

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2023

**Present:** Fr. RJ, Leslie Redmon, Sr. Warden; John Willoughby, Jr. Warden; Kent Clark, Carol Hayn, Joe Hoot, Gene Little, Rick Werren

**Not Present:** Mandy Pelger, Sara Strattan

**Guest:** Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with devotion and prayer provided by Fr. RJ.

Rick **motioned** to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2023, meeting with a few corrections. Joe seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Rector's Report**

- **Parish Statistics**
  - We had 1 baptism in April, and another is scheduled for next Sunday.
  - Fr. RJ is tracking in-person attendance more closely. In April 2022, average attendance was 79. In April 2023, the average was 97.
  - We had good attendance on the Sunday after Easter.
- **Meeting with Bishop**
  - Fr. RJ will have a meeting with Bishop Anne Jolly, on June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Parishcare**
  - Fr. RJ and others will call those that we haven't seen in church for a while. It is more impactful if it is not the priest calling as it signifies that the parish community cares.
  - Please inform Fr. RJ whenever a parishioner is in the hospital or sick or needs a visit, as he has no way of knowing of the need unless someone tells him.

### **Old Business**

- **Betty Fortney Chapel Update**
  - Joe and Leslie met with the Eagle Scout candidate and outlined the objectives of what we want accomplished.
  - Part of the Eagle project is to do various types of fundraising, such as at restaurants. Parishioners will have the opportunity to participate and support the project.
  - The project will be completed on two weekends.
  - The benefits of having the chapel were discussed.
- **Vestry Handbook**
  - The Vestry Handbook that used to be given to new Vestry members is being updated and includes good information for meetings.

### **New Business**

- **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**
  - A Chairperson is needed to get a committee together to plan a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in May 2025.
  - We will invite Bishop Jolly to attend.

## Finance Reports

- **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023**
  - Charlie presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Recap and noted that total operating income is over budget because of the way the budget is developed.
- **5 Year Forecast**
  - Charlie presented the 5 Year Forecast and reviewed the planned return of funds to Capital Reserves.
  - The 5 Year Forecast illustrates the need for growth and for actions to support increasing the number of parishioners.

## Leslie and John

- **Meeting Our Objectives**
  - Create a membership/growth committee and get people working on a list of things needing done.
  - Support the liaison structure of the Vestry and have more follow-up with ministries.
  - Articles in the Lion's Pause about the various ministries will encourage participation.
  - Katie has emphasized that individuals posting and liking our activities on their own Facebook pages is more effective than the ads we send out.
  - Promote appreciation of Weaver's presence in our building.

## Kent Clark

- **Taking Action**
  - Kent feels strongly that it is the job of the Vestry to carry out the tasks necessary to meet our objectives and promote growth in the parish, unless we can instead find an energetic and motivated person to head up these tasks.
  - It is important to interact with the younger generation.
  - Fr. RJ mentioned that there are 2 things that bring new people to church:
    - Personal invitation. Fr. RJ said he can give suggestions on how to do this without being offensive.
    - Having a reputation of being accepting and open.
- **Fr. RJ's Assignment for the Vestry**
  - Fr. RJ gave 2 assignments to the Vestry members:
    - Talk to at least one parent of young children in the parish and find out:
      - What they like about St. Mark's.
      - What St. Mark's can do better for them.
    - Find one person who is new within the last few years and ask what brought them to St. Mark's and what keeps them coming back.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm with a **motion** by Carol, seconded by Rick, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 6:00pm. Sara will provide the Reflection and Prayer for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand  
Clerk