

**ST. MARK'S VESTRY
MINUTES OF 3/19/13 MEETING**

*Working through God's love to eliminate
spiritual and physical hunger.*

CONVENED: 6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Nancy Wheatley, Gerry Stackhouse, Larry Chase, Judy Peterson, Barb Farris, Jean Kracker, The Very Rev. Rebecca Crise and Dawn Brisbane, Vestry Clerk.

VISITORS: Phyllis Mandigo and Jim Lytle

Visitors' Business: Phyllis and Jim came to speak with the vestry about the use of a welcome-to-worship church bell at the beginning of the service. Because we don't have an actual church bell anymore, Jim demonstrated sounds of church bells that could be amplified through speakers - sounds such as the traditional call-to-mass, funeral toll and angelus. Gerry mentioned that we have the large speakers that came over with the organ (Phyllis will look into this). Jim also will look into the possibility of putting a speaker up in the "tower" so the ringing church bell can be heard outside. We will have a follow-up report at our next meeting.

OPENING MEDITATION/REFLECTION: Mother Rebecca opened our meeting with a prayer.

BUSINESS:

Spiritual Life:

Maundy Thursday: Mother Rebecca read the gospel for Maundy Thursday. Discussion about how difficult it is having others wash your feet and/or washing other's feet. Mother Rebecca encouraged the vestry to lead the congregation at the service.

Safeguarding God's Children/People: We are starting to see more children so we need to make sure we are covered - We need to make sure that everyone who works with children or those who are vulnerable has gone through the program. Mother Rebecca will make sure we have a session here in our building. It would be nice if the entire congregation could participate in the program. We will also ask the Building Committee to make sure we are in compliance with program recommendations - windows in doors, etc.

Confirmation/Reception: Mother Rebecca will go down the parish list to see

who needs to be confirmed. Chris Benson will be getting baptized (Lise and Phil will be sponsors). Planning on it being on Pentecost (5/19/13).

Training for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Officiants for M.P., Acolytes: Mother Rebecca will be instituting training. Mary Palanca has approached Mother Rebecca already. Perhaps we could add Alex and Maggie to be acolytes. Let's talk this up and start generating some interest.

Paschal Candle: Mother Rebecca said she looked at oil-filled candles vs wax candles for a price comparison. We already use oil-filled altar candles so she had Ginny Chamberlin order an oil-filled paschal candle. The cost is \$250.20 and it needs vestry approval. Larry Chase moves that we purchase the oil-filled paschal candle at a cost of \$250.20; Gerry Stackhouse seconds the motion. Discussion. The motion is approved. The cost will come out of the altar and worship account.

Kingdom Work:

Next outreach project: Tabled to next meeting. The dolls project may be undertaken in the fall. Gerry said that she has a potential project - knit/crochet hats made and donated to the cancer center. Gerry will talk to Lise Black about that.

Alms Box Schedule:

March - Rector's Discretionary fund

Will alternate between these three: Rector's Discretionary Fund, Episcopal Relief and Development and United Christian Services

Parish Life:

Rummage Sale - Lise Black is still willing to handle this. Will be held here at 412 Cedar and will probably take place in May.

Holiday craft sale: Judy reminded us that for the last 2 years this has been held at the United Methodist Church. Two years prior we had outside vendors in the lower level at the 201 building and we continued the addition of outside vendors at United Methodist Church. We charge them \$10/1 table, \$5/2nd table, plus 10% of sales. But, profits are down. Judy said that this year we can go back to cookies and our own crafts and have it all at 412 Cedar with no outside vendors. After some discussion, the consensus of the vestry is to have the craft

sale here - just St. Mark's crafts, no outside vendors - with the cookie walk.

Columbarium: Larry reviewed the quote from Dykema Builders for finishing the wall including painting the wall when finished. \$650 includes fastening the columbarium to the wall. Dykema will work in evenings. Mr. Dykema is the one who replaced the doors and arch at 201. He has done work for Larry and does a great job. Judy Peterson moves that we retain the services of Dykema Builders to prepare the place in the sanctuary for the columbarium and to paint the wall; Jean Kracker seconded the motion. After some discussion and a vote the motion was approved.

Cedar Street Church:

Lawn signs - perhaps Dave Hoover could put out the sign on M-40 when he arrives for church Sunday morning. Mother Rebecca will ask him.

Chair lift for stairs: Phyllis Mandigo said that she has a chair lift for sale (\$1,000) that could be installed on the stairs going up to the sanctuary. Her son helped install it at her former mother-in-law's home so he could possibly assist in the installation here at 412 Cedar. The Building Committee had previously decided to reject this offer because they thought that all ADA modifications had to be done at the same time to be in compliance with the law. There was some discussion that religious building are exempt from these requirements. Phyllis said she will look into that and provide that information to Mother Rebecca as this may make a difference.

Church Business and Support:

Gross Scholarship: Committee is to be appointed in January. We think Leah may still be eligible. Judy said we need a committee to make a decision, to see if we have people, and to determine what we can spend. Gerry Stackhouse nominates Judy Peterson to chair the committee; Jean Kracker seconded the motion. Discussion. Nomination approved.

QR Code for St. Mark's - This would lead people to our website and provide them with helpful information - the scan code would be on the outside sign being assembled. This might be a way to encourage or interest the "techie" kind of participant. Judy suggested that we might go to the national website for additional information (Episcopal Church of the USA - ECUSA). Jim Lytle said that he will take this on.

Audit: Barb Farris said that Mother Rebecca has asked her to head up the audit. Barb said she will be handling this with Phil Naylor and Larry Chase.

Procedures for Tellers: Barb Farris said that she is gathering the information right now and will update the existing list with Barb Johnson to simplify the procedures and make them uniform.

New Cross: Mother Rebecca said that Jim Lytle made a new cross for the Adoration of the Cross for Good Friday. A big thanks to Jim.

Calendar:

- Tuesday, March 26 - Chrism Mass 11-1pm in Grand Rapids
- Wednesday, March 27 - Chaplin's meeting 1-2 pm at Lakeview
- Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday at 7 pm
- Friday, March 29 - Good Friday at 7 pm
- Sunday March 31 - Easter Sunday at 9:30 am
- Easter service at White Oaks (2:45p) and Bronson Lakeview (3:30p)
- April - on-call chaplain for Lakeview for the entire month
- April 9 - Clergy Council 10-11:30am
- April 13, Saturday - Bishop Search Team final meeting
- April 19 - Diocesan/Clergy Retreat
- April 20 - Diocesan Convention
- April 24 - Prayer service at Miller Court (3 pm)
- April 28 - Crop Walk

Extension of Mother Rebecca's contract (expires in November 2013): Gerry Stackhouse moves that we extend Mother Rebecca's contract for three years to November 2016; Nancy Wheatley seconds the motion. Following a vote the motion was approved.

Acceptance of Minutes: Discussion. Gerry Stackhouse moved that the January minutes be accepted with modifications; Nancy Wheatley seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Discussion about pledges and actual income (behind almost \$2,000/mo). How should people be reminded? Larry said that as a reminder we do send out quarterly statements.

Discussion about making the coffee hour donation more visible? People do give when they can. Gerry suggests that we set up something different - a donation

can with a sign - "Alms for the Pour".

Discussion about the building/liability insurance so high. Larry said that the quote given and actual are different. Looking into why.

Judy Peterson moves that the treasurer's report be accepted as written; Nancy Wheatley seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Closer Schedule:

January - Gerry Stackhouse

February - Larry Chase

March - Nancy Wheatley

April - Jean Kracker

May - Judy Peterson

June - Larry Chase

July - Gerry Stackhouse

August - Nancy Wheatley

September - Jean Kracker

October - Larry Chase

November - Barb Farris

December - Judy Peterson

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 16, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNED: Gerry Stackhouse closed our meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn L. Brisbane
Vestry Clerk