

## **St. Mark's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes**

January 17, 2023 - 6:30 pm

Present: Alysoun Marks, Chris Abbott, Melissa Hamon, Charlie Phillips, Christine Powell, Sue Lane McCulley, Jon Eiche, Kathy Barzilla, Michelle D'Antuono, Elisa Hughes, Mary Anne Helms

### **I. Opening**

A. Alysoun opened the meeting with prayer.

B. The agenda was presented. Michelle made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Elisa seconded the motion. Agenda was approved.

C. The November minutes were presented. Kathy made a motion that they be approved. Charlie seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

D. The Church Calendar was presented and discussed. Elisa volunteered to deliver the food from Souper Bowl of Caring. It was noted that the next Vestry meeting on March 21 needed to be added to the calendar. It was decided the the Lenten Fish Fry should be on March 31. Jim Duke will do the Wednesday evening Lenten Series for six weeks during Lent at 6:00 pm. May 29 is Pentecost and our annual parish picture. It was felt that we should change it to April 21, St. Mark's Day, to avoid Memorial Day weekend and low attendance. Ruben is using the building on February 25 and May 6

### **II. Reports**

A. Senior Warden - Alysoun welcomed the new Vestry members and reviewed who needed keys, Sunday Vestry Rep duties, Teller protocol, and asked for volunteers for report responsibilities. Kathy agreed to report on Worship. Mary Anne agreed to report on Outreach. Charlie Phillips said that he would continue to be the Usher Coordinator, even though he was going off Vestry. Mission Amplification is offering a series of best practices for new vestry members or those who would like to increase their skills. It's a three part series offered in person or virtually. The delegates for Diocesan Council are Chris Abbott, Brent Thompson, Scott Marks, Alysoun Marks and alternates are Melissa and Rob Hamon. Supply through April was reviewed. We will begin to accept Search Committee member applications. Lunches of Love Annual Walk of Love and 5K will be on March 4. They want to partner with us to distribute water bottles with St. Mark's labels on the bottles. Confirmation class is coming up, but dates are TBD. There has been some discussion about a Grief Group as part of our ministry. Traditionally we have a Ministry Leader's Forum in late winter/early spring. A suggestion was made to push that to late spring, possibly May 24.

B. Treasurer Report - Financial Statements were presented and reviewed. 2022 highlights are that we ended the year with a \$28,000 surplus. There were 37 pledging units equalling \$221,100. 91.53% of our pledge/non pledge income was received. Some expenses were offset by additional donations pledged after January 31. Also, the school was able to offset some shared use expenses because of the grant that they received. A lot of volunteer work for routine maintenance items helped additionally with expenses. A big thank you to Elisa, Joanie and Kim. The Vestry gave a \$250 gift card to Kim and a \$200 gift card to Tom. Ruben's gift was handled separately.

C. 2023 Budget - The Budget Proposal for 2023 was presented by Michelle. The highlights are that 40 pledging units were received to date, totaling \$259,040.00. Total budgeted Unrestricted Income of \$324,506 vs. total budget Expenses of \$330,163.00 leave a deficit of \$5,656.00 in the budget. The \$28,000.00 surplus from 2022 is included in the General Fund under Miscellaneous. Temporary Restricted Funds were not 'zeroed out' this year because of the circumstances surrounding their giving. These are currently shown on the December 2022 Balance Sheet. On the Expenses side of the Budget, there is \$18,000.00 for Transition, and a six month Rector Compensation Package of \$53,561-\$75,235. There is a 5% salary increase for staff. There is a slight decrease in the Diocesan Assessment due to Diocesan Medical Insurance changes. An \$11,000.00 accrual expense will be reflected in January from the final payment of the sound system. The Vestry went into Executive Session. After Executive Session, Alysoun made a motion that the 2023 Budget be approved. Melissa Hamon seconded the motion. The budget was approved.

D. Junior Warden - Elisa reported that the AC in the server room has been making a loud noise. Attempts to repair were futile as the coils are rusted. A new unit will cost approximately \$3,600.00. Jon Eiche made a motion to approve the purchase of a new unit. Kathy Barzilla seconded the motion. The motion was approved. A water pipe to fill the fire suppression tank busted from the freeze, as well as the water level pipe on the side. A claim has been started and we are working on getting it fixed. The Game Warden put up cameras on the property to try to catch the people driving on the property to hunt. "No Trespassing" signs have been posted on the property. The deer feeder that someone placed on our property has been thrown away, and we have started trimming the bushes. There are a total of five trees on the property that need to be cut down soon. The cost totals \$1050.00, including hauling them away. Elisa said that she may ask the Game Warden if we can do a controlled burn to help with some of the clean up of green waste around the church. A church workday will be on April 1st. The plan is to power wash the church and school sign, re-stain the wood cross, mulch flower beds, trim trees in front of church and school, clean ga-ga pit, trim bushes near fire pit, plant grass and flowers and move rocks in flower bed. Additionally, a long list of items that were repaired in Nov/Dec was reviewed, since there was no Vestry meeting last month.

E. Christian Formation Kids - Chris appreciated all of those who continue to remain compliant with SGGC so that we can continue to have classes. Attendance is an ongoing issue. Lesson plans were emailed to Vestry members a couple of weeks ago. It is a sincere desire of this Vestry and the entire congregation that we find a way to attract young families to our church.

F. Christian Formation Adults - Brown Bag Bible Study continues to be offered on Tuesdays at noon. Sunday morning study will resume when Rob gets back from vacation.

G. Funeral Planning - Sue Lane brought up the need to form a Funeral Planning Ministry. A brief discussion followed

H. Outreach - At Christmas, all gifts on the Giving Tree were fulfilled and brought to the Rainbow Room by Rhonda and Isobel. Jeanne and the Sewing Sistas made and delivered 75 pillow cases to the Women's Shelter. They will be starting dog quilts for the Fort Bend Animal Shelter. Chris will take the calendars that were collected to

Greenwood Retirement Facility and put a St. Mark's stamp on them. Jeanne took the pet food that was collected to the Senior Citizen's Center.

I. School - The school continues to struggle and the School Board is dealing with the difficult decision of closing. Michelle asked that if you are on Facebook, please like and share all of the school's posts.

J. Property - A check is forthcoming from the Diocese for the property. Rock and Michelle met with Logos again about buying the piece of property that will be cut off from the main property by the new road on Lonely Oaks Drive. It was felt that we needed to hire a farm land appraiser to better determine how much the land is worth.

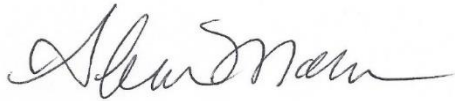
K. Parish Profile - Print outs of the Parish Profile were passed out and reviewed. Changes were made that were deemed appropriate. Chris will pass these changes along to Bill for editing.

### III. Closing

A. Thank You Notes - A thank you note from Tom to the Vestry for his Christmas gift was read by Alysoun.

B. Prayer - Alysoun closed the meeting with a prayer

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alysoun Marks".

Alysoun Marks