



Vestry News May 2019

Vestry took the bold step to initiate a request that the property and buildings in Pahokee, currently owned by the diocese, be given to St. Mark's as a future ministry site. The parish would incur no cost to secure the two-and-a-half acres, a rectory and empty church building in this western Palm Beach County community. As St. Mark's continues to explore ministry opportunities in this poor and struggling community, we are visiting government, religious and non-profit leaders who serve the communities in the Glades. The vestry is confident that the costs to insure the buildings is minimal. Plans for renovations will be discussed in the months ahead.

Vestry also voted unanimously to continue suspension of the Thursday night meal service at St. George's until a viable, sustainable safety and security plan from St. George's Church and Community Center is developed. While vestry and clergy want very much to return and are upset with the situation, vestry also feels strongly that changes are required at the Center. St. Mark's has offered to help be involved in finding solutions, and St. Mark's has been working with the bishop to develop a more long-term solution to the sustainability of St. George's for the years to come. The bishop is guiding this process, and vestry waits anxiously for his permission to continue our leadership in developing a long-term plan for this beloved church and center.

After months of study, discussion and discernment, the school advisory board presented to vestry a Religious Exemption Policy Statement. The statement addresses the school policy around immunizations, and it was unanimously approved by vestry. Vestry also elected Josh Koenig and Monique Burns to the school advisory board.

Plans for security at Vacation Bible School were also unveiled. St. Mark's leads a vibrant VBS program that is full with nearly 80 students registered and more than 50 volunteers.

Ron McElhone, CFO, shared financial information through March. The budget shows a significant surplus, but pledge payments are running below expectations. Parishioners are encouraged to review their pledge commitments and try to catch up before the June 30 year-end. He also shared a review of the current pledge campaign, which has passed the \$900,000 mark. Ron and the finance committee are writing the budget and encourage parishioners to return their pledge cards soon for next year. We are hoping to build the budget on pledges of about \$1.1 million. Thank you for your ongoing support of the missions and ministries of St. Mark's.

Financials

The monthly financials for March was presented (see page 4). For more information regarding St. Mark's financials, please call Ron McElhone, CFO, or Steve Eassa, treasurer. For questions about your pledges or gifts to St. Mark's, call our bookkeeper, Allison Dean, in the church office at 561-622-0956, ext. 233, or email adean@stmarkspbg.org.

St. Mark's at a Glance

Did you know

Daniel Bayless, director of music at St. Mark's, has been elected dean of the Palm Beach County Chapter of American Guild of Organists? We are so proud of Daniel and his leadership among professionals serving churches as organists and music directors.

The second St. Mark's Hearts of Palm House in Riviera Beach is nearly ready to receive a family in transition from homelessness to home security? Thank you to the volunteers who have worked for the past eight months to make this house a home and thank you to those who have made financial contributions to this ministry.

Hearts of Palm is also hosting 150 youth who will be staying in the Youth Center and Gymnasium while they serve in non-profits around Palm Beach County? Church youth groups from as far away as Connecticut and Arkansas will be here to experience service in Christ's name. The youth groups will be here from June 9 through July 20. The HOP groups will work at various sites across the county: Palm Beach County Food Bank, CROS Ministries Food Bank, Seagull Services, Homeless Coalition, Big Dog Rescue Ranch, South Bay, and the Church of the Harvest in Pahokee. To learn more about St. Mark's Hearts of Palm ministry, please visit www.HOPmission.com or contact Karen Cook, Director, Hearts of Palm, at 561-623-2601 or email karen@HOPmission.com.

St. Mark's high school youth group will travel to Kentucky to work in rural Appalachia? The mission team will travel to St. Timothy's Outreach Center in Irvine, Kentucky, from July 13-21, and they will help with home repairs. The middle school mission group will serve nearby with Hearts of Palm from June 9-14. They will help with St. Mark's Vacation Bible School as well as at The Church of the Harvest in Pahokee. Because of the generosity from parishioners and friends of St. Mark's, more than \$1,900 was raised to support these youth mission trips.

Young adults from St. Mark's are gathering on June 27 at Civil Society Brewing for fellowship and fun? If you are under 40 and would like join others of similar age, please call the church office and make plans to join us!

Two men from St. Mark's – Ron Burris and Lindsey Laeha – are attending the Men's Cursillo this weekend at the Duncan Center? Keep them in your prayers as they grow in their faith.

Thirty-one pilgrims from St. Mark's and Temple Judea in Palm Beach Gardens returned home safely from a ten-day visit to Israel and the Holy Land? They look forward to sharing their experiences with us during the summer.

The interest and the number of St. Mark's Vacation Bible School registrants continues to grow? This year's VBS program, *Roar - Life is Wild, God is Good!* – will be held during the mornings of the week of June 10-14 and will serve nearly 80 children. Thanks to Ginny Coykendall for her leadership as director of the annual event and to our Youth Director Dave Stankiewicz.

The Handymen of St. Mark's are available to help you with small household challenges like changing a light bulb or fixing a squeaky door? St. Mark's Handymen is a volunteer program that provides minor home repair, maintenance and landscaping services to members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and submit a Handyman Ministry work request. A member of our Handyman Ministry will respond to your request. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office (561) 622-0956.

Average Sunday attendance stands at 500 for the first five months of the year? That makes St. Mark's the second largest church by attendance in the diocese? Please remember to attend services this summer!

100 CHURCH - St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 7/1/2018
Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 09 March 75.00%
Condensed Income/Expense

<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget Annual</u>	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Variance for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Var. Actual to Annual Budget Dollar</u>
INCOME							
Pledge Income	1,019,462.00	63,003.77	74,771.33	11,767.56	819,323.73	787,792.66	-31,531.07
Open Income	180,000.00	13,959.90	17,243.63	3,283.73	122,480.46	156,403.46	33,923.00
Thrift Store	78,000.00	10,157.55	11,637.54	1,479.99	54,877.36	76,686.15	21,808.79
Other Income	18,200.00	12,516.67	9,967.41	-2,549.26	16,649.99	16,686.46	36.47
TOTAL INCOME	1,295,662.00	99,637.89	113,619.91	13,982.02	1,013,331.54	1,037,568.73	24,237.19
EXPENSES							
Obligations	190,706.00	17,224.34	17,310.00	85.66	139,033.02	126,230.00	-12,803.02
Personnel Expenses	763,811.00	63,392.16	63,668.67	276.51	570,529.28	570,024.60	-504.68
Utilities	39,500.00	3,291.67	3,282.98	-8.69	29,624.99	29,402.14	-222.85
General Expenses	213,200.00	16,216.66	14,829.96	-1,386.70	165,050.02	147,777.19	-17,272.83
Thrift Store	42,000.00	3,500.00	3,851.91	351.91	31,500.00	34,631.04	3,131.04
Capital Management Expense	46,445.00	3,870.42	3,870.39	-.03	34,833.74	34,833.51	-.23
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,295,662.00	107,495.25	106,813.91	-681.34	970,571.05	942,898.48	-27,672.57
Income Over/(Under) Expense	.00	-7,857.36	6,806.00	14,663.36	42,760.49	94,670.25	51,909.76