

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
**October 17, 2023, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Fr. Chris Jubinski, Diane Stewart, Sandy Wyman, Diane Feil, Madeline Glover, Tom Hadlock, Tom Horan, Marj Kulesa, Ashley McLean, Barbara Pettus, Steve Turner, Tom Simson, Carol Fitton

Fr. Chris called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with a prayer by St. Francis.

**Check-in Time:** Fr. Chris invited Vestry members to share news and prayer concerns.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Sandy, seconded by Barbara, to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes: 1) the minutes from the September 19, 2023 Vestry meeting and 2) the Rector's Report for October 2023 (attached).

**Finance Report (by Tom Simson):**

**Bright Beginnings:** YTD tuition receipts were \$517.4K, up 6% compared to \$485.5K YTD 2022, while YTD expenses were \$619.3K compared to \$759.2K YTD 2022, a drop of 18%. Tom noted that salaries comprise most of the expenses and these were down 4.7% from \$556.9K in 2022 to \$530.4K in 2023 due to the absence of salaries in the summer due to no summer camp. YTD 2023 Net Income stands at -\$61.7K vs \$4K in 2022. SMC has infused \$65K in capital into the school to cover the deficit. Looking at the trendline, Tom thinks the school will approach break-even by year end, but he also noted that the church is now picking up expenses that the school previously covered. That factor will make the Bright Beginnings net income look slightly better than it would have a year ago and likewise, will make the SMC expenses higher than they would have been a year ago.

**SMC:** Tom S reported YTD September 2023 Church Donations of \$179.8K vs \$136.8K a year ago, a healthy 31% increase, although Other Revenue is lower by \$43K, from \$60K in 2022 to \$17K in 2023, due mainly to the conversion of the monthly cell tower leasing income to a one-time payment received in July 2022. For the same timeframes, YTD Salaries and Benefits Expenses were \$218.8K vs \$207.5K. The September 2023 YTD Operating Loss of -\$194.9K compares to -\$220.6K a year earlier, a significant improvement, but Tom noted that the 2022 YTD number does not include a one-time COVID retention payment of \$192.2K.

**Endowment:** The reported balance at the end of September was \$1.064mm, compared to a balance of \$1.32mm a year ago.

**Safe Church:**

Tom Horan reported that he is working his way through all the courses that are on the list and once he has completed them all, he will work with Vestry members to complete their course loads.

**Announcements / Upcoming Events (by Fr. Chris):**

- 1) The 2024 stewardship campaign "Rooted in Abundance", co-chaired by Barbara Pettus and Rob Perdock, will kick off with a Spaghetti Dinner at 6 p.m. on October 27, with sauce made from tomatoes harvested from the garden. Barbara noted that she has greatly appreciated having Rob Perdock as co-chair.
- 2) A new AA group will be meeting here on Thursdays in the Parish Hall beginning sometime in November. Al-Anon currently meets here on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.
- 3) A bridge group that formerly met at SMC has expressed interest in renting the Parish Hall for an afternoon for their games.
- 4) SMC will be an Early Voting location for the general election from October 28 through November 5. An election worker will be on site 24 hours per day / 7 days each week. Suffolk County is compensating us \$2,500.
- 5) A tour of the renovated Beinecke Building is being planned for November 12 following the 10 a.m. service.

- 6) The NYBCS is scheduled to open on November 20.
- 7) The “new” organ will be delivered on November 20.

**Question and Answer Time:**

The newly formed Women’s Group had a great turnout for the kickoff brunch held on Saturday, October 14 at the Post Stop Café in WHB. 19 women attended and plans are underway for a December event.

**Closing Prayer and Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. after readings and closing prayers from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

**Next Vestry Meeting:** Vestry meetings are normally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The schedule of upcoming meetings is: November 21, December 19 at the Rectory, January 16, February 20, March 19, and April 16. The tentative Annual Meeting date is May 5.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Fitton, Clerk

## **Rector's Report for October 17, 2023**

**Stewardship**—Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign called Rooted in Abundance kicks off with a spaghetti dinner on Friday, October 27 and runs through Thanksgiving weekend. This will be Barbara Pettus' last year to cochair this annual campaign. Rob Perdock will be joining this year as co-chair. Here are some highlights of this year's campaign:

- Weekly videos from parishioners speaking to the theme of abundance.
- No Offering Envelopes in 2024. Very few people use them, and we can save money by not using them.
- I would like to see more education on EFT and other digital ways of giving and making bequests to the church during end-of-life planning.

**Beinecke Building**—NYBCS will begin seeing patients on November 20. I have requested that our parishioners be given a chance to see the newly renovated building. The tentative day for a tour is Sunday, November 12th following the 10:00 a.m. service.

**Organ**—The first payment of \$7K has been made to Saint Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. It is scheduled to arrive on Monday, November 20th (a lot going on that day!). Stephen has turned the chapel into a workshop. Most tools are in place. We have almost all the funding in place. I would like to ask someone(s) from the vestry to lead a fundraising effort to raise money if the expenses go over. Also, I would like to use any leftover funds to go into a new bell system for the tower. The current one, like the organ, is on its last legs.

**AA**—We will be hosting a newly formed AA group on Thursday evenings in the Parish Hall. Start date TBD.