

love is our tradition



St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting January 30, 2022

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
156th Annual Meeting
January 30, 2022

Agenda

Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting minutes

Election of New Vestry Members

Recognition of outgoing members: Ivy Burnes, Sanford Eberly,
Tamara Orr

Rules for the Election/Affirmation

Presentation of the Candidates

Nominations from the floor

Business Meeting:

Treasurer's Report

Warden's Report

New Business:

Thank you to Brent Graves for his masterful management of
the roof project

Thank you to Suzanne Long for her masterful management
of the DMS loan process

Closing Prayer

St. Mark's in 2021– Re-Gathering, Re-imagination, Resilience

Dear St. Mark's family and friends,

There are many things for St. Mark's to celebrate and give thanks for from 2021. We transitioned from fully remote, to gathering on the porch, to navigating indoor services, now with our doors open wider than ever to include our Zoom-ers. The new roof will give us shelter for many years to come, as the church enters its second century! We helped Father David transition to a well-deserved restful retirement. Our vestry was tasked with searching for our interim rector, and are excited to welcome Rev. Judy Davis in March.

As we look toward further transition in 2022, I am so grateful for the groundwork laid in 2018 with our long-range plan. While always intended as a living document, it does so much to outline the foundations of St. Mark's. We were asked "What is God calling St. Mark's to be and to do?" I would encourage all of you to revisit this labor of love, and consider how we might continue to change, adapt, and grow, while still reflecting our core values.

I would like to thank a few people who contributed enormously to this year's success. Sarah Kye Price has done so much to support us in virtual ministry, and I'm delighted she will be able to continue her work with St. Phoebe's school in partnership with us. Dorothy White's time with us has been a blessing, and I look forward to hearing about her great work as interim at St. Peter's. Buck remains a cornerstone of the St. Mark's experience, and I know will be of great help to our interim. Our vestry has had some particular challenges this year, and I'm so grateful for their time and guidance. Malinda has been invaluable to all of us, supporting our clergy, vestry, and many more. And with our power couple Brent and Suzanne, we are prepared to weather any storm - hurricane or financial!

Thank you all for making St. Mark's such a special place,

Isabel Tucker

Junior Warden

Vestry Candidates

Karen Franklin

I have been attending St. Mark's for the past ten years. I have a B.A. with a focus in Social Work and a M.ED. I taught for Richmond Public Schools for 14 years before going full-time into the Mental Health Field. The career switch was made due to a desire to truly impact households providing tools for meaningful growth and better community engagement. I have taken that attitude towards my work with the St. Mark's Food Pantry, Pastoral Care Ministry and a variety of other ministries and groups.



I have previously served on the Vestry as a member and then continued in the role of Registrar. I enjoyed both roles as it allowed me to gain insight into the routines of a healthy church. I emphasize healthy because that is what St. Mark's is, healthy. It is a joy to work with dedicated and invested members of St. Mark's.

Rob McTier

I began attending St. Mark's in 1992 when Douglas and I lived on the Boulevard. We were involved with Richmond AIDS Ministry at the time, and several of our friends from that ministry attended St. Mark's at the time. Douglas and I were readily welcomed into the community, and I was singing in the choir even before I became a member. Over the years I've served on vestry several times. In addition to the choir, I am currently a member of the personnel committee.



In my experience, transitions have been times of great growth at St. Mark's. I look forward to the opportunity to be involved in this exciting time.

I work at the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). As a member of the information technology leadership team, we build computer systems that match

organ donors with patients in need of transplant in the United States. Douglas and I live just south of the Nickel Bridge with our two beagles, George and Gracie.

Margaret “Mickie” Jones

I am a lifetime Episcopalian, baptized at All Saints, and confirmed at St. Barnabas in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. I have been a member of St. Mark’s for more than 20 years.

I have been active in many ministries at St. Mark’s, including Christian Education, Reading Stars, outreach, choir, finance, and always Parish Life. I was invited to join when I first came to St. Mark’s and enjoyed the comradery in the kitchen, sharing the gift of hospitality, and just generally serving friends, family and neighbors. I also have been active in the Central Richmond Region of the Diocese, serving as a past president and now as our representative to the Executive Board of the Diocese.

I am a proud graduate of Virginia Tech (Go Hokies!) with a degree in Building Construction from the College of Architecture. I am currently employed as the Director of Architectural & Engineering Services for the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. I am honored to do what I can to improve the treatment environment for patients served in the state acute behavioral health facilities.

St. Mark’s has been an integral part of my life, as well as that of my daughter and granddaughter. We have been challenged to be more faithful and caring, and to understand the meaning of servant ministry. One of the beautiful things about St. Mark’s is that it is always evolving – new challenges present new opportunities for outreach, learning and service. I am looking forward to the upcoming changes and am excited to be a part of this Parish and to see where God is taking us.



Vestry members serve a three-year team. Each member also serves on at least one ministry team of the congregation and reports on activities and needs of the teams to the full Vestry. Vestry meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6pm, and during its annual retreat in early February. The 2022 Vestry Retreat is February 4 & 5 via Zoom & In-person.

From Our Priest Associates: Revs. Sarah Kye Price & Dorothy White

When I look back at 2021, I am stunned and amazed at the growth of ministry that we have experienced. We began 2021 still in “lockdown” mode, with Zoom church and prayers on the porch. We were awaiting vaccines, and we had moved through almost a whole year without being together in our church space. It feels like so long ago now, but it was last Palm Sunday when Buck stood outside, blessing the palms on the front porch while Dorothy held up her phone to “broadcast” and I sat at my laptop in the parish office, spotlighting them on Zoom as we shouted a virtual “Hosanna!” together so you all could stop by after worship. That was our first iteration of hybrid ministry, and more was soon to follow! From those front steps, we begin regathering in small groups for Holy Communion during Easter. I will always fondly remember the joy of resuming our weekly celebrations of Holy Eucharist. We have continued taking small, safe steps back into the use of the building and resuming regular patterns of worship together at 10:30. Now, we are a whole community, able to gather together in person and by Zoom. Then, in September, we said good-bye to Fr. David in his retirement. Since that time, I’ve been pastorally shepherding our liturgy and worship together as he asked me to do.



I begin my report with amazement about how far we have come in what really is a short time. It’s been my primary service (and joy and delight) to walk with you all through the changes and chances of our common life, inviting us to the table where we live into our sacramental life together week after week as the Body of Christ. I know that I could not have made it through the highs and lows of this year without the sustenance, renewal and transformation of our worship together. Much of my prayerful time apart from Sunday Morning Worship has been spent thinking about ways to safely live into liturgy and worship together (always looking one step forward to the “next steps”), preparing to preach and planning and organizing our worship together with Malinda, Buck, Dorothy and Amos. Additionally, I lead our weekly Thursday Evening Compline via Zoom; I am present at our Food Pantry as often as I can be and supervised our social work intern (Mattison) through her graduation in May. I served as the clergy member of the Minister of Music search committee and since that time have had the joy of working collaboratively on both weekly worship and our special services (e.g. All Saints/All Sing; Lessons and Carols; Epiphany Compline) together with Amos who brings his many gifts into ministry. I’ve also celebrated weddings, conducted funerals and welcomed new members to the Body of Christ through Holy Baptism (including the mighty five baptism Sunday!), reminding us of our common life together in Christ, as we live into that in our St. Mark’s family.

It's been an incredible journey as your Priest Associate, and it is bittersweet to step away into the new opportunity that God has called me to this year in my visiting professorship with CDSP. I'm grateful to the Vestry at St. Mark's for allowing my work with St. Phoebe School to remain housed in your midst. This "parallel orbit" of remaining onsite but in a diocesan-wide ministry keeps me grounded, even during this time when I will not be serving directly with you all. Know that I am always praying for you. Even as I prepare to head to the West Coast, I am praying as you take the next steps in your transition. Most of all, I am filled with deep gratitude and love for you all. I cannot wait to see your ministries continuing to unfold, emerging step by step.

Grace and Peace, *Sarah*

Dear St. Mark's family,

I served the year 2021 through preaching, teaching, and planning for the calendar year. As we continued dealing with the effects of a global pandemic, online book studies became the best way to share and serve. With Malinda's help and guidance, we explored ways to reach our teens without much success due to their necessary time on Zoom and clashes with after school/weekend commitments. Once we are in person on a consistent basis in 2022, we have plans to work with teens from St. Mark's and St. Peter's in joint activities. As those who know that a



church is only as strong as the relationships among the people, we not only hope to strengthen the relationships among the teens within our churches but also between our churches.

Gratitude that will never be fully expressed is that I offer to STM's for the things that I continue to learn because I came your way. May the God whose grace we know to be amazing continue to allow St. Mark's to be a life-affirming home of grace and love.

In Christ, *Dorothy+*

Ministry Reports

Education and Formation:

Continuing to keep it going during the pandemic:

By necessity, we continued our efforts on Zoom-based programs, some in-person, and faith-at-home materials. Faith at home materials were distributed by pick-up at church, by personal delivery or mailed to homes. The kits helped families to engage on their own time and in their own space with seasonal stories.

Childrens' Worship continued via Zoom and in-person returned in October. A blessing of this on-line time is the ability for Bill Crowder to once again be an active part of children and youth ministry. He has been with us throughout this time and my plan is to keep him zoomed in as long as he wants to participate!

We hosted an in-person St. Francis Fun & Learning Day taking advantage of the good weather to be outside for our activities. Our Family Christmas Eve service returned with a safely masked and distanced Pageant.

Our zoomed-out youth gathered for some outside fun and fellowship. "SnackChat" continues this year on the 4th Sunday of the month. A province-wide social justice program schedule for October has been rescheduled for April 2022 and we hope to do some service/learning with a nearby Rosenwald School preservation project.

The Wednesday AM Bible Study reconvened via zoom in September resumed an in-person gathering. Buck's Bible study resumed in-person in September as well. Community Reads led by Dorothy White engaged us in some very interesting race and racial justice study which continues in partnership with St. Peter's this year. The Young Adults Discussion group led by Ryn Kennedy continued to meet throughout the summer. The OnBeing discussion group continues on third Fridays at 12:15pm.

Our wonderful Lenten Series led by Rev. Sarah and Dale Smith on the Psalms was well received and no matter that it was on Zoom offered opportunity for interactive learning.

Malinda Collier with Beth Wentworth & Karen Franklin, co-chairs

Evangelism:

Adapting our Tools!

While 2021 was a challenging year as COVID continued to impact our time together, we found

ways to re-gather in limited yet safe fashions, hone our digital skills and achieve meaningful worship, ministry and fellowship experiences! As a congregation, our creativity and joy in serving God were evident. Even our neighbors could see it. That's the visibility part of Evangelism!

In 2021, one of our greatest assets was our Porch! Our Porch Events Series had been building in the years prior to COVID, and while we took a break from that to remain at home in 2020, as vaccines became more available and folks could mask up, we were able to safely be outside on the Porch for a variety of activities in 2021. We kicked off our 2021 Porch Events with *Prayers and Palms on the Porch* for Palm Sunday in March, followed by the *Flowering of the Cross* on Easter in April. As we stood on our core value of "We Love Our Faith", the neighborhood and passersby could see that we were celebrating safely while extending the opportunity to join us. The Spring continued with the offering of *Holy Communion on the Porch* (bread only) on Saturdays and Sundays into the summer. With our return to church on September 12th, our Porch became the weekly host for *Sunday Coffee Hour*. The weather was superb, the offerings were plentiful yet individually packaged and we learned to lovingly keep socially distanced! Some favorite events returned with *The Blessing of the Animals* and *Boo Halloween Fun on the Porch* in October. In November, we gathered for *Marathon Cheers on the Porch* while we clapped and rang the cow bell as one of our own parishioners powered by in mile 18 of the Richmond Marathon. December didn't find us with a special event on the porch, but the Floral Guild did an especially outstanding job of dressing up the front façade with trees, wreaths and lights for Advent and Christmas. With the elevation of our building, the neighborhood enjoyed a beautiful nightly view during the holiday season. Visual elements are a key component of Evangelism.

Over the year, we had wonderful additions to our digital spaces! Recognizing the growing importance of meeting and greeting people where they are online, the Alter Guild Team was formed in 2021! This ministry team of online greeters and in-church digital hosts assures that folks on ZOOM connect with our in-person services while inviting the folks at church to experience fellowship with our online participants. Our new ZOOM BO tron monitor is in the pews at St. Mark's, ready to connect folks at home with folks at church.

Our Music Ministry Team and Choir created sounds and events for us to experience together on ZOOM or view later as recorded material on our website. The musical offerings of *The Spire Choir*, *Christmas Eve*, *Lessons & Carols* and *All Saints All Sing* are recordings that are available for our St. Mark's parishioners to enjoy along with our friends and neighbors who visit the website when looking online for a preview of our programs!

Thank you for your help in creating content for our digital platforms in 2021. Through your

ongoing ministry work at church or off-site, the sharing of your personal successes, marriages, baptisms, growing families, your activism and advocacy for God’s people, your prayer requests and even pictures of your beloved pets, YOU provided points of connection for us and ways for us to rejoice with each other. Remember, “liking and sharing” are easy ways to spread the word – Evangelism.

A powerful Evangelism tool is signage! In 2021, we updated our permanent street sign with fresh paint and service information and we hung new colorful branded banners. However, by far the biggest sign of our faith in the future of St. Mark’s was the successful completion of our roof replacement project. Surrounding the church with scaffolding invited conversation. That’s a good thing! With careful planning and consideration of our neighbors, our Property Team hosted the roofers for their careful removal of the old roofing materials, repair of the structure where necessary and the installation of our new slate roof, ice and snow guards, copper gutters and downspouts. Our new roof is a clear sign that St. Mark’s is dedicated to continuing to do God’s work for the next 100 years! Let’s hope our neighbors are talking about us. That’s Evangelism!

Evangelism is about spreading the word. We did that in 2021 with our kind deeds of outreach, our invitations to join us for worship, fellowship, ministry and education whether online or safely at the church and through our outward signs of faith in our future. We all served as Evangelists! Thanks be to God for the opportunities we had to share the Good News in 2021.
Suzanne Long, Chair

Justice & Advocacy:

The Justice and Advocacy Ministry began to define the difference between outreach and activism, and to discover and coordinate ways in which members of the St Mark’s community might take “bringing the kingdom” out into our secular world. The Ministry was still in the early organizational stages of determining how to proceed when the Covid Mess began in 2020. In this past year, many of our parishioners have continued to support racial justice issues we first explored during our 150th celebration in a variety of ways, through peaceful protest and by working in the system to provide information on early voting and voters’ rights, among other efforts. We would like to expand and further define areas where we—as individuals as well as possibly the community as a whole—might bring our Christian response to our neighborhood and the world. Should you have an interest in helping with this Ministry, or simply have suggestions for ways we might engage in a particular area, please contact Penny Adams (NBFGinc@aol.com).

Penny Adams, Chair

Outreach:

In 2021 Outreach continued our missions always looking for creative ways to help our neighbors in need. Unfortunately some long term missions such as the 12-Step Recovery Program and McGuire Hospital Ice Cream Socials remained suspended due to the coronavirus. We look forward to resuming these programs when conditions improve.

But other missions continued. The twice monthly Saturday morning Food Pantry kept rolling along. While the hot meal program remained postponed, we handed out bags of groceries and other essentials (winter hats, gloves, hygiene kits, protective equipment, pet food, and so on..) to our neighbors in need. We also gave out a lunch to go with a tasty sandwich, chips, cookies, fruit and drink. Of course, we also spend a few minutes chatting and checking in with our guests. Karen Franklin leads our food pantry mission, and Mickie Jones and Mandy Cline provide lunches-to-go for the first distribution each month. Volunteers sign up online to provide lunches for the second distribution. It's an easy and efficient process. Please sign up or contact Karen if you would like to help out with this ministry.

In 2021, through Suzanne Long's leadership we maintained close ties with CARITAS. Our CARITAS mission opportunities continued to change and evolve as they responded to COVID and began initiating new programs at their new facility in Southside. This impressive facility houses an emergency shelter and 160 beds for women enrolled in the Healing Place for Women, a substance abuse recovery program. It also has 47 fully furnished sober-living apartments for people transitioning from the substance abuse recovery. They also store a large inventory of furniture for donation or sale to low-income households. Please keep the CARITAS furniture bank in mind if you are ever disposing of nice used furniture. They would love to have your items.

In the Spring we participated in the CARITAS "Kits" program, putting together more than 100 men's and women's toiletry kits containing items donated by our congregation. We also donated ten \$25 gift cards. Many thanks to all who donated items or funds for this ministry, and to those who arranged and packaged the kits and delivered the finished kits to CARITAS. We also catered a number of CARITAS events, classes, meetings and mock interview sessions. We prepared and delivered 3 lunches and 2 dinners for events ranging from 20 to 55 guests. Sometimes the request was just for packed lunches, but other lunches and dinners consisted of large platters of lasagna or fried chicken; sides of mac & cheese, baked beans, coleslaw; home made salads and rolls; desserts of home made cakes, brownies and other goodies; gallons of ice tea or other drinks. In 2022 our calls for service with CARITAS will continue to grow and change. We will keep in close contact with them to provide support during the remainder of the virus outbreak and ongoing in their new facility. You can always follow this ministry through church emails and Facebook.

Over the summer we again collected school supplies for Anna Julia Cooper school. In September we delivered a carload of pencils, markers and other helpful items for the students.

We've just finished the annual Christmas Gifts Program. Each year we receive a list of needy elderly residents of City District 8 in Southside. Many live alone and have no families in the area. Each person give us a list of items that would be helpful to them. They ask for simple things: winter clothes, jackets, socks, shoes, sheets, towels, blankets and other necessities of life. Our gifts provide them with useful items and a bit of cheer for the holidays. This year we provided gifts to 51 Southside neighbors. Your generosity included a rocking chair, microwave, walker, many sets of cookware, and countless other items. We also donated a kid's BMX bike and wheelchair on top of the requested items. Santa's sleigh picked up your gifts in mid-December and they were distributed over the holidays.

As part of our Christmas project this year we collected funds to help the Carr family whose Southside home was burglarized and heavily damaged by fire in September. The Carr's have owned a small business in Southside for more than 50 years. They assist in distribution of our annual Christmas gifts to elderly residents. Your donations provided more than \$1,000 in gift cards to help them clean and repair damage to their home. Our help is a small measure considering their needs, but was greatly appreciated. Thanks to the generosity of the community they will soon be able to move back home.

It's nice to report that even in this time of restricted contact, thanks to our congregation's generosity of time and talents, we have continued to help our neighbors in need. We encourage everyone to join our missions in 2022!

Ed Street, Chair

Parish Life/Fellowship:

The Parish Life/Fellowship team reimagined its ministry minus the kitchen! Missing our Coffee Hour goodies, we did a summer's worth of "Shutdown Chef" recipes—sharing our favorites with each other. And they teamed up with Pastoral Care to provide home-baked breads as a holiday reminder of this communities' love. They even gave us a parish dinner—providing an opportunity for food and fellowship so enjoyed by this church. Parish Life is always looking for additional members. Long- or short-term commitments will do. If you don't want to be a regular Parish Life team member, we can always use help on a per-event basis. Please let one of the co-chairs know if you are interested. We are always appreciative of any help!

Mickie Jones & Mandy Cline, co-chairs

Pastoral Care:

Pastoral Care has kept its sea legs as we navigated yet another unique year. During 2021, Pastoral Care has continued to support our parishioners in safe and creative ways, always adhering to safety protocols.

Pastoral Care continued to make our parishioners feel connected to the church even with limited in-person opportunities. Many cards of love and encouragement were sent by dedicated ministry team members. We engaged in creating care packages that were delivered or mailed to our homebound parishioners. We worked especially hard at keeping our distanced worshipers connected by the mailing of special "love packages" through our partnership with Parish Life Ministry.

As always Pastoral Care continued to practice discreet and respectful confidentiality.

We continue to welcome new members and explore new ways to live out our goals outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Karen Franklin, Chair

Property: Our Church Property is now 100 Years old:

Our Church Property in 2021:

Taking care of some of the daily, weekly or monthly 'day-to-day' items in 2021 was not as prevalent due to the diminished use of our building over the last year until we started limited Church services in the Fall of 2021.

Here is a list of a few items we accomplished over the last year – in 2021:

Our CHURCH ROOF – Removal and Replacement:

We were blessed and fortunate enough to obtain a Loan Approval from the Diocesan Missionary Society (DMS) in 2021 to have the necessary funds available to remove and replace our existing Slate Roof. We had been planning, preparing and performing all of the behind the scenes work for a few years prior to obtaining both the funds and approval to proceed. The final finished product was worth both the wait as well as the required upfront work.

Our Church Property in 2021 - continued:

EXTERIOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:

As for visibility, Malinda helped take care of our exterior grounds over the last year. She had our exterior St. Mark's Sign Board refurbished along with a fresh coat of paint. Malinda also replaced our front banners with new St. Mark's banners welcoming everyone back to Church for the Fall of 2021.

Our CHURCH PARKING LOT as an asset:

In spite of the pandemic, we are still trying to generate some income to help pay for our Slate Roof removal and replacement. We have continued our agreement to outsource the marketing and management of our parking lot. City Parking is continuing to market and manage our larger parking lot area, which does not include our smaller “Church Office” parking lot.

Our underlying goal is to provide our parking lot as an asset as well as a resource to our surrounding neighbors and community at a “market rate” rental amount. City Parking started the rental and management of our parking lot in March 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and shutdowns of gatherings and restaurants started.

Our hope was to allow others to utilize our existing Parking Lot to generate parking lot income to effectively help our ability to borrow the money needed to remove and replace our Slate Roof.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we do not have any real history of what the real market demand and income will be from our Parking Lot. Therefore, this potential income is currently yet to be determined. Overall, once the pandemic situation has become much more stabilized, and people start attending major public events such as:

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts – outdoor events in the gardens on Friday nights used to be very well attended and crowded,
Shamrock the Block,
Easter on Parade,
Octoberfest in the Parking lot of the former Benedictine School, now Cristo Rey – Richmond High School.

In the meantime, City Parking was very helpful in us being able to Rent our Parking Lot to the Virginia Film Office by attracting a couple of major productions that were being filmed in Richmond. This was great income and even better exposure for St. Mark’s in serving our neighborhood.

In addition, we were also able to Lease Fifty (50) Parking Spaces (out of 70 Spaces) in our main parking lot to help facilitate the major Sitework and Building Renovation project at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. This Lease started in February 2021 and was completed in July 2021 as we were starting our Slate Roof Removal & Replacement project. This Lease generated \$ 1,667 in monthly income for St. Mark’s every month for 6 months (February through July 2021).

Once things get back to normal it might take a few months for people to take note of, as well as the realize the benefit of utilizing our parking lot for short term as well as their potentially long- term needs. If the demand for parking in our lot eventually gets to a point of being strong, it will help us with our planning and reliance of better income over a period of time in the future.

Property work we hope to accomplish in the Future:

Storm Drainage / Underground Roof Drainage Storm Water piping clean-out and final copper downspout connections once the underground lines are cleaned-out:

During both the Winter as well as early Spring of 2022 we will be working on the Underground Storm Water Utility lines. We will be bringing in the proper equipment to flush and clean-out all the rubbish / trash / debris collected over the past decades which is preventing our underground storm lines from draining effectively. Once the water blockage work has been mitigated and completed, we will make the final connections and provisions to install the remaining copper downspouts for proper drainage.

Repairs and re-painting of our: NARTHEX, SANTUARY, CHANCEL & ALTAR - Walls & Ceilings:

We still need to wait at least 12 months after our New Slate Roof has been completed to allow the moisture to stabilize and dry out by not having a roof that leaks moisture into our walls and ceilings prior to proceeding with any interior work.

To effectively perform the needed Interior work we will also need to have enough financial resources to be able to afford and pay for the work our Church wants to accomplish on the Interior. Just like on our recent Roof Replacement project, I am sure we want to make sure we are mindful to make sure this work is performed thoughtfully and correctly. That way whatever interior work we decide to accomplish, the new work will serve us well for the next 30 years or more.

Brent Graves, Chair

Stewardship:

Though St. Mark's certainly has some particularly generous parishioners, our church is dependent upon the breadth of the pledge base rather than the depth of individual pockets. Several years ago the Stewardship Team decided to underscore this reality by not publicizing the financial goal, only announcing the number of pledges we hoped to receive. Our aim was and is to affirm that, at St. Mark's, all pledges are valued. The amount of the pledge is less im-

portant than the fact of the pledge—the pledge as sign, the pledge as tangible commitment to our common life and work, in Christ.

It continues to be the Team’s belief that a broad enough pledge response will naturally lead to a successful campaign, which has again proved to be the case. In homilies and postings we have underscored our long-term stewardship goal: to create a balanced budget without drawing down the church’s investment account. We hoped to raise at least \$328,000 for the 2022 fiscal year and exceeded that goal by \$27,000, bringing us significantly closer to our multi-year goal, and doing so during a most challenging period. It is important to remember that the larger the portion of the budget that can be funded by pledge and plate, the smaller the draw on the investment account—and the more secure our financial future will be.

Howard Pugh, Chair

Worship:

The Worship Ministry Team meetings continued to be suspended throughout 2021 per the recommendation of the Rector in light of the COVID 19 pandemic. None the less, the work of the ministry continued and even more importantly, worship continued at St. Mark’s. We were able to gather virtually on Sunday mornings for fellowship, worship, and “coffee hour,” Thursday evening Compline, and Daily Morning Prayer with St Phoebe’s School. We were delighted when declining COVID numbers allowed us to come in small numbers to the church and share in Eucharist on the front porch or in the narthex. And, we were happier still when the decision was made that, with restrictions about numbers, seating, contact, and masking, we were able to return to in person worship at the church with a virtual option still available to those who were more comfortable staying home as well as those who live far away.

Members of the team continued to be actively engaged in the ministry of the church throughout the year, whether it was serving on the search committee for the new Minister of Music, proof reading bulletins, or conferring with the rector. We happily welcomed the newest member of the staff, Amos Goldie to the parish and to the ministry team and we look forward to working with him in the coming year. We gathered virtually in December 2021 to touch base and to begin planning for the period of transition that 2022 will bring. We anticipate working with our Interim, engaging in study together, and providing prayerful input into what worship looks like moving forward in the coming months at St. Mark’s.

Karen Hardsion, Chair

Altar & Floral Guild:

Beginning immediately after Easter, the altar and floral guilds returned to active service. First with preparing Sunday noon Eucharists on the portico and inside the church. This followed in September by the return to nave for the combined in person and zoom services. The floral decorations support a return to normalcy in worship.

The active ministry of Sunday altar flowers not only support our worship experience, but these arrangements are available for delivery post service to family and friends. This weekly ministry expands to include the grand expression of interior and exterior Advent and Christmas decorations of greenery, lights, trees, wreaths, nativity and more. 16 smaller arrangements were taken to family and friends following Christmas Eve and Day. Many thanks to Richard Yuk for constructing our nativity display platform.

We now have 11 active altar guild members, 5 floral guild and others who help during big festive times. Over Advent, Christmas to the Epiphany the guilds gave over 60 hours of service.

Please consider joining these ministries. During ordinary times each requires about an hour once a month. You'll be mentored and work alongside an experienced person.

Please contact Malinda or Sanford Eberly, Altar Guild Chair or Pam Piercy, Floral Guild Chair, if interested.

Sanford Eberly, Chair

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
155th Annual Meeting Minutes
January 31,2021

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 12:02 PM

There were 48 participants present

A quorum was declared by the Register, Karen Franklin

Opening Prayer

The opening Prayer was led by the Rector

Minutes of 155th Annual Meeting

The annual minutes of January 2020 minutes are filed in the office and are available for review.

Penny Adams motioned and Bill Crowder seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Election of New Vestry Members

Rules of election were explained

The off-going vestry were appointed as tellers

The three candidates were presented; Don Keyser, Jamie Francis and Shannon Heady; their biographies were published in the bulletin.

There were no nominations from the floor.

Three new Vestry were elected

Congregation voted to keep Karen Franklin as Register, Suzanne Long as Treasurer

Business Meeting

Suzanne Long, Treasurer acknowledged all the support from the various ministry teams.

Suzanne presented the budget overview and a written report, highlighting the tremendous effort made in wiping out the 2020 budget deficit. 100 pledges have been promised.

Written reports from the Ministry Team Chairs that had been submitted prior to the publication of the Order of the Annual Meeting bulletin and were included in the bulletin for the meeting. Stewardship Report thanking the parishioners for meeting the challenge of 100 pledges. Currently more than \$340,000 has been raised through annual pledges.

Rector's Report: Fr. Niemeyer encouraged parishioners to read the Rector's Report in the

bulletin. Fr. Niemeyer offered special thanks to all who contribute to the church through the various ministries. Appreciation was also expressed to the Vestry, especially the outgoing members, Nancy Munson, Denis Riva and Patrick McDuff. Appreciation for the commitment of the staff of St. Mark's. Fr. Niemeyer expressed gratitude and honor for serving the parishioners of St. Mark's.

Questions

There were no questions from the floor

Close of Meeting

Fr. David led the closing prayer

Meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM

Karen Franklin, Register



Vestry Ballot Process

For voting purposes it will be helpful to have a paper and pencil handy to write down the code.

And only one person can vote on a device, i.e. if you log in together on one computer only one of you can vote on that computer so if you have a smart phone or tablet the second member of the household should use it.

Ivy Burnes, Sanford Eberly and Tamara Orr will serve as our vote proctors with Rev. Sarah Kye Price managing the on-line link.



St Mark's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

love is our tradition