

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Highland, MD
Minutes of Vestry Minutes
March 10, 2011**

Vestry Members Present:

Bill Koenig
Diane Roca
Peter Scheidt
Mark Schoppet
Nancy Smith
Bernice Winthrop

Staff Present:

The Rev. Dr. John Price + (Rector)
Ron Luman (Junior Warden)

Others Present

Cemetery Committee Representatives:
Jack Bufton (Chairman), Nora MacLaughlin

Opening Prayer

Father John Price+ opened the meeting in prayer.

Adoption of Agenda

The Vestry moved to adopt the proposed agenda (Exhibit1)

Approval of February Minutes

After discussion, the Vestry moved to approve minutes from February 10, 2011.

Governance:

A. Monthly Financial Report:

Kathleen Huffman (Treasurer) was not present and will submit financials via email (Completed on 3/24/2011).

B. Update on Number of Pledges and regular givers

John+ reported that \$280,264 was obtained in pledges from 59 pledging units. In addition, there are an additional 80 who give without pledging. The Vestry requested Kathleen to provide a projection of giving.

Diane Roca reported that she reviewed the list of givers who did not pledge this year and, after calling, obtained 3 or 4 additional pledges.

C. Cemetery Committee Resolution

Nora MacLaughlin spoke for the Cemetery Committee concerning its accounts. Currently Nora is the only member authorized to write checks against the accounts. The committee presented to the Vestry a resolution to allow other members of the committee to authorize payments. John+ stated that he would redraft the resolution with language acceptable to the Committee and consistent with St. Mark's by-laws and will obtain the Vestry approval at the next Vestry Meeting. The Vestry will make sure that the account is maintained for only Cemetery business.

D. Audit Status

Kathleen will report on the Audit progress at the next meeting.

Operations:

A.IT Project: Phoenix Computing Strategies

John+ reported that Phoenix conducted an analysis of computers at the Parish house to evaluate dropped connections. The problem was found to be the wireless system and they have submitted a proposal for a hard-wired system linking all computers together (Exhibit 2).

After discussion, Nancy Smith will speak with Beth about the internet service coming into the Parish House and the potential for upgrade. The Vestry moved to accept Phoenix proposal.

B. Heating and Cooling Audit

Rob Luman (Jr. Warden) reported that Car Mitchell will evaluate the Heating and Cooling systems in both the Church and Parish House. Peter Scheidt reported that natural gas is available to the church and suggested that it be considered in Carl's analysis.

Rebuild/Reconnect

A. Update on Communications Committee

Jim Miller was not present for the meeting to provide an update. John+ reported that further work will occur at the end of the month to reconnect with inactive members. We will have a list of people. From that list we will send letters and call 10 days later for follow-up. Peter will draft a proposed letter for John+ to review and finalize. Jim will be looking for volunteers from the Vestry to call.

John reported that questions have been developed and Deb had them reviewed by someone knowledgeable at her work.

Bill Koenig reported that the Pancake Supper served about 173 people and raised \$577 for Guardian Angel. Last year's supper served 132.

B. Profile Committee

John+ reported that we have developed a list of names for the profile committee. After discussion, the Vestry moved to accept the list of names and authorized Beth Trollinger (Senior Warden) to ask each member to serve on the Committee. Steve Heaps was mentioned as a possible co-chair. The Vestry also requested that another person be included to represent families with younger children to address a concern voiced at the parish meeting which presented a update on the search.

C. Town Hall Meetings

Sunday, March 13 will begin a series of Town Hall Meetings to discuss how the Congregation feels about various aspects of St. Mark's. The first will deal with Fellowship and Parish Life. John+ requested that the Vestry serve as table leaders to guide discussions and collect answers to high level questions.

On March 20, Cannon Stuart Wright will describe the transition process and the work involved from the Diocese point of view. The later meeting will cover the following topics:

March 27 -- Outreach and Mission

April 3 -- Pastoral Care and Christian Formation

April 10 -- Worship

(Note: due to a series of events, these discussions will be delayed until after Easter)

D. New Sunday Schedule

There have been a couple of complaints about moving the early service from 8:30 until 9:00, but reaction has been mostly favorable. Sunday School Teachers did not express any concerns.

Pete Scheidt mentioned that there is still more work to be done regarding schedule.

Sensing The Spirit

The Vestry felt the meeting went well and can sense the spirit in tonight's meeting and in overall fellowship of St. Mark's. There still may be some healing to be done associated with Rick Larabee's+ leaving.

Respectfully Submitted:



Mark J. Schoppet,
Registrar