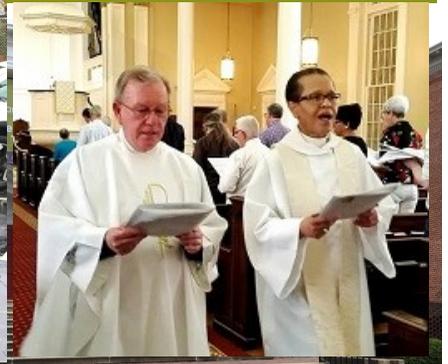


love is our tradition



St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting January 26, 2020

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
154th Annual Meeting
January 26, 2020**

Agenda

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting minutes – page 18

Election of New Vestry Members

Recognition of outgoing members: Mickie Jones, Amy Strite &
Paul Williams

Rules for the Election/Affirmation

Presentation of the Candidates

Nominations from the floor

Business Meeting:

Treasurer's Report

Rector's Report

New Business

Closing Prayer

2019 Rector's Annual Report - January 26, 2020

**Disturb us Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves;
When our dreams have come true because we've dreamed too little;
When we arrive safely because we have sailed too close to the shore.
Disturb us Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas,
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land we will find the stars.
We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes,
And to push us into the future with strength, courage, hope, and love.**

(Attributed to Francis Drake)

It is good to remind ourselves that all we are and all we have belongs to our Creator. As always we keep the focus of our ministry at St. Mark's grounded in the question, "What is God calling us to do?"

I am grateful to you for all you do in the life of this church of St. Mark's and beyond. It is with thanks and by God's grace that I offer some reflections on the year that is now history as well as a few hopes for this year. As I enter into my ninth year as your priest I am especially thankful for the call to serve you and walk our journey of faith together. Ours is an evolving story of God's work in our individual and communal lives. We share an overwhelming sense of God's grace and growth.

Statistics and Demographics: While I do not see statistics as a measure of our success they do help us understand our story better. We are growing in number of members. We continue to attract visitors and newcomers alike. Some stay and join us in the work we do. We have over 400 active members in our database with many others who receive information about us at their request. Our average Sunday attendance for 2019 was 125, the highest since 2009. This is exciting! Our financial health is strong and getting stronger. Our very capable treasurer, Suzanne Long, will say more about this shortly. This is especially important at this time when we prepare to undergo some renovation of this beautiful and sacred building out of which our ministries are done. We took a chance in our budget process for 2019 and 2020 in number of pledges and money and have attained or exceeded that goal thanks to your great generosity. Every pledge and every dollar above the set goal helps to close a gap and allows us to become less dependent on our Investment account with the Trustees of the Funds of the Diocese of Virginia and better able to meet our needs. In addition to money, many people donate their time and goods that do not show up on the Operating Budget and financials. We are grateful! And we resolved the many years parking issue with our neighbor – to our advantage!

Ministries: We continue working on our spiritual growth through strong ministries in which enthusiastic people do the work to which they feel called. Jesus is our great example of one

who worked tirelessly in building the Kingdom of God here and now. In following Jesus's example we do our part through our ministries in continuing that work – feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, caring for ourselves and others beyond our walls, believing and spreading the good news of Jesus that God is in love with each of us through our worship and actions. Our witness to the good news through our ministries sends a message of welcome and invitation to which many respond. My thanks go to the many people who are engaged in the ministries of this church.

Long Range Plan: After 18 months of discussion in Vestry we hired Katherine Whitney as our consultant to develop our Long Range Plan. With a lot of input from many congregants in 2019 we implemented our Long Range Plan which will serve as a guide for us in our ministries and life together for three to five years. Our Ministry Team chairs and Vestry liaisons are in regular communication about the work being done within each of the four major categories of the plan. A regular report is given to the Vestry. This is a working document and is adapted as we carefully evaluate it.

Safety Team: We are in the process of developing a Safety Team. We live in interesting times and, just as our schools prepare children for disasters created by human hands or natural events, we want to be prepared to make sure we are safe in this place. A proposed safety plan has been sent out to the members of the team and will be adapted as their comments are received. Once that document is completed we will begin to execute on its various component parts.

The Diocese: We are members of the larger church called the Diocese of Virginia of the Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion. The state of the diocese, the diocesan staff, and our region are in great shape. The diocese is under the leadership of Bishop Susan Goff as Ecclesiastical Authority and Bishop Suffragan. She is an outstanding leader. She has called for and we have begun a series of visioning sessions throughout the diocese. I facilitated at the first one last week. Dorothy was also in attendance. We have a new Assistant Bishop, Jennifer Brook-Davidson, who is a most capable support to Bishop Goff. She replaces Bishop Bob Ilhoff who returned to Maryland to serve in that capacity there. I continue to serve as a member of the Standing Committee through Annual Convention this coming November at which time my three year term is completed. Additionally, I serve as mentor for a few newly ordained priests as they begin their ministry in the diocese.

By-laws of St. Mark's: In an effort to pull together all relevant documents and information for St. Mark's it was discovered that we cannot locate the original by-laws or any subsequent to 1866 for the church. These are necessary as guides for the effective operation of any entity. To achieve that end, the vestry worked on and approved a new set of by-laws in 2019. Those by-laws will be made available in a format to be announced soon. These by-laws are in compliance with the most recent revisions of both the national and diocesan canons of the Episcopal

Church.

Staff: My sincere thanks goes to our dedicated staff at St. Mark's: The Rev. Buck Aiken, Malinda Collier, Steve Barnes, David Wheeler, Karen Franklin, Noah Cozart, Frankie Hornes, and Columbus Parks. In addition, we added two priest associates to the staff this year to meet the needs of a growing congregation: The Rev. Dorothy White and The Rev. Sarah Kye Price. Each has many talents and gifts they offer to our church and each represents St. Mark's well in the wider community. A special thanks goes to Vestry and Ministry Chairs. I especially offer thanks to those rotating off vestry: Amy Strite, Paul Williams, and Mickie Jones who is our exiting Sr. Warden. The result of decision made a while back for purposes of continuity in leadership is that the current Jr. Warden becomes the new Sr. Warden and a new Jr. Warden is chosen at their retreat by the vestry. The Sr. Warden for this year is Denis Riva.

Renovation: We are entering upon a renovation which includes a new roof, interior painting and plaster repair, some lighting upgrades, and a new sound system. The first phase is the roof replacement which will begin in the spring followed by a drying out period of three to six months for the walls and commencing with the interior work. We are borrowing the approximately \$750,000 from the Diocesan Missionary Society at a very good rate of interest. We have just entered an agreement for the leasing of the parking lot from which the income will offset some of the payback of the loan. Needless to say, this is a major undertaking and many thanks go to Brent Graves who is managing the details of this work.

I believe this is the time for which St. Mark's was made. Because we follow Jesus I trust that we will know how and be able to continue doing the work to which we have been called. We know who we are, whose we are, and are willing to do the work. So I end with a question for all of us to ponder: What is your image of God and what difference does it make for you and the people you encounter? If God is love, then there is no place for hatred. If God is justice, then the poor must be empowered and fed. If God is healing, then there is wholeness possible no matter how broken we may be. If God is life, then death is only a horizon beyond which our eyes cannot yet see. If God is the beloved community, then we are called to build it with neighbors and with partners and with strangers we don't yet know, across the aisle and across our breakfast tables, throughout the city and right here, right now.

As we move into our 154th year I repeat what I have said before: I am honored to serve as your rector in this Spirit led and wonderful church and hold your trust as a gift as I begin my ninth year in June as your priest. May the good work God has begun in us continue now and always as we seek together to discover what God is calling us to do. Amen.

Blessings, David

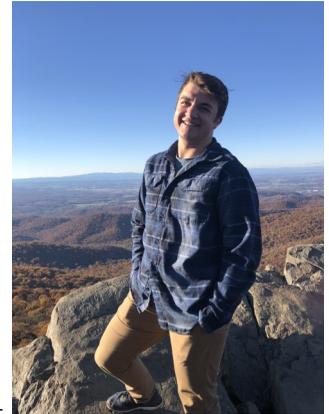
Vestry Candidates

Ryn Kennedy

I grew up just west of Richmond, over in Henrico County where I attended Christ Church Episcopal. The church was brand new at the time, and service was held in the elementary school up the street from our home. To simply say I was raised in the church would be an understatement - my church felt closer to family.

As I grew older, I became disconnected from both the church and myself. During this time, I felt very lost. Thankfully I was able to find strength, love, friendship and community in other forms, finding particular solace and safety on my college rugby team, in the Richmond punk music scene, and in the local LGBTQ+ community. Once I reached a place where I was able to practice self-care and focus on my wellbeing, I found that a part of me was still missing. Once I realized and understood having faith in myself, I began to find my faith in God again. Out of the habit of attending church regularly, I didn't quite know where to begin. One day my partner, Margaret, who was also on a journey of rediscovering her faith, invited me to attend a service with her at St. Marks. I was hooked after my first service, and we have attended ever since.

I resonate with the mission, diversity, sense of strong community, and emphasis on service that St. Mark's provides. The values of faith that St. Mark's preaches are the very same ones I have learned to practice in my own life - to love God, love others, and love myself. After a long and difficult journey, it feels nice to be home.



Jeff Dussault

I am originally from upstate New York and was baptized at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Little Falls, NY. My wife Kathy is from Queens. We met in college and have been married for 36 years. We have two daughters (31 and 28 years old) and a 23-year-old son. I am a management consultant/account executive with Marsh and McLennan.

Kathy and I moved to Richmond a year ago from northern Virginia. When our son graduated from college in 2018 we became empty nesters. A new job brought us to Richmond and we decided to settle in the Fan district to try our hand at some urban living after 30 years in the suburbs. In addition to getting to know our new city and neighborhood, we were also looking for opportunities to put some of the newly found free time we had to good use by volunteering with organizations that support the local community. And we hoped to find a parish that might become a spiritual home



and help us reconnect with the church.

On that last point, our first Sunday in Richmond happened to coincide with the largest snowstorm to hit the city in the past 100 years (as we later learned). So we decided to head out on foot to try out the nearest Episcopal church. I am a lifelong Episcopalian and Kathy and I have attended a number of churches during our years together. However, we have never been as warmly welcomed by any congregation anywhere as we were by the people at St. Marks on that cold day and in the weeks and months since. As we have come to know more of the St. Marks family over the past year, and learned about its history and mission, it has become clear that this is a congregation that cares deeply about each other and the people it serves in the wider Richmond community. I will confess to struggling at times with my own faith (that is still a work in progress) but I was struck immediately with St. Mark's mission - "to serve the working people of Richmond." I see that as a wonderful example of a compassionate and people-centered mission that I'd like to promote and be a part of.

I look forward to serving on the Vestry and committing time and energy to support the programs that St. Marks sponsors today and help build a strong foundation to ensure it can continue to fulfill its mission for years to come.

Isabel Wescoat

I was brought up attending Christ Episcopal Church in Calumet, MI. I've attended St Marks for almost 6 years, co-chairing the Young-ish Adults group for one year, serving on the Evangelism Team and the Long-Range Planning Team, as well as volunteering for the St Mark's Pride Booth and a few Shrove Tuesday Pancake Suppers. I am honored by the invitation to serve St Mark's through the vestry, and the opportunity to be a part of the positive changes and growth I have seen in the past few years.

I recently finished my MBA at VCU with a concentration in Global Business, and work in product marketing for a software company. My fiancé Miles are excited to be married at St Mark's this spring.



Vestry members serve a three-year team. Each member also serves on at least one ministry team of the congregation and reports on activities and needs of the teams to the full Vestry. Vestry meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6pm, and during its annual retreat in early February. The 2020 Vestry Retreat is February 7 & 8.

From Our Priest Associates: Revs. Sarah Kye Price & Dorothy White

It is with a heart of gratitude that I thank St. Mark's for the warm embrace of welcome since coming aboard in September. I have felt the love week after week, and it is a joy to be a partner in ministry with all of you. I wanted to let you all know a few things which are emerging.

- I've been working with the fantastic Young Adults of St. Mark's on forming a bible study group which will meet "out and about" in Richmond beginning in mid-January.
- In Advent, several of us of all ages gathered for the making of prayer beads and contemplative prayer on Friday afternoons; along with the ministry retreats that Dorothy and I have worked together to facilitate at Roslyn (last October, and this coming March) I also hope that ways to engage contemplative prayer practices will be something I can continue to explore within our parish.
- Finally, my deep love for and commitment to working with those living with poverty and on the social margins of this world has meant that I've joyfully embraced work with our Food Pantry participants on Saturdays and I'm working with our Outreach team around their own faith formation in their ministries responding to the needs of the community.

I know many of you have also reached out to find out more about the Faith from the Margins to the Web project which was recently honored by the Episcopal Evangelism Society, and I wanted to offer up an opportunity on Sunday, January 12th at 9:15 (between our services) for those who might want to gather and learn more about this project so we can think together about new iterations that might be possible here at St. Mark's. Again, it's my humble honor to serve with you here at St. Mark's in these and other capacities. I'm looking forward to all the good work that God is calling us to do.

Grace and Peace,
Sarah

Have you ever met someone thrilled with the reality that she/he/they will be spending more time at work? Well, I am that person. Beginning in January I am thrilled that I will be spending even more time as a staff person in our parish. Below I will summarize what is unfolding:

- We have just completed a study of the book, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. The text provides an overview of the creation and development of the Equal Justice Initiative. Many of us are looking forward to the release of the motion picture of the same title as the book. The film is based upon the truth of a need for social justice as well as the need for social justice advocates.
- I have also been privileged to meet with teens once a month. We are reading and discussing the book, *Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories*, by Ellen Levine. With a visit from a civil rights activist, Mae Shields who as a teen was among those

beaten and arrested in Birmingham in 1963, our conversation continues to be challenging and insightful.

- Finally, as much as I was looking forward to continuing my participation in the Diocesan program, *The Triangle of Hope*, my anticipation has increased even more. Our own Carter Strite has applied and been selected as one of the pilgrims who will join in a three-year commitment to this incredible cause. We will travel to Liverpool, England this summer. We will host the ToH pilgrims from Liverpool and Kumasi, Ghana in the summer of 2021. And our final stop will be Kumasi in 2022.
- Malinda and I are reading and reviewing *Sacred Ground*, material intended for use in Episcopal churches as an intentional step toward racial reconciliation. We will be in touch via our email communiqué about this program.

I am deeply grateful for you and all that you continue to do to remind me that STM is indeed my new home.

May our amazing God continue to amaze you,
Dorothy+

Ministry Reports

Education and Formation:

Ongoing and new adult offerings:

Three Bible studies: Wednesday AM & Buck's Bible Study, Lectio on second Fridays led by Father David. Rev. Sarah is starting a Young Adults Bible study this year.

The 2019 Lenten Series provided a study of Job led by Malinda Collier. It was well attended and enjoyed (as much as one can enjoy Job) by all.

On Being discussion group meets third Fridays. A new group, Women Rowing North book discussion began in October and meets first Thursdays. Our Advent Evening Series discussion led by Rev. Dorothy around themes from the book *Just Mercy* provided thought provoking discussion about justice. Also, during Advent Rev. Sarah provided an opportunity to center and focus on the birth of Jesus through the making of Anglican prayer beads.

Members of the congregation participated in both a Spring and Fall ministry retreat for spiritual growth and renewal at Roslyn Center. Our spring 2020 retreat is March 21.

Ongoing children and youth offerings:

Sunday morning children's worship continues to thrive. Children participated in seasonal Fun & Learning Days, and our annual Vacation Bible School in June. We were glad to return to our Christmas Eve Pageant service and added an intergenerational choir. Our second cohort of the Teen Learning Group has been meeting since February 2019, studying the Bible and

learning about the Episcopal Church. A small group of the post-confirmation teens are discussing the book *Freedom's Children* with Rev. Dorothy in preparation for a 2020 Civil Rights Trail pilgrimage.

Goals we would like to meet include: More members for our team. If you have enjoyed the education events, please consider joining this ministry. You don't have to teach unless you want to do so! More congregants stepping forward as youth mentors and ministers. As our congregation grows and adds more children and youth we need more adult mentors and leaders.

Again, we ask that you consider if you have this call.

Beth Wentworth & Karen Franklin, co-chairs

Evangelism:

The Evangelism team has engaged with visibility goals and strategies defined in our Long Range Plan. These include communications and welcome, as well as neighborhood presence and recognition. Our porch events have successfully engaged our neighbors and shown us as vibrant and contributing members of the Museum District.

Our website and social media campaigns continue to be powerful tools in telling St. Mark's story and attracting people to us. We continue to look for "social media bees" to increase our digital communications.

The Evangelism Ministry Team includes Greeters, Ushers and others. As a team they are working to both form as "evangelists" continuing the work of intentional invitation, and providing the frontline of welcome and introduction to the church. Together the team is building a welcoming system that is smart, well choreographed, and sensitive to the needs of our visitors and new comers.

Greeters & Ushers will also be involved in new safety procedures and trainings—helping to keep our church a safe place for all.

The team is in search of a new chair and co-chair as Penny moves to focus her attention on Justice & Advocacy.

Malinda Collier, Director of Lay Ministry

Justice & Advocacy:

In the spring of 2019, St. Mark's Episcopal Church began the work of establishing a Justice & Advocacy in the parish. Penny Adams & Karen Hardison were asked and agreed to spearhead this endeavor for a minimum of six months.

By way of information, it should be noted that this is the 4th effort toward establishing this ministry in about the last fifteen years. Clearly there has been a sense that we should be about this work in some form or fashion. That said, we had not yet had the Spirit moving among the needed people, at the right time, with the right energy, to this point. With this in mind there was an intentional decision made this year to proceed very slowly and deliberately. Rather than

jumping into the work of justice & advocacy with both feet, the co-chairs, along with those persons who attended the first few meetings, decided we had work to do among ourselves in order to be able to plant seeds and help equip the congregation to embrace and engage in this work.

With this in mind, this ministry team asked the folks in the parish to consider whether or not they might be called to the building of this ministry. (It should be said that the ministry team always welcomes anyone who may be so called.) We have begun the work, within the team of lay and clergy, of praying and having deep, honest discussions about why we are called to this work as people of faith. We are looking to Scripture, our tradition, and our experiences. Our Baptismal Covenant is proving to be a bed rock for us. We are asking the tough questions: What does Justice & Advocacy work look like? Is it political? What is the difference between partisan & political? Do we hear a call to working in a particular area of concern? How can we best help raise up & educate folks in this work? What resources do we already have in the congregation? How does advocacy work differ from the works of charity we do through our Outreach Ministry?

In 2020, we shall continue in this work. Your prayers, support, and participation as you feel led, will continue to uphold and grow this ministry.

Karen Hardison & Penny Adams, interim co-chairs

Outreach:

Again in 2019 we had an exciting and busy year in the ministries of Outreach.

With the help of many congregation members, we continued our ongoing programs. Each Wednesday night we opened the church for the 12-Step Recovery Program and provided a chaperone for the event. This program often has more than 100 attendees. Twice a month on Saturday mornings, with the help of volunteers from St. Andrew's, we provided a hot meal for 50 to 80 guests and a bag of groceries to go. This mission includes dozens of volunteers, and the opportunity to greet and share a few kind words with our neighbors.

In the spring we collected and delivered an overflowing truckload of 70 care bags to ACTS (Area Congregations Together in Service). As you know, we partner with ACTS, a local non-profit organization that assists our neighbors in financial crisis. Their goal is to prevent a crisis from leading to homelessness. Among our bags was a stack of bus passes, a helpful bonus that ACTS will share with our neighbors in need of assistance.

In May we held our 22nd Yard Sale. We raised \$3,260 including \$240 from the bake sale. Funds are being distributed to ACTS, Midwives of Haiti, RealLife, Virginia Supportive Housing, YWCA, ART180, and Emma Wright's YASC ministry in Oman. The Yard Sale is a huge event, building camaraderie within our congregation in the planning, set up, execute of the sale, and cleanup after. More than 35 volunteers spent over 500 hours carrying out this ministry. Many other members of the congregation donated goods or shopped during the sale. The sale also brings hundreds of neighbors and area citizens to our church to enjoy

shopping and interacting with our volunteers.

We remain very actively involved with CARITAS. Once again, in July through early August, we hosted the CARITAS Intake program, providing a convenient daily rendezvous point for the ladies, including hospitality, companionship and other goodies. This involved 101 ministry positions being filled through 265 hours of ministry time. We also continued participation in the CARITAS Eats program. In 2019 we delivered lunch 6 times, and dinner 5 times to CARITAS facilities or other sites hosting CARITAS events. We have received many accolades from CARITAS administrators and guests. Our goal is to deliver at least one lunch or dinner a month in 2020.

Over the summer we collected school supplies for Anna Julia Cooper school. And every other month a small mission team visited McGuire Hospital to hand out ice cream treats and a few kind words to patients and staff.

We just finished the annual Christmas Gifts program. Our congregation purchased and gift wrapped items for 70 low income elders in the Richmond area (a record count for us). Many of these residents live alone and have no families. Our gifts are often all they receive for Christmas. Each person provides us with a list of desired items most useful to them. Typically they ask for simple things: winter clothes, jackets, shoes, blankets, quilts and other everyday necessities of life.

We encourage everyone to join us! We look for the spiritual component in all our ministries, and strive to make that the foundation of everything we do. There are many ways to get involved with Outreach. You will have fun, meet new members, and help your neighbors in Richmond!

Ed Street, Chair

Parish Life/Fellowship:

The Parish Life/Fellowship team operates under the guidance of Elaine Wittel and Mandy Cline, with the much appreciated assistance of Penny Adams who continues to coordinate the Sunday coffee hour teams, Karen Hardison who leads the Pancake Supper, and a small team of tireless fellowship ministers.

Our Epiphany was well attended. We think we'll stay with Epiphany as it is much less hectic than December. Our September picnic is also well-attended and lots of fun!

And we're switching up Easter a bit. As so many folks leave the Easter service to go our, we'll have our big Holy Week feast on Palm Sunday, April 5.

We look forward to our Bishop's visit on April 26 and will prepare a wonderful brunch/buffet.

Parish Life is always looking for additional members. Long- or short-term commitments will do. If you don't want to be a regular Parish Life team member, we can always use help on a per-event basis. Please let one of the co-chairs know if you are interested. We are always appreciative of any help!

Mandy Cline & Elaine Wittel, co-chairs

Pastoral Care:

Pastoral Care is a vital ministry in a healthy, supportive congregation. As Father Richard Rohr reminded us in his daily meditation on New Years Eve 2019, “a future church must be a fully practical church that is ...getting the job of love done...better and better”. We believe that this is also a job that requires the unique talents of each and all of us.

We respect the privacy of our parishioners while at the same time letting them know we are here and we care. During 2019, Pastoral Care has explored ways in which we can better assist our clergy and staff and we continue our efforts to support those within the parish who request prayer or assistance for any reason. These are some of the tangible ways we provide pastoral care:

- Assisting the Church Office in maintaining up to date prayer lists
- Providing an ongoing monthly and spontaneous card ministry
- Increasing pastoral phone calls and visits in the hospital or home
- Providing meals for parishioners when requested by the family
- Participating in retreats, training and study such as training for Lay Eucharist providers or organizing and implementing pastoral care forums on topics of interest to the congregation, such as a program on Advanced Directives to educate the congregation.
- Providing home communion
- Practicing discreet and respectful confidentiality

We feel that reading books together as a group not only helps us on our spiritual journey, but also gives us the tools and support we need in our ministry.

In 2019, we have been reading the New York Times bestseller, *Kitchen Table Wisdom* by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD.

We welcome new members and, in line with our strategic plan, are seeking several new recruits to the “team” as our congregation grows.

Brenda Sargent, Chair

Property:

Keeping a 99 year old building maintained is not easy. Through the ongoing efforts and attention of our Property Team Volunteers and Staff; our Church Property at St. Marks’ is being cared for and gently being planned for the future like a family member.

Knowing the big picture financials, as well as what lies ahead of us, the Property Committee was once again very frugal in terms of money we spent in 2019.

Our Church was Founded one hundred and fifty-one (154) years ago in 1866. Then just Fifty-five (55) years later, our Church was “Rebuilt” at the Boulevard location in 1921. Now, here we are roughly 99 years later working towards the best way to “rebuild” and refurbish some

key and crucial elements of our Building. Based on the age we now need to ensure that our Building and Property continues to serve as a strong symbol, as well as a strong foundation, of our tradition and beliefs in welcoming and serving our community.

In 2019, being good stewards of our somewhat limited financial resources, plus knowing that people are our most important assets, we continued to be very sensitive to cash flow issues and constraints to help ensure that there was enough money for other vital, critical and living aspects of our Church business operations on a daily basis. This approach not only helped maintain the daily operations, it focused on the heart, soul and Spirit of our Church while planning for the future of our physical Church building.

Our Church Building work in 2019:

Other than taking care of some of the daily, weekly or monthly ‘day-to-day’ items, 2019 continued to be a year of exploration, research, discovery and contemplation in identifying and determining some major building items which need to be addressed in the near future for the long term benefit and vitality of our Church.

On the other side of the equation, the following less expensive endeavors were accomplished in 2018:

Here is a list of a few work items completed over the last year – in 2019:

1. **KNEELERS:** A few maintenance, wear and tear ‘band-aid’ type repairs were made to our kneelers.
2. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:** We continued our Grounds Maintenance Services with Arthur who started providing exterior property and landscaping upkeep back in 2017. With the help of Arthur, we continue the use of his talents and attention to details in making a good first impression with Visitors in terms of landscaping maintenance, weed control and debris removal. Unfortunately, Arthur will not be a resource for us in 2020 in order for him to focus on his other obligations.
3. **NEW OFFICE DOORS** for privacy, but with glass panels, at Sarah Kye Price and David Wheeler’s offices: Furnished and Installed New Glass Panels Doors at two office locations upstairs with door hardware and painting.
4. **REPLACEMENT** of the **DOOR CLOSER MECHANISM** at the South & Office Door Entrance to our Church. The old Door Closer had some issues and was slamming the door closed, so we replaced it with a New Door Closer.
5. **REPAIRS** to the Wood Door in the Sanctuary that leads towards the Sacristy: Removal of the Existing Door from the Wood Door Frame. Removal of Door Casing / Trim in order to reinforce the Door Jamb that carries the weight of the door. Furnished and Installed steel plates to reinforce the Door Jamb and in order to rehang the existing heavy wood door.
6. **REMOVAL** and re-setting of the Marble Stair Treads leading up to the Chancel and Alter marble flooring: Removal of the Existing Marble Treads that had come loose. Reinforcement under the Stair Tread to accept and re-set the existing Marble Treads.

7. REPLACEMENT of some damaged Parish Hall chairs. This work was done by us, but we were reimbursed for the cost of these repairs by the original Supplier or Vendor of these chairs.

Our Church Property in 2020:

Here is a list of a few items that we are working towards accomplishing in 2020 to help maintain our Church Building:

1. Our CHURCH PARKING LOT: In an effort to help pay for our Slate Roof removal and replacement, we need to rent / lease out our Church Parking Lot as a resource to our surrounding neighbors.

Our opportunity to allow others to utilize our existing Parking Lot for \$ 2,500 per month effectively helps our ability to borrow the money needed to remove and replace our existing Slate Roof. The initial Lease would be for 2 years, with options for renewals after the planned initial 2-year duration.

Starting this endeavor for the next year or so will help us determine the demand and marketability of this space to generate some income for our Church. Overall, Leasing our Parking Lot for \$ 2,500 per month is close to the equivalent of a monthly loan payment on a \$ 500,000 loan at 4.5 % amortized over 30 years.

During the initial months of opening our lot and charging others to generate this income, it might be an adjustment for people to get used to this opportunity and program. It may take 2 to 3 months to see how it evolves in terms of sharing our lot. If the demand for parking in our lot eventually get strong, it will help us with our planning and reliance of better income over a longer period of time in the future.

A great local company called: City Parking will be responsible for the oversight and management of our parking lot. The Owner of City Parking attends St. James' Episcopal Church. City Parking will start the implementation of our Parking Lot sometime in February 2020.

In order to generate the above income, City Parking will be charging for Parking for those people who are not Members of our Church. There will not be a charge for our Church Members or Church related activities such as the 12-Step Program on Wednesday nights, as well as any other Church events.

For more information about City Parking their website is: www.cityparkingonline.com

The Parking Lot Lease will not include the Seven (7 each) Space Parking Lot on the South / Office Entrance side of our Church.

2. Our CHURCH ROOF: Once we have the Parking Lot Lease and start the implementation of that endeavor, our Church will be able to count on the \$ 2,500 per month as income to off-set or help off-set the monthly cost of our planned loan for the Roof.

Our plan is to utilize our Parking Lot Lease above to help with the Loan application with the Diocesan Missionary Society associated with the Episcopal Church. Once our Loan is ap-

proved for funding, it will take about 3 months to procure the Slate materials in order to start the roof project. Once we start the Roof work, we anticipate it will take roughly 4 to 6 months depending on weather and if something else pops up.

3. Repairs and re-painting of our: NARTHEX, SANTUARY, CHANCEL & ALTER - Walls & Ceilings: We will wait approximately 6 months after our New Slate Roof is completed in order to allow the moisture to dry out before proceeding with any interior work. Our plan is to repair and re-paint the walls and ceilings only in the above defined areas. Due to budget constraints, we think it would be better to perform any Carpeting or Floor work further in the future. That way we are not taking on too much financially over say 1 year or so period of time.

Brent Graves, Chair

Worship:

The Worship Ministry of St. Mark's had an extraordinary year in 2019. The Ministry Team itself continued to meet throughout the program year to work with the Rector to pray, study, and talk together with the goal of not only growing in our own faith journeys, but in order to support the worship ministries of the church in such a fashion that all who come to St. Mark's may do so as well. The commitment of those who serve on this Ministry is unparalleled. This is true of no one more so than Sanford Eberly. Sanford stepped down as chair of the team in 2019 having faithfully served as such for the better part of the last two decades! Truly, our congregation owes Sanford a huge debt of gratitude for his ministry in his role as Chair, as well as his ongoing work on the team.

St. Mark's is clearly a parish that places value on gathering for worship whether it be Sunday at 8:00. 10:30am, downstairs with children, on Tuesday afternoons, or on special occasions when we gather with our friends at Holy Comforter or open our doors to our neighborhood on Ash Wednesday & for Holy Week. The blessing is to be found in that we not only value worship, but we have many, many faithful folk whose dedication and hard work make our worship together beautiful, accessible, and meaningful.

Think about it as if you were entering the church for the first time, say at 10:30 on a Sunday morning... you are met by a Greeter & welcomed with one amazing roadmap of a bulletin by an Usher. You are struck by the beautiful flowers arranged magnificently by our own Floral Decorators. The immaculately set alter had been prepared for 8:00 and then reset for this service by the women & men of the Altar Guild. You center yourself while music fills the church from the organ. You are struck by all those processing. There are youth & adults, they are black, brown, and white, members of the parish called to sing in the Choir, serve as Master of Ceremonies so all goes smoothly, and bear torches & offer service as Acolytes. As the service proceeds, you'll notice that it is not left to the Clergy to lead worship. Lay persons will step forth to read Scripture and offer the prayers as Lectors and Intercessors. On occasion a

lay person might even climb into the pulpit and offer a sermon as a Lay Preacher! And when it's time for Eucharist, you're likely as not to be served by a lay Chalice. You'll realize fairly quickly, it takes a lot of faithful, willing, folks to have a worship service as beautiful, accessible, and meaningful as you'll find at St. Mark's.

We were so blessed by the ministries of all those who served our church this past year. The gifts each person brought were needed and deeply appreciated. We know that 2020 will call upon some more of you to share your gifts in the Worship Ministry of this parish. Some who have served faithfully for years would like to take a break, others are retiring and their travels or relocation mean they will not be available in the same old way! People who until recently may have had plenty of free time find they are living in a whole new world now that a new baby has arrived! It takes a goodly number of folks. We invite you to find your place in the worship ministries of the church if you feel so called.

Karen Hardison, Chair

Worship Assistant Statistics:

Readers/ Intercessors 34

Chalicers 18

Master/ Mistress of Ceremonies 4

Acolytes 18(8 children/ youth)

Ushers 16

Choir members 19

Altar Guild 21

Floral Decorators 5 regular...3 subs...2 more who help special times.

Greeters 26

Nursery volunteers 6

Children's Worship/Youth volunteers 3

Many thanks to Richard Yuk for making the nativity display platform.

Ralph Stanley for heading up the exterior Christmas decorations.

Pam Piercy for heading up the interior Advent, Christmas, & Easter decorations

Sanford Eberly and Mike Gephart, Altar Guild co-chairs

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 153rd Annual Meeting January 28, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Rev. Niemeyer.

A quorum in excess of 10% of the parish members reported on the 2018 Parochial Report (338) was declared by the Register, Karen Franklin.

Opening Prayer

The opening Prayer was led by the Rector

Minutes of 152nd Annual Meeting

The minutes are filed in the office and are available for review. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Election of New Vestry Members

Rules of the election were explained by the Rector.

The off-going vestry were appointed by the Rector as tellers.

The three candidates whose biographies were published in the bulletin were presented: Ivy Burnes, Sanford Eberly and Tamara Orr.

There were no nominations from the floor.

Three new Vestry members were elected.

Mickie Jones made a motion to keep Karen Franklin as Register. Jim Contner seconded. The motion was passed by majority of the congregation present.

Business Meeting

Suzanne Long, Treasurer, acknowledged all the support from the various ministry teams. Suzanne presented the budget overview and a written report highlighting the tremendous amount of support that is given from the parishioners.

Written reports from the Ministry Team Chairs had been submitted prior to the publication of the Order of the Annual Meeting bulletin and were included in the bulletin for the meeting. Howard Pugh shared the Stewardship Report thanking the parishioners for meeting the challenge of 100 pledges. To date \$309,500 has been pledged.

Rector's Report: Fr. Niemeyer encouraged parishioners to read the Rector's Report in the bulletin. Fr. Niemeyer offered special thanks to all who contribute to the church through the various ministries. Appreciation was also expressed to the Vestry, especially the outgoing members - Dolores Ramiza, Mike Gephart and Sam Shute. Appreciation for the commitment of the Senior and Junior Wardens and the church staff were also shared. Fr. Niemeyer expressed gratitude and honor for serving the parishioners of St. Mark's.

Questions

There were no questions from the floor

Close of Meeting

Fr. Niemeyer led the closing prayer.

The 152nd annual congregational meeting was adjourned by Fr. Niemeyer at 1:10 PM.

Rules for the Election:

In keeping with Canon 11 of the Diocese of Virginia all adult communicants (ages 16 and older) in good standing, registered at St. Mark's shall be entitled to vote at the election.

The voting shall be by ballot in person, no proxy voting allowed. Vote for no more than 3 candidates.

No election shall be valid unless the participating qualified votes number at least ten percent of the number of active communicants qualified to vote as reported for the previous year.

Mickie Jones, Paul Williams & Amy Strite will serve as the election judges and tellers.

Candidates receiving the plurality of votes will be considered duly elected to serve a full vestry term of three consecutive years.

Election may be by affirmation. By canon, nominations may be given from the floor with the prior consent of the nominee.



Vestry Ballot

Tear off and give to the Tellers.



St Mark's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

love is our tradition