

love is our tradition



St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting January 29, 2023

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
157th Annual Meeting
January 29, 2023

Agenda

Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting minutes

Election of New Vestry Members

Recognition of outgoing members: Jeff Dussault, Ryn Kennedy,
Isabel Tucker

Rules for the Election/Affirmation

Presentation of the Candidates

Nominations from the floor

Business Meeting:

Treasurer's Report

Interim Rector's Report

Warden's Report

Closing Prayer

Dear St. Mark's Family,

In November of this past year, the diocese announced an auction of selected paintings by our beloved former Bishop Susan to benefit the Racial Justice and Healing initiatives in the diocese of Virginia. Long a fan of Bishop Susan's exuberant creative expressions, I went online to see what I might be able to acquire. As I scrolled through the works, one particular set of pieces struck me - not as an acquisition for me or my office but for you - the people of St. Mark's.

The pieces, entitled Aunt Anne's Crochet, embody all that I have found intriguing and nourishing during my time as your interim rector. Bishop Susan took crocheted doilies - quite traditional and quaint, mounted them to canvas and festooned the canvas with embroidery, beads and a rainbow of color. The end result is something decidedly old from a bygone era and made it new again - not only new, but vibrant and lively and a little irreverent. It simply screams "Love is our Tradition" and all that that tagline implies.

I came to you all a little less than a year ago with an agreement that I would serve as your interim Rector for a period on one year, with the understanding that I would stay with you as your vestry and search committee did the work to call your next rector. St. Mark's was not new to me. In my seminary years with St. Andrew's, Malinda and I worked together on a youth ministry project and over the years, I had called on Malinda many times to facilitate the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training in various parishes and for our North Richmond Region where I served as dean. David Niemeyer is a friend and trusted colleague. Like you I was saddened by his retirement.

I saw my time here with you as your pastor in this liminal space where I might ease your anxieties coming out of Covid, to be a healing presence and ease the transition. Along the way, as we have reentered the endemic period of Covid, we have reestablished some of the old traditions and brought new ministry opportunities along the way. We have installed a Lay Eucharistic Visitors Team, a wonderful Advent Retreat (and another opportunity upcoming in Lent) with Douglas

D'urso, begun the formational work with a Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle and reimagining our Lenten Practices with Dinner Church and Ashes on AA Boulevard.

As this interim time comes to a close, St. Mark's move into the good work of the transition to all that comes next with your new rector. With the Vestry's support, I have appointed a terrific Transition Team of offer support to your new rector and leadership, with two representatives each from Vestry, the Search Committee, and the congregation at large: Jeanine Maruca, Mary Clark, Ed Street, Elizabeth Kyser, Shannon Heady and Rob McTier. Their first task will be to compile a Welcome Book for your new rector. You will be invited to share a picture of yourself and your family unit, as well as a little bit about you and your hopes for St. Mark's and your shared ministry. Later this spring, there will be multiple opportunities to gather and get to know your rector better, *and* for them to get to know you.

It has been a busy year – but never too busy for the Christ centered mutual care and relationships so vital in parish ministry – interim time or not. Your Ministry Teams are a vital contributor. They along with the Vestry, Leadership Teams and staff, Buck, Malinda and Steve make ministry happen. Thank you, please know that I am grateful for all the lessons and love of this place. Also know that I am holding you all in prayer during this tender time and I hope that you will pray for me.

I was able to bid and “win” one of the pair of Aunt Anne's Crochet by Bishop Susan Goff and it is my gift to you. I hope that you enjoy it and you remember our time together fondly.

In Christ's Love,

Judy+

Vestry Candidates

Scott Pennington

I accept the opportunity to serve on the vestry of St Marks. Over my 10 years of being a member at St Marks, I have been asked prior to serve; however, I never felt the timing was inline with my parenting, work, and grad school duties. With much thought and prayer, I feel that I am at a point in my life that allows me to fully committee and contribute to the leadership and to give back to all the amazing people at St Marks. Feild and I found St Marks in the winter of 2012 in the midst of many life changes for me. A recent separation and acceptance of my sexuality had me regrouping and searching for a new spiritual home. From the moments we walked in the front doors, I felt welcomed and drawn by God. Having a church family to grow with and get to know over 10 years has been a vital part of my grounding and acceptance of our new life direction. Field and I have served on the greeter panel and have enjoyed getting to welcome newcomers for many years. This has allowed us to help make others feel welcomed just as we did on our first visits. I was raised in St. Luke's Episcopal in Blackstone, Virginia, where I was able to grow up around love and support. This foundation helped give me the confidence and knowledge for my spiritual life. I always wanted this same opportunity for Feild and it has been amazing seeing him grow up around such strength of our fellow members. Seeing my parents in leadership roles in my youth and seeing them use their talents to contribute to the congregation was a powerful example and I am honored to get the same opportunity.



Paul Shane

After moving to Richmond in the spring of 2015, I found myself church shopping and was overwhelmed with the number of Episcopal churches to choose from. I tested the waters with a few but didn't feel that I had found home until I stepped into St. Mark's. The welcome, the message, and the love felt, I knew I had found the church for me and my per-

sonal journey.

A military brat, born at Shaw Airforce base, SC, we moved to Germany when I was 8, and then to England at the age of 10. Growing up in a horse racing town called Newmarket, where my mother was born, just outside of Cambridge, and where my parents originally met when my dad was stationed in the UK. We were active members at our local church (All Saints, Newmarket – Church of England) including being an active member of the choir.

We moved back to the US in 1988, where we lived in MD, then VA. I was offered an opportunity to move to Atlanta, GA in 1991 and remained there for 23 years, until I returned to Williamsburg, VA in the fall of 2014 and Richmond the following Spring.

I may be a familiar face to you, as I have been serving on the worship ministry team and an active Verger since 2017.

My background and degree are in Hospitality, but from there I ventured into various information technology organizations, but ultimately ending up in the staffing industry, where I have been with ManpowerGroup for the past 10 years.

I reside in Woodland Heights near Forest Hill Park just south of the river and enjoy home improvements on my 100-year-old home, cooking, music, bowling, and most of all, my rescue Rat Terrier, Maxine.

I welcome your consideration to becoming a member of the St. Mark's vestry family and being able to provide service to our church and community.

Blair McDuff

My husband, Patrick, and I started attending St. Mark's in 2007, at the recommendation of Wes Kaufman. St. Mark's welcomed us with an open heart and arms, so much so that I was baptized in the church in 2009. Shortly thereafter we moved to Virginia Beach for several years and had our first two children, Grace (10 years old) and Thomas (8 years old). During that time we attended St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Norfolk. In 2015, we returned to Richmond and began attending St. Mark's again. Our third child, Miller (3 years old) was baptized at St. Mark's on Easter in



2022. Blair is grateful for all of the support St. Mark's has provided for her and her family over the years and is eager to serve as needed.

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 .

Ministry Reports

Education and Formation:

Coming out of Covid! 2022 programs were a hybrid of on-line and in-person with more in-person groups returning to the schedule.

Children's Worship continues to incorporate Zoom which allows for Bill Crowder to zoom in from Mexico and children from their homes. We hosted an in-person Vacation Bible School and Advent Fun & Learning Day. Our Family Christmas Eve service continues to be a St. Mark's favorite and we had 15 children take part this year.

The Wednesday AM Bible Study and Buck's Bible study continue weekly. Community Reads now led by Malinda Collier and Karen Franklin resumed in the fall sharing discussion with members of St. Peter's. The Young Adults Discussion group led by Ryn Kennedy continues to meet and Ryn with MK Craver is expanding to take on Youth Ministry. The OnBeing discussion group—now Interbeing—continues on third Fridays at 12:15pm. Women Rowing North resumed in October.

Our Zoomed Lenten Series led by Malinda Collier on *The Last Week* had a small but loyal attendance. The in-person Advent Series had a sustained attendance of 25 + all engaged in the discussion of Mary In and Out of the Gospels.

Rev. Judy started a Sacred Ground group bringing this wonderful discussion on race to our church. *Malinda Collier with Beth Wentworth & Karen Franklin, co-chairs*

Evangelism:

The Old + New Combo.

As a congregation in 2022, remaining safety-conscious while continuing to adapt our worship, fellowship and meeting models, we were all sharing (in various ways and forms) the message of our faith. Sharing is at the heart of Evangelism.

In 2022, the Evangelism Team sent invitations to our families, friends, neighbors and even passersby to participate in the joy of worship and ministry at St. Mark's. In the form of digital invitations, we posted organic, created and curated content to our Facebook pages, Instagram account and website encouraging folks to join us in-person, on ZOOM, or otherwise engage with us through a Like, Share, Comment or other Emoji. We increased the number of users posting content to our social media platforms! What a treat it has been to "slow our scroll" to enjoy their shared uplifting words, comforting prayers and Episcopal Church memes! In other forms of invitation, our sandwich board was out for street appearances in 2022 inspiring our neighbors to drop by the porch for Boo Halloween Fun, Race Day Marathon Cheers, or come inside for Christmas Eve Services and Christmas Day Service. Our website received ongoing updates to our parish calendar, photo albums, upcoming events and transition/search process as examples of keeping folks informed and offering opportunities for participation.

You may not really think about the impact of our Sunday bulletin, but it's a clear sign of evangelism and the efforts of the parish to provide tools for inclusion in our service. Having "it all" in one place (the readings, the prayers, the day's hymn selections, the community news along with sections explaining the significance of our service elements) presents its challenges in construction at times. Performing the acrobatics of achieving accurate spacing and placement were worth the outcome as we re-gathered more fully from COVID. Our Sunday bulletin format wasn't new for 2022, but again it proved to be a best practice and invitation for incorporating newcomers into the Sunday service flow at St. Mark's.

If you are subscribed to our E-communications, you know how wonderful they are. If you are not receiving them, you should be! Tuesday and Thursday emails

offer community news, ministry opportunities and the “Sunday lineup”. Wednesday’s words are most often a reflection from Malinda and periodically include an ICYMI link (in case you missed it) to the recorded Sunday sermon. Friday’s 4PM Worship with Us email sends ZOOM and Sunday bulletin links complete with everything you need for joining us in worship online. Ready to subscribe? Visit stmarksrva.org for eNewsletter Signup! The bottom line is, folks are always (in all ways) invited to join us at St. Mark’s.

We often hear that we’re a welcoming congregation. That seems to come naturally for us and with that characteristic we are truly blessed. Another underpinning component of our welcome is the valuable work of the Ushers and Greeters. Arriving to church as a long-time parishioner or a visitor to be met with a smile, a warm salutation and the words, “We’re glad you’re here” from our ushers just feels good! During our Peace and after service, our greeters introduce themselves to newcomers, make initial connections and assure visitors that a delicious spread of sweet and savory items awaits their arrival – if they choose to venture downstairs – at Coffee Hour immediately following the service. The work of our greeter teams is critical in the overall success of our welcome. In 2022, with the easing of COVID restrictions and a real itching to get back to work, our greeter teams returned to ministry! While some teams retired during the COVID hiatus, we are happy to report that we had a waiting list of participants eager to join the Usher and Greeter ministries.

Thanks be to God! No Evangelism Ministry year-in-review would be complete without sending a shout-out to our ZOOM hosts online and in the church. Weekly, our hosts maneuver the camera and sound settings for optimal viewing while engaging with online participants via chat and open microphone. To support the work of our digital hosts, we improved some ZOOM infrastructure components to increase platform stability and sound quality in late 2022. We’ve already received favorable feedback on those upgrades!

Coffee Hours make good things happen. Aside from providing an array of yum-num-nums, often sufficient as a substitute for lunch, Coffee Hours provide space for parishioners to sit together, catch up on life, read a table topper that

highlights the work of a church ministry or upcoming event or even attend a Fair! In 2022, though we enjoyed the fresh, sometimes crisp, sometimes breezy air of the Coffee Hour on the Porch for health safety reasons, we were thrilled for the weekly event to return to the Parish Hall in the fall. When it did, it came with fanfare – including a successful Ministry Fair complete with a photo booth for selfies or group pictures. Coffee Hours are a treasured time for finding or enhancing connections with newcomers or old friends. We furthered our opportunities for deeper connections in 2022 with the creation of our Sunday Forums. The Sunday Forum model is a listen-and-learn or seek-and-share format in the relaxed atmosphere of the Aiken Lounge. In October 2022, we heard from our Social Justice and Advocacy Ministry on the topic of Sanctuary Church. What does it mean and what can it mean for St. Mark’s? Parishioner Amy Strite (Executive Director) of Senior Connections brought resources for aging well and supporting older adults and their caregivers in our November Forum. December found us out of the lounge enjoying an Advent Retreat at VMFA instead. As a group, we strolled the galleries, stopping to review selected works accompanied by quiet contemplation and readings led by Rev. Judy and Douglas. We were a group of 25 parishioners and friends of St. Mark’s in the galleries of VMFA. Consider the Evangelism component on that one! We are excited to continue our Sunday Forums in 2023.

Sharing can lead to collaborating. Collaboration is just what Evangelism is hoping to achieve with the ministries of St. Mark’s in 2023. The Evangelism team has brainstormed a few collabing ideas including “social media takeovers” on our FB and IG pages. We invite the ministries, the choir, the youth, the young adults, *even the curmudgeons* to plan a term of takeover to post content to our pages and engage with our followers. Beyond that invitation to partner-up with our ministries, we’d love to have some help creating REELS and YouTube videos.

Thankfully, 2022 brought the reinstatement of some time-honored Evangelism practices. For that, we are grateful! In 2023, through our successful history of working together as a congregation, Evangelism is looking forward to new ways of reaching more people in more places. In that spirit of collaboration, let’s share about the joy of our faith, the impact of our ministries and the Good News in

2023. *Suzanne Long, Chair*

Justice & Advocacy:

J&A is still a new ministry that has begun in fits and starts, having been hampered by Covid, but we were finally able to get together for our initial meeting in early October.

We spent this meeting mostly examining who/what this ministry wants to be. As we advertised, the first year of our mission is going to be discovering where the Holy Spirit wants us and what She wants from us. We are on a quest, looking to educate ourselves and find where we fit. That's the plan.

We looked at the difference between Outreach and J&A. We cited the example of coming upon a river in which people have fallen in and continue to float by, in need of rescue. One solution is to get a life preserver and fish them out one at a time, the other is to go upriver and see why people keep falling in, so you can work on a remedy for the underlying cause. Outreach is more the former, J&A the latter. Each solution is needed.

That brought us to the question of the church getting political, and how that traditionally is a sensitive area in church. We acknowledged that J&A does enter the political arena, in that laws/policies are what cause or relieve need. So, to address need, we must look toward our representatives—who they are and where they stand. This gets us to the political, but we also agreed that it doesn't have to get us to the partisan.

Rather than try and plunge into a specific cause or deal with a specific issue, we have opted to begin with a seven-session program which is entitled "PROPHETIC FAITH: Exploring Social Justice Advocacy as a Congregation." This is designed to "discover, think about and explore the relationship between Christian faith, social justice, and the public role of the church." The first session is scheduled for January 22nd, with the study extending every other week throughout Lent. The book, by Trich Greeves, is available through Amazon for \$8, and all are welcome to join the study. *Penny Adams, Chair*

Outreach:

This year Outreach continued our missions always on the lookout for creative ways to help our neighbors in need.

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, coats, hygiene kits, protective equipment and pet food) to our neighbors in need. We also provided a lunch to go with a tasty sandwich, chips, cookies, fruit and drink. We also spend a few minutes chatting and checking in with our guests. Karen Franklin leads the 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 lunch materials for the second distribution. Please sign up or contact Karen if you would like to help out with this ministry.

In the spring we collected and delivered a truckload of 70 care essentials to ACTS (Area Congregations Together in Service). As you know, we partner with ACTS, a Richmond organization that assists our neighbors in financial crisis. Their goal is to prevent a crisis from leading to homelessness.

In 2022, through Suzanne Long's leadership we maintained a close partnership with CARITAS. Our mission opportunities continue to evolve as they respond to COVID and expand programs at their Southside facility. Their programs include an emergency shelter and 160 beds for women enrolled in the Healing Place for Women, a substance abuse recovery program. Graduates from the program have access to 47 fully furnished sober-living apartments. They also store a large collection of furniture for donation or sale to low-income households. Please keep the CARITAS furniture bank in mind when disposing of used furniture. They can really use your items.

Last year we prepared and delivered 2 lunches and 4 dinners for Caritas events ranging from 20 to 70 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 June, we collected t-shirts and boxers for the Caritas men's shelter. Then in July, we put out word to the congregation and collected more than 50 new or slightly-used rolling suitcases for Caritas residents. In 2023 our calls for service with CARITAS will likely grow and change. 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. Then in the fall we collected additional school supplies for our own MK Craver and her fellow teachers and students at Carver Elementary School on Leigh Street.

We've just wrapped up the annual Christmas Gifts Program. Each year we receive a list of needy residents of City District 8 in Southside. Many live alone with no family members in the area. Each person provides a list of needed items. They ask for simple requirements of every day life: winter clothes, jackets, socks, shoes, sheets, towels, blankets, and comforters. Our gifts provide them with useful items and some cheer for the holidays. This year we provided gifts to 58 Southside neighbors. Santa's sleigh picked up your gifts in mid-December and they were distributed over the holidays.

In 2023 we hope to restart several programs suspended during COVID — the Wednesday night 12-Step Recovery Program and every other month McGuire Hospital Ice Cream Socials. We look forward to resuming these programs as conditions improve.

We are thankful for the tremendous participation from the congregation in Outreach programs. Please give thought to joining the Outreach team so you can help envision, direct, and bring to life new missions in the years ahead.

Here's a list Suzanne put together of the monetary value of some of our key missions. Again it highlights the generosity of our congregation.

CARITAS Initiatives

Lunches for Works

1/7/22 boxed lunches \$280 for 20 people

3/25/22 boxed lunches \$325 for 25 people

Afterworks Dinners

2/23/22 \$350 for 40 people

9/28/22 \$500 for 50 people

10/26/22 \$300 for 40 people

Weekend Dinner for Shelter and Recovery Women

\$700 for 70 women

Special Raises for CARITAS

Luggage Drive \$2000 for over 50 pieces

Underwear Drive \$300 value

School Supplies

Anna Julia \$1000

Carver Elementary \$500

ACTS Carebags

between \$1500 and \$2000 value

Christmas Boxes

\$7000 - \$8000 for 58 people

Ed Street, Chair

Parish Life/Fellowship:

The Parish Life/Fellowship team is pleased to move toward pre-Covid operations. After a series of remote dinners, we now meeting in person, starting with our Annual picnic in September. Several dinners were provided in the parish hall during Advent, held in conjunction with the Education Ministry. We have continued to keep in touch with our remote Parishioners, sending them “goodie bags”, approximately every quarter, to let them know they are still cherished members of our community. Coffee hours have moved away from the front porch and back into the Parish Hall. We also prepared some frozen meals, avail-

able for distribution to shut-ins, the sick and those needing help with meal prep. We look forward to the upcoming year when we will celebrate the coming of a new Rector and, hopefully, a Bishop's visit.

We are continually looking for new ways to celebrate each other, our Parish, and the church seasons. We would welcome any ideas from the parish. Just let Malinda Collier or a member of Parish Life know.

If you are interested in joining us, we'd love to have you. Long- or short-term commitments will do. If you don't to be a regular Parish Life team member, we can always use help on a per-event basis, or even work with us to implement an idea you have to enhance our life as a Parish. Please let any of the Parish Life team members know. We are always appreciative of any help.

Fred Crowley, Mickie Jones, Amanda Cline, Karen Franklin, and Elaine Wittel

Pastoral Care:

One of our core values at St. Mark's is that "We love each other."

Pastoral Care is instrumental to doing that, and it blesses both the giver and the receiver. Simply put, Pastoral Care is us putting God's Love into action by caring for each other. And that happens in as many ways as there are parishioners.

It starts with being mindful of each other—noticing when someone is troubled (or reaching out if you are the one who is troubled) and following up. Sometimes, there's something concrete we can do to help (e.g., provide a meal, run an errand, bring flowers from the altar, send a note, bring communion). But more often, just listening with compassion (and respect for privacy) is the gift of Love we provide each other. So often, life confronts us with challenges that can't be "fixed." But, having another person "be with" us is a gift from God.

St Mark's Pastoral Care Committee meets once a month (resumed in person 4/3/22) to share information regarding parishioners in need, degree of confidentiality the person wants, how we can help, and who will follow up. In addition, we are in constant communication throughout the month via email with staff and each other, as we become aware of parishioners in need. Cards are sent monthly to all on the parishioner prayer list. (Names remain on list three months, unless there is a request for extension.) We also focus on our own

needs for support as a group and as individuals. We have been reading and discussing *To My Beloveds* by Jennifer Bailey. And we break bread together on occasion.

In support of St Mark's Strategic Plan, we have increased our numbers (current members Becky Adams, Margie Costas, Barbara Dawson, Karen Franklin, Gaye Frugard, Jeanine Harper, Lisette Johnson, Annette Spanel, Amy Strite). We have organized two educational forums (Senior Connections Nov. 2022 and Advance Directives April 2023) and provided mental health resources at the fall ministry fair 2022. Several of us have participated in resumption of our home Eucharistic ministry. We have coordinated with Parish Life for delivery of seasonal gifts and casseroles and with Worship for delivery of flowers.

Much pastoral care informally happens at St. Mark's, among those who know each other well. But, if you feel especially called to this sacred ministry, please let us know—and join with us in living God's Love through our love for each other.

And please reach out whenever you, or someone you know, feels you or they could use the loving support of your fellow parishioners. We bless each other in the giving and the receiving. You can reach out to a rector, staff, me, or any member of the committee. *Becky Adams, Chair*

Property: Our Church Property is now 101 Years old:

Our Church Property in 2022:

Overall in 2022 we gradually increased the use of our Church property as the fall -out of the COVID-19 pandemic began to subside over the course of 2022.

REMAINING EXTERIOR ROOF RELATED ITEMS:

Since we were blessed and fortunate enough to complete the removal and replacement of our existing Slate Roof back in 2021, in 2022 we could focus on some other Property needs as follows:

We cleaned out our Storm Drainage/Underground Roof Drainage Storm Water piping prior to installing the final sections of our copper downspouts..

During the Winter and Spring 2022 we were successful in finishing-up some storm drainage and roof drainage related items to thoroughly clear out the Underground Storm Water Utility lines. We flushed, cleaned and vacuumed-out all the rubbish / trash / debris collected over the past decades to help enhance more effective drainage of our underground storm lines. The hope was this would also help prevent and/or reduce flooding of our Church basement.

Once the blockage was mitigated and completed, we made the final connections and provisions to complete the remaining copper downspouts.

EXTERIOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:

As for visibility, Malinda and George Collier were both great assets in helping with the daily items. They were also very helpful with addressing some security issues and surprises like the Church break-in by people looking to steal money. Malinda also continued to help with our exterior grounds over the last year. She had the Landscaping on the North side of the exterior of our Church redone to help with the soil erosion issues. The north bank erosion was also causing drainage issues.

Our CHURCH PARKING LOT as an asset:

In spite of the lingering pandemic, we still tried to generate some income by renting out our Parking lot 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, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and shutdowns.

As people start to gather again our hope is to allow others to utilize our existing

Parking Lot to generate parking lot income to effectively help generate income for our Church.

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.

Once things get back to normal it might take a few months for people to take note of, as well as 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.

Our CHURCH PARKING LOT – Milling and New Asphalt Pavement:

We were fortunate to have roughly \$ 45,000 in savings on the removal and replacement of our Slate Roof that were designated funds from our DMS loan for the exterior work. The Church congregation voted to utilize these remaining exterior funds to mill and replace our failing exterior parking lot. The investment in our parking lot would help overcome the deferred maintenance. It would also enhance our exterior visibility as well as hopefully attract more utilization and income from our parking lot when it is specifically not being utilized by us.

The Removal and Replacement of the damaged Kitchen Floor:

This work was paid for by Church Insurance due to the damage caused by a major broken hot water pipe. During the pandemic there was a major hot water

leak in the Kitchen which flooded the Kitchen, Pantry as well as the Parish hallway. The old, thin and small mosaic pieces of ceramic floor tile in the kitchen delaminated and detached their bond to the concrete floor. As a result, there were numerous loose small pieces of tile as a long-term issue as well as a slip and fall floor hazard.

Church Insurance provided an estimate of what it would cost, or what they would pay, to remove and replace this floor. They issued St. Mark's a check for the amount they determined it was worth, minus depreciation.

Ultimately, we were successful in performing the Kitchen Floor removal, replacement, as well as all the associated Kitchen Equipment removal and utility work for roughly \$ 2,000 less than the amount that we were paid by the Insurance company for this accidental property damage.

Other miscellaneous Property Maintenance and related items:

Utilizing Malinda's help and leadership, we installed Lexan Window Panes to replace the damaged and broken-out sections of glass during two break-ins to our Church building in 2022. This property damage was also financially supported by our Church property Insurance.

With the re-introduction of our Choir and Music Ministry during our Sunday Service, Amos and Malinda helped with the process of updating the Choir Room. This work consisted of cleaning out the space, painting the walls and providing better lighting.

Property work we hope to accomplish in the Future:

A brief preface as well as some Background Information:

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is planning for our future by way of determining what should be contemplated or accomplished related to Interior Repairs and/or Renovations to the main Sanctuary areas of our Church. Ultimately the leadership and members of St. Mark's will need to determine the extent and/or scope of this work.

Overall, we have two (2) potential options:

OPTION 1: A short-term fix or solution would be to perform only selected repairs at a lesser scope, as well as a lesser dollar amount. A 5 to 10-year shorter term fix would consist of just repairing the areas that really need to be addressed as aesthetic only replacements in kind which would include painting all walls, ceilings and trim in the Sanctuary areas.

OPTION 2: A long-term fix or solution would be to Repair and Renovate specific areas to meet today's needs and requirements as an investment in the future of our Church. This approach is a 30 to 40-year fix and would be more of a legacy-type project with a higher dollar investment.

In consideration of the two potential options above, we also must be mindful of the fact that the Sanctuary portion of our Church was constructed over 100 years ago. As a result, our current facilities are different than current building environments while also knowing technology has changed over the last 100 years.

Knowing our New Slate Roof Replacement project has been accomplished:

The good news is our Church has already laid a great foundation for our future by replacing our Church roof. I think it is important to provide some recent background information related to our Slate Roof Replacement prior to contemplating the Repairs and Renovations that are needed, or that we wish to accomplish.

Based upon what we learned over the last several years, without being fully aware of it, the Slate Roof at St. Mark's evidently started to fail and leak roughly 20 years or so ago. The Roof leaks became more noticeable and more prevalent on the Sanctuary ceiling back in 2015 and 2016. In 2017 St. Mark's, being mindful of our financial resources and limitations, started working towards a financial plan to fund the Roof replacement project. At

the time, we knew this might ultimately become a \$500,000 to \$600,000 endeavor. After years of planning, discernment as well as great financial stewardship, in 2021 (5 years after we started the planning process) we were very successful in replacing our 100-year roof.

Ultimately, we completed the roofing work for less than \$ 500,000 and had enough savings left-over to remove and replace our asphalt so that our parking will serve us for the next 50 years or so.

As a result, our Roof will now last and will continue to serve us for more than the next 100 years. Based upon the methods and materials used, the new roof should last tremendously longer than the next 100 years.

FUTURE PLANNING NOTES:

We still need to make sure all of the moisture which has been trapped inside our ceilings and exterior walls over the last 20 years or so is able to escape, stabilize and dry out 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, we want to be mindful regarding this work to make sure it is performed thoughtfully in the best interest of our Church for the long term. That way whatever interior work we decide to accomplish, the new work will serve us well for a set period of time, or for the next 30 to 40 years or more.

The Scope of the Interior project could potentially consist of the following items specifically related to just the Sanctuary area of our building, on the Main or Primary Level of our Church:

OPTION 1: A short-term fix or solution for the next few years this specifically limited to the Ceilings & Walls in the existing Sanctuary areas.

- Scrape the existing loose paint, clean.

- Perform all necessary or selected plaster repairs that are needed to prepare the walls for new paint.
- Re-paint all previously painted walls, ceilings, doors, and trim in the Main Sanctuary that was performed roughly 25 years ago around 1997 with the same / similar colors to limit the number of coats of paint needed to cover the existing colors.
- No other work would be performed other than the specific items needed to accomplish A, B & C above.

OPTION 2: A long-term fix or solution in addition to, as well as prior to and/or in conjunction with, performing items A, B & C above. This approach is a 30 to 40-year solution:

- Perform all Electrical work needed to enhance or improve the Lighting in the Main Sanctuary as well as the Narthex portions of the Church.
- Perform all Audio Visual and Sound System work needed to enhance and improve these aspects within the Sanctuary.
- Make all long-term repairs to the interior Plaster walls as well as the dome arched ceiling.
- Remove the existing false large stained glass window frames that are back-lit and replace the florescent lighting with a better and more consistent LED light fixtures to represent daylight where the two wings were added to the Church in the 1950's and 1960's.
- Remove the existing Pews as needed to help facilitate a more holistic approach to providing a Sanctuary Repair and Renovation project that will last for 20 to 40 years. This would also accommodate the ability to include any repairs and refinishing of the Wood Floors under the Pews and kneelers. At the completion of the project, the existing Pews and Kneelers would be re-installed.
- Remove and replace all Carpet / Flooring in the Main Sanctuary areas. New Flooring / finishes in the Narthex to help create a fresh, up-to-date as well as a more welcoming entrance with better lighting and visibility.

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 at the beginning of the campaign, 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 important 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 \$355,000 for the 2023 fiscal year and exceeded that goal by \$22,000, bringing us significantly closer to our multi-year goal, and doing so during a challenging, transitional 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 resumed regular meetings this year, on Zoom, in person, and in a hybrid, format as met the needs of the members. We were delighted to have the opportunity to work with our Interim Rector, Judy Davis, and benefit from her insight and experience as well as provide her with perspective on our experiences and traditions at St. Mark's. Despite our best intentions, we did not begin our book study in 2022, but rather deferred it to 2023. In large measure this was due to two critical factors: 1) taking the time for the team to get to know Judy and Judy getting to know us and 2) the significant amount of time and energy that went into discussing and advising regarding each step of moving forward on all aspects of our gathered worship whether that be on Sunday mornings, or during Holy Week, or Christmas. We endeavored to always be mindful of the best practices available from public health officials. We also we mindful

of the logistical needs of the congregation, as well as the pastoral needs of people in the parish. With this in mind, we moved cautiously throughout the year. In Advent 2022, we were able to support the decision to return to worship services that included communion at the rail, offered in two kinds, from a common cup, to attendees who were not required to wear masks, nor maintain social distancing in the pews! Of course we also supported offering and improving access to worship services via Zoom to those persons who, for whatever reason, might choose to worship from a distance. We will continue to seek ways to best include those who worship via Zoom ever more fully in the life of the parish. Finally, no recounting of this ministry would be complete without mentioning the enormous contributions made to this ministry team and parish by Amos Goldie this year. Amos has brought an energy and spirit to the music ministry that is deeply appreciated by our team and the parish at large. We were all thrilled to see the return of the choir in the fall. We have appreciated the opportunities for input about music, the inclusion of youth, the variety of musical styles, and Amos commitment to leading the music ministry in such a fashion that all members of the church feel supported by and a part of this ministry. We can't wait to see what 2023 brings for our team and for the worship life of the parish.

Karen Hardison, Chair

Worship Assistants, Altar Guild & Floral Guild

The WA ministry of Readers, Intercessors, Chalicers, Acolytes has returned to full service this program year. While post COVID some have gone inactive because of personal reasons, all areas have seen new members too. For example, beginning in September we had only 1 returning youth acolyte, but with thoughtful reaching out to families, numbers have grown to 6 children as well as 6 youth/adults. And more children are approaching the age to start participation in this ministry.

Our numbers: Readers/Intercessors 33, Chalicers 10, Acolytes 12, Vergers 4. The Altar Guild has maneuvered all the seemingly ever changing COVID health guidelines on how the altar is prepared with amazing flexibility over the last few years. And now has returned to a more constant routine. As with other ministry areas we are rebuilding. We have 8 active participants, pre COVID almost twice that number. We very much welcome and need new members.

The Floral Guild continues to adorn the altar with weekly flowers, along with additional arrangements for special days, weddings and funerals. A core group of 5, plus additional folks help with all aspects of decorating from exterior and interior trees, greenery, lights, wreaths and nativity at Christmas, to smaller easily portable arrangements ready to be shared by congregants with family and friends post worship. Please consider joining one or more of these ministries!
Sanford Eberly, Chair

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

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:30am via Zoom
A quorum was declared by the Sr. Warden, Ryn Kennedy

Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Ryn Kennedy, Sr. Warden

Minutes of 155th Annual Meeting

Motion to approve the 2021 minutes was made by Becky Adams and seconded by Phoebe Davis.
The minutes are filed in the office and are available for review. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Election of New Vestry Members

Rules of election were explained with special attention to using www.menti.com due to being on Zoom
Appreciation was also expressed to the Vestry, especially the outgoing members, Ivy Burns, Sanford Eberly and Tamara Orr. Appreciation for the commitment of the Senior and Junior Wardens and the church staff were also shared.
The three candidates were presented; Mickie Jones, Rob McTier, and Karen Franklin Their biographies were published in the bulletin.
There were no nominations from the floor.
Three new Vestry were elected

Business Meeting

Suzanne Long, Treasurer acknowledged all the support from the various ministry teams. Suzanne shared about upcoming church beautification pro-

jects. Staff changes including an interim rector and the impact on the church budget. Suzanne highlighted the positive impact of pledges and loose plate offering once back in the building.

Warden's Report

Sr. Warden Ryn Kennedy gave his report sharing an overview of the past year's accomplishments.

Questions

There were no questions from the floor

Close of Meeting

After a closing prayer meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM

Karen Franklin, Register



St Mark's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

love is our tradition