- The Bishop's visit was very productive, and he was very positive and complimentary of all that we are doing and our teamwork. We learned that the whole country has more rector positions available than there are rectors seeking positions. Fr. Gaston expressed his appreciation for the thoughtful planning that was done to prepare for the Bishop's visit.
- **St. Mark's 60th/65th Anniversary Celebration** – The event date is December 8th, 2019. All past priests have been invited, as well as many previous parishioners. Custom commemorative cups were made for the priests, all others attending will receive special bookmarks. Fr. Gaston will prepare a special anniversary sermon on looking back but also looking forward.
- **Election Day** – The bake sale took in around \$200. Sara will get a recommendation from the Finance Committee for the use of the money.
- **January / Annual Meeting Dates**
 - The January Vestry meeting will be January 8, 2020.
 - The Annual Meeting will be January 19, 2020.

Transition Update

- Grace reported a very good visit with the Bishop, and he is supportive of our search efforts for a new rector. We will put a "seeking rector" ad in the November, December, and January issues of *Living Church*. We are still in contact with Percy Grant. If the Search Committee thinks it's necessary, we will do a promotional video.

Rector's Report

- **Pastoral Matters** – The funeral for Donna Brookes was held on October 12, 2019.
- **Bishop's Visit** – Fr. Gaston expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the thoughtful planning that was done to prepare for the Bishop's visit. The Confirmands were well-prepared and on time. The Confirmands will be recruited to fill roles as acolytes and lectors.
- **All Saints** – The custom of lighting candles for our own saints was well observed by the parish.
- **Informal Discussions** – The Informal Discussions continue to be well-received and well-attended.
- **Welcome Guild** – On Sunday, October 6, 2019 the Ushers, Greeters, and the members of the Welcoming Guild were commissioned and blessed.
- **Stewardship** -- The Stewardship campaign is under way.
- **Choir** – The Choir and Fr. Gaston participated in Evensong at St. Paul's on Sunday, November 3rd.
- **Planning Calendar for 2020** – Fr. Gaston prepared a calendar for 2020 for planning for the parish and for the benefit of an incoming priest. A new priest will be free to make changes, but will at least have a framework in place.
 - The liturgical color white will be used through Epiphanytide through The Presentation on February 2nd.
 - Ash Wednesday is February 26th, and we will have two services.
 - On Good Friday we will have Stations of the Cross at 12:00 noon, and Liturgy at 1:00pm. This will make it easier to attend for those who may be working a half day on Good Friday.
 - The Lent Program will be scheduled now, and the study program will be decided later.
 - The summer schedule will begin June 7th and end September 6th. We will see if the parish is ok with a single service during summer as was done in 2019
 - An Easter Vigil will be something to consider when we have a new rector.

Other Business

- **Annual Convention** – Bob Kennedy and Tony Keenan will be delegates. Sara is unable to attend. Kathy Kennedy and Anne Coen will attend as visitors.
- **Christmas Decorating** – Sara mentioned that the Altar Guild needs to be informed of the dates for decorating the church for Christmas. The 4th Sunday of Advent is when Christmas decorating can take place, which will be December 22nd after the 10:00am service.
- **Christmas Morning** – Rev. Barbara Bond has offered to officiate at the Christmas Morning service.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:38pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 5:30pm. Beck will provide the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Violand
Clerk