

St. Mark's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Capitol Hill

3rd & A Sts SE,
Washington, DC



Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Sunday, October 15, 2017
1:15 p.m.

Present:

Clergy: The Rev. Michele Morgan, Rector
Wardens: Nora Howell, Senior Warden; Kenn Allen, Junior Warden
Vestry Members: Jim Brooks, Tracy Council, Thia Hamilton, Alix Pereira; Karen Wiedemann
Officers: Martha Huizenga, Treasurer; Michael Knipe, Counsel and Manciple; Mary Anderson Cooper, Register
Absent: Vestry Members Stephanie Deutsch, Jenifer Holland, Doug Jackson, Beth Mahood
Guests: Rob Hall, Raiford Gaffney, Michelle Strange, Beryl Lillaston, James Rostron, Brandon Knight.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the Rector, who offered the opening prayer.

Vestry Minutes: The minutes of the September meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Jim Brooks moved, seconded by Karen Wiedemann, the Vestry concurring, that the minutes be **APPROVED.**

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that there was a deficit of \$19,165 at the end of August. This is normal, given that August is a low attendance month in most years. Income normally increases in the last quarter.

Capital Campaign: Rob Hall made a presentation on behalf of the proposed Capital Campaign, which he and Jackie Bodde are chairing. They propose to conduct a campaign to finance some crucial repairs, replace the HVAC system, upgrade the sound system, repair the tower, and reduce or eliminate the mortgage.

Kenn Allen moved acceptance of the Capital Campaign proposal, seconded by Karen Wiedemann. Other members of the Vestry suggested that the group move ahead with planning, acknowledging that amendments may be needed as plans are finalized. Rob was requested to return to the Vestry with a further proposal as plans developed. Among items to be considered is the issue of how to allocate funds among the various projects as plans develop. The motion was **APPROVED.**

Portrait of Verna Dozier: Tracy Council reported that she has donated the painting she did to commemorate Verna Dozier's 100th birthday to the parish for its use. She said that it is possible to make

prints of the portrait if there is a wish to do so. Rob Hall suggested giving prints to those who contribute to the Capital Campaign to acknowledge their gifts. The Rector suggested reaching out to other groups in the wider church to make the picture available to them.

Senior Warden's Report: Nora Howell reported that the Treasurer's Report is posted on the bulletin board and that Vestry Minutes will also be posted. From now on minutes are to be sent to Thia Hamilton for posting on the website after they are approved.

She noted that people are still needed to sign up to serve as ushers and greeters.

The Vestry voted electronically to authorize a fund-raising for Team Henry on 10/15 which raised \$1300 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Association. The fund-raiser was electronically **APPROVED.**

Junior Warden's Report: Kenn Allen reported that the nave air conditioning is now down to one compressor. An exterior survey of the entire building is upcoming to find out what needs to be done. Tuckpointing is needed in many places.

The plans for the Third Street garden have been approved by the District Government, so work will start in the next few weeks.

Trash cans are now by each of the doors in the nave so that trash and coffee cups can be disposed of properly.

2017 Canvass: The Rector reported that the theme of the annual canvass will be to remind people where we came from and what we are about. There will be specially designed cards in the bulletins for consecutive Sundays beginning October 29, providing information on the history, demographics and pledging levels, followed by pledge cards. On November 12, pledge cards will be distributed and bread loaves will be made and distributed.

It was noted that the current definition of membership requires the giving of money but does not require a pledge. Karen Wiedemann and Michael Knipe agreed to work on clarifying the definition of membership.

There will be a town hall meeting on November 19 to update the parish on the budget and canvass. December 3 will be the end date of the canvass.

Staff: The Rector reported that The Rev. Cindy Dopp, a non-stipendiary Deacon, has been engaged to work 12 hours a week, specifically in the area of the end stage of life.

The Rector is meeting with a potential candidate for the role of Interim Assistant Rector and hopes to have news soon. She is also beginning to set up a search process for the hiring of an Assistant Rector.

Liaison Reports

Membership: Karen Wiedemann reported that the Barracks Row Festival participation was very successful. Newcomer forms, name tags and the "lost sheep" effort are moving along. A Liturgy of Belonging is being considered.

Karen Wiedemann and Thia Hamilton agreed to poll the Vestry regarding a possible change in the date and time for Vestry meetings.

Outreach: Jim Brooks reported that Outreach wants to look at how we spend our resources. They particularly want to find ways to move quickly on things that don't commit the church to long-term efforts, such as the diaper drive for Texas hurricane victims. Nora Howell suggested a review of the Outreach Charter to incorporate clarifying language.

Arts: Tracy Council announced that the Arts Council is hosting lunch on October 29. She noted that there needs to be a policy for signing up for Sunday Lunch and a process for cancelling if needed.

She reported that the Holy Family Advent art will stay up through Christmas. People will create informal icons that will be installed in salvaged dresser drawers and hung around the church.

The Advent IV service will be held at a single 10 a.m. service on December 24, followed by decoration of the church, with the Christmas Pageant at 4 p.m. and the main Christmas Eve Service at 10 p.m. There will be a single 10 a.m. service on Christmas Day.

Legacy Lions: Kenn Allen reported that up to 30 people have indicated that they have included St. Mark's in their wills. Others over age 60 are now being invited to make a similar commitment and join the Legacy Lions. A dinner will be held on November 6 in the nave for those joining this effort. Kathryn Powers, Betty Foster, Tucker Harris, Nora Howell, Rob Hall, Kenn Allen, and the Rector are in charge of this effort.

A course on financial planning may be offered to encourage such investment in the future of the parish.

Gift to the Rector: Nora Howell presented the Rector with a framed copy of the document designating her as Rector of St. Mark's that was presented to her at her Installation in April.

Closing Prayer: The Closing Prayer was offered by Nora Howell.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper, Register