

**MINUTES ST. MARK'S VESTRY
April 17, 2011 at 1:15 pm.**

Present:

Clergy: Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector

Wardens: Cecilia Monahan, Senior Warden; Phil Guire, Junior Warden

Vestry Members: Ed Corr, Bill Dickinson, Rick Hayes, Grady Hedgespeth, Charlotte Murray, Marilu Sherer, Jim Steed, Vicki Street, Janet Vail

Treasurer: Crane Miller

Register: Mary Cooper

1. Rector Paul Abernathy called the meeting of St. Mark's Vestry to order at 1:25 on April 17, 2011. The Rector offered Vestry and Officers an opportunity to comment on anything on their minds as a new Vestry.

2. The Opening Prayer was offered by Cecilia Monahan.

3. Officer Reports:

Register: Mary Cooper submitted the minutes of the March 20 and March 26 meetings of the Vestry, drafted by Raiford Gaffney. Marilu Sherer moved their approval and Jim Steed seconded. Approved. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting are in process, being prepared by Raiford Gaffney. The Register circulated a sign-up sheet for Vestry greeter volunteers through September.

Treasurer: Crane Miller submitted a Treasurer's report for March which was approved unanimously. He also distributed an analysis and description of various parish accounts, cash flow, and procedures; and a printout of the financial elements on the parish website, including forms for depositing funds, requesting reimbursement, and requesting permission to raise funds.

Crane noted that at one point the website instructs people to contact the bookkeeper for assistance, which is not consistent with parish policy. The Vestry agreed that requests should go only to Crane and Susan Block. Crane will request that the website be corrected.

Junior Warden: Phil Guire said that he has set up an e-mail account for his position that will be transferable to his successors. It is stmarksjuniorwarden@gmail.com. He is meeting with Ed Green and others to identify issues and problems.

Senior Warden: Cecilia Monahan urged everyone to read all the way through the parish website and especially to read the bylaws.

She reported that two people have been tentatively identified as leaders, but more are needed. The theme will be related to how people see their roles at St. Mark's in a time of change, and also to specific issues with regard to the upcoming capital campaign. She asked for suggestions of other people to be recruited for the planning team and noted that leaders are needed for both the Comfort Team and the Content Team.

The Rector: Paul Abernathy offered great thanks to the team that has managed the search process for a new Assistant/Associate Rector. There are currently four nominees from a much larger pool of applicants. One has already visited St. Marks and three more are due in May. He hopes to issue a call in early June, to begin work in July.

4. Liaison Appointments/Assignments

Members of the Vestry accepted the following liaison assignments:

- Arts – Rick Hayes
- Christian Education – Vicki Street
- Capital Campaign – Ed Corr
- Worship – Jim Steed
- Stewardship – Bill Dickinson
- Parish Life – Rick Hayes
- Race and Reconciliation – Marilu Sherer
- Membership – Marilu Sherer, with Stan Smith, Janet Vail and Jim Steed
- Communications/Marketing – Bill Dickinson
- Youth and Family Ministries – Charlotte Murray
- Outreach – Grady Hedgespeth
- Finance – Janet Vail, Bill Dickinson, Vicki Street

5. Updates from current liaisons – none were offered.

6. Approval of Revised Christian Education Charter

The proposed charter was distributed in advance of the meeting. Marilu Sherer moved and Cecilia Monahan seconded approval of the charter, which was approved. Vicki Street, who presented the charter, noted that Section 8 is new. Discussion followed about who sets policy regarding who can teach. The Rector said that was the responsibility of the co-directors.

7. Approval of Mary Cooper as Register and Kathryn Powers as a Money Counter

Gary Hedgespeth moved and Janet Vail seconded both of these appointments, which were approved.

8. Vestry Retreat

The Spring Vestry Retreat will be held May 6-7 at Kathryn Powers house (325 A St., SE) May 6-7, beginning on the 6th with dinner at 6:30. The opening exercise will focus on community and change. On Saturday the meeting will begin at 9. Lunch will be at local restaurants and the day will end before 4:30.

Among items on the agenda will be Paul Abernathy's letter of agreement with the Vestry. Members asked for "getting to know you" time in the agenda.

9. Date for the next Annual Parish Meeting

The Rector reviewed our experiences with meeting on Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Each time creates problems for some groups in the church and makes it impossible for some to attend. Both have been tried with the intent of including more people, but neither is ideal. Paul raised the possibility of combining the meeting with a single Sunday service, with children's activities available, so that families with young children and seniors (and those with travel difficulties) could be included.

The decision was to have the meeting on March 11, with March 25 as a backup date in the event that calendar difficulties arise.

10. What's New? What Needs Attention? What's Working? Who Needs Acknowledgement?

Canvass: Bill Dickinson reported that the canvass total is well above last year. \$814,592 has been raised so far. There are five more pledge units to date than last year. The average new pledge is about \$1400. The average pledge for the parish is \$2100-2200.

Hospitality. Paul requested that Vestry greeters meet new people at the central altar from now on, instead of by the font.

Financial Matters.

- Crane reported that Pay Pal fees run about 2.4%. Some people pay their pledges that way, so an issue arises about whether the pledging parishioner should pay the fee or the church should absorb the cost. Crane will look into alternative ways of paying pledges online.
- Crane is also looking into opening a National Capital Bank account for the transfer of stock. We formerly had such an account with Deutsche Bank.
- Crane now receives only monthly reports on the parish bank accounts and wants daily online access to the National Capital Bank account for himself, the Senior Warden, and others on the Finance Committee, in order to have more current information than is now available just for viewing, not for transactions. The Vestry approved this request by consensus.

James Rowe Adams: The Rector asked for special expressions of concern for our tenth Rector, Jim Adams, who is suffering from cancer.

11. Motion to Adjourn was approved unanimously.

12. Closing Prayer was offered by Jim Steed.

Mary Anderson Cooper, Register