



## **Vestry News August 2019**

Updates on several long-term initiatives under the guidance of vestry were shared at Tuesday evening's August meeting.

Sr. Warden Charlie Schlumberger shared progress of the feasibility study being conducted by an ad-hoc committee of vestry and non-vestry members to study how St. Mark's might take greater responsibility for St. George's Church and Community Center in Riviera Beach. Members of the committee are reviewing governance, budgets, buildings and infrastructure, personnel and ministries of St. George's under the bishop's request. Members of the committee are Charlie Schlumberger, Cathy Harrington, Joe Moaba, Alex Kramer, Sid Stubbs, Greg Frantz, Monique Burns, and Gary Adkin.

Charlie and Fr. Cook also reported on the transfer of the Pahokee property to St. Mark's, which is set for October 1. While no definite plans have been made, Jim discussed the possibility of working with Community Partners to house Bridges in the existing church building. Renovations on the church and former rectory could begin as early as December.

To help fund the renovations in Pahokee, vestry approved \$168,000 appropriation from the \$250,000 anonymous gift made to St. Mark's last February. The vestry also appropriated \$70,000 toward St. Mark's retail operations and \$12,000 to staff training. Vestry continues to express gratitude to the anonymous donor for such an amazing gift, which allows St. Mark's to invest in new ministries.

Treasurer Steve Eassa and CFO Ron McElhone also reported on fiscal year-end financials. The parish ended the 2018/19 fiscal year with a \$32,907 surplus thanks to greater-than-anticipated income and lower-than-expected expenses. Thanks, St. Mark's!!! The audit of St. Mark's Church, Inc., which includes the church and school financials, is underway and will be finished in October.

The vestry also moved the remaining \$12,000 from the rector's sabbatical fund to the Mama Ada Foundation parish account. Fr. Cook did not spend the entire \$34,000 that was given to him for his sabbatical. Charlie Schlumberger asked that the balance be transferred to the Foundation Jim has helped to create and now serves as chairman of the board. Grateful for the generosity of the gift, Jim expressed being overwhelmed by the amount and grateful to share some of the gift with those Kenyan children and farmers so dear to his heart.

Ginny Coykendall reported that school was off to a great start. She also reported that Deb Strainge, head of school, had spent much of the summer calling school families to inform them of the change to the immunization policy implemented by the vestry. While the calls were difficult to make and several families quite upset, St. Mark's School only lost six students because of the change. Most families and all of staff are grateful that St. Mark's has made the change, and we pray those families leaving St. Mark's all the best as they move to new schools.

The rector also reported that he and Ron McElhone will be attending a three-day conference titled *Beyond Plate and Pledge* at Kanuga Conference Center in North Carolina in mid-September. Sponsored by Trinity Church, Wall Street, and The Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Churches, the conference brings together 25 congregations on the cutting edge of creative ministries that also generate revenue in the changing economics of parish life.

### **Financials**

The June monthly financial report 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@stmarkspb.org](mailto:adean@stmarkspb.org).

### **St. Mark's at a Glance**

#### **Did you know . . .**

Elinor Samarias, a parishioner and St. Mark's School 7<sup>th</sup> grader, won National Champion in First Level Dressage and was also a National Top Ten medalist in six dressage and hunter/jumper events at the Arabian Horse Association Youth National Championship in Oklahoma City in July? Congratulations, Elinor! She is the daughter of Alison and Joe Samarias and sister to Isabel and Nathaniel.

Head of School Deb Strainge has been asked to serve on the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) Commission on Accreditation? This highly selective group is personally appointed by Dr. Barbara Hodges, who heads FCIS and recognizes the excellence of St. Mark's School under Deb's leadership.

CFO Ron McElhone has joined the board of directors of The Forum Club of The Palm Beaches and its finance committee? It is the largest non-partisan and public affairs organization in the state. The Forum Club hosts a variety of thought leaders whose words and actions affect the world in which we live. St. Mark's is a member of the Club and hosts a table at the monthly luncheons.

St. Mark's School faculty members Melanie Perkins and Kristin Ackerman are presenting at the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) annual convention in November on integrating technologies in the classroom? Having the technology is one thing, but helping faculty use the technology effectively to enhance classroom learning is quite another. St. Mark's is being recognized in leading the way as Melanie and Kristin work together with our faculty and students. FCIS also reached out to Melanie to present on integration of technology for early childhood education at the pre-school level.

Wednesday evening Bible Study resumes on September 25 at 6:30 p.m.? "Walking Through John" continues from last fall, when Fr. Cook paused for his sabbatical. Please join us, whether you started a year ago or are new this year. Nothing moves quickly in a study led by the clergy of St. Mark's! All are welcome.

A ribbon cutting for the second Hearts of Palm House renovation is set for Wednesday morning, September 25, at the house in Riviera Beach? A family, sponsored through the Lord's Place, will move into the home by October 15. This is the second home St. Mark's has funded and renovated to help meet the needs of the affordable housing crisis that is plaguing Palm Beach County and the nation. Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who worked hundreds of hours this past year to make the old house new again. And, thank you to the Rev. Bonnie and Billie Jones for purchasing the home on St. Mark's behalf. Watch for more details about the ribbon cutting coming soon.

**100 CHURCH - St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**Fiscal Year Beginning 7/1/2018**  
**Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 12 June 100.00%**  
**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>
<b>INCOME</b>							
Pledge Income	1,019,462.00	63,162.81	81,589.50	18,426.69	1,019,462.00	992,720.13	-26,741.87
Open Income	180,000.00	8,403.12	11,479.95	3,076.83	180,000.00	205,759.09	25,759.09
Thrift Store	78,000.00	8,919.77	8,003.56	-916.21	78,000.00	100,095.51	22,095.51
Other Income	18,200.00	516.67	1,391.58	874.91	18,200.00	21,753.99	3,553.99
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,295,662.00</b>	<b>81,002.37</b>	<b>102,464.59</b>	<b>21,462.22</b>	<b>1,295,662.00</b>	<b>1,320,328.72</b>	<b>24,666.72</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Obligations	190,706.00	17,224.30	17,310.00	85.70	190,706.00	178,160.00	-12,546.00
Personnel Expenses	763,811.00	66,497.40	66,970.83	473.43	763,811.00	765,132.83	1,321.83
Utilities	39,500.00	3,291.67	3,250.72	-40.95	39,500.00	39,182.29	-317.71
General Expenses	213,200.00	16,016.66	26,547.66	10,531.00	213,200.00	212,364.53	-835.47
Thrift Store	42,000.00	3,500.00	3,526.48	26.48	42,000.00	46,136.40	4,136.40
Capital Management Expense	46,445.00	3,870.42	3,870.39	-.03	46,445.00	46,444.68	-.32
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,295,662.00</b>	<b>110,400.45</b>	<b>121,476.08</b>	<b>11,075.63</b>	<b>1,295,662.00</b>	<b>1,287,420.73</b>	<b>-8,241.27</b>
<b>Income Over/(Under) Expense</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>-29,398.08</b>	<b>-19,011.49</b>	<b>10,386.59</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>32,907.99</b>	<b>32,907.99</b>