

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2020

Opening Devotion: The Rev. Elizabeth Gardner called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m. via Zoom video conference and led the Vestry in prayer.

Present: Belinda Appiah, Jim Bailes, Rob Bluey, Eric Bryda, Charlotte Brown, Francisco Escobar, the Rev. Elizabeth Gardner, Mary Jane Stockstill, David Walton. **Absent:** Nihal Masih.

Meeting Minutes: The Vestry voted by email on the minutes from the October 18 meeting. Rob Bluey made a motion to accept the minutes, David Walton seconded, and the Vestry voted to approve.

Rector's Report: Rev. Elizabeth said there are great signs of life at St. Mark's. Her update included the following items:

- Girl Scout Troop 1444 is using Patience Hall every other Thursday evening for meetings where they can be socially distant (schedule is in the Realm Church Calendar).
- The Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy in order to protect themselves from the inevitable suits resulting from abuse. St. Mark's filed a Proof of Claim to protect the church in case there is a claim filed from someone in Troop 4077.
- Signs in English and Spanish are posted at all the entrances reminding people of masks and social distance needs.
- Three new banners have been posted on the fence welcoming the Boy Scouts, Pan de Vida, and River Farm Cooperative School.
- St. Mark's passed the fire inspection after a lot of work by Jim Bailes, David Walton, and Charlotte Brown.
- St. Mark's is in compliance with Fairfax County with our water retention system thanks to Charlotte Brown, Bonnie Wilkins, James Bailes, Jim Bailes, and William Pineda.
- River Farm is going to begin in-person instruction on November 16. Charlotte Brown, Francisco Escobar, and David Walton have been working tirelessly to get the building in shape for their arrival.
- St. Mark's made a necessary upgrade to our internet speeds, router, etc. thanks to Charlotte Brown, Bonnie Wilkins, and Francisco Escobar.
- Ashley Bryda is spearheading our Advent take-home bags and Christmas pageant for families.
- The Seminarian Committee continues to meet with Jeremy Bradley, a second-year student at Virginia Theological Seminary. The committee consists of Steve Mitchell, chairman, and Ashley Bryda and Tracy Tienken as members.
- Pan de Vida is worshipping three times a week at the church.
- R&P Cleaning is cleaning the building Monday, Wednesday, Friday every week.
- Evalynn Merrill was baptized November 8 and Connon McDermott will be baptized November 25. This means growth and life in our church.

Senior Warden's Report: Jim Bailes and Rev. Elizabeth attended the 226th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia on November 14. The meeting was held via Zoom. Several resolutions were considered, including the diocesan budget, which did not pass. Mr. Bailes said the diocese will require all churches to pay 10% of their offering income starting in 2022.

Junior Warden's Report: David Walton noted that Election Day was successful at St. Mark's. His other items were covered in the Rev. Elizabeth's report.

Treasurer's Report: Eric Bryda reported that for the month of October, St. Mark's had revenue of \$26,071.08 and expenses of \$20,971.43. Mr. Bryda said that St. Mark's has an operating surplus of \$22,319.69 through October compared to a projected budget deficit of \$24,958.40. *Jim Bailes made a motion to accept, Rob Bluey seconded, and the Vestry voted to approve.*

2021 Budget: The Vestry reviewed a draft budget prepared by Rev. Elizabeth. She encouraged St. Mark's to take the lead with Potomac Episcopal on worship, music, and special events like the Christmas pageant. Jim Bailes and David Walton will join Rev. Elizabeth at the Potomac Episcopal leadership meeting Tuesday night. She proposed paying 30% toward shared worship with Potomac Episcopal as long as we remain in a virtual capacity. The Vestry will resume discussion of the budget at its next meeting.

Adjournment: The Rev. Elizabeth Gardner offered a closing prayer. Jim Bailes made a motion to end the meeting at 12:37 p.m., Charlotte Brown seconded, and the Vestry voted to adjourn.