



Vestry News September 2019

Sr. Warden Charlie Schlumberger led the meeting since Father Cook was at a church conference in North Carolina. Father Cook and Ron McElhone, CFO, attended 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.

Charlie 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 also reported on the transfer of the Pahokee property to St. Mark's, which is set for October 1. There is a possibility of working with Community Partners to house Bridges in the existing church building.

The audit of St. Mark's Church, Inc., which includes the church and school financials, is underway and will be finished in October. There were no financial reports given.

Ginny Coykendall, school board liaison, reported that the school is celebrating its 40th year! A birthday party was held on Thursday, September 19 with students, parents, alumni, teachers, and friends. Additional activities are planned throughout the year, so watch for more information. She also reported that this year's school enrollment was healthy.

Father Groff offered some staffing updates, including that our nursery caretaker, Leatrianna, resigned so that she could spend more time caring for a family member. A new nursery caretaker has been contacted and is going through the hiring process. Lauren, one of our baristas in the Lion's Den, resigned to work closer to home. A new barista has been hired and will start soon. Father Groff expressed thanks to Leatrianna and Lauren for their service to St. Mark's over the years.

Father Groff also shared information about a number of upcoming events including the Rectors' Bible Study on Wednesdays (starting September 25), the visit of the Rev. Dan Heischman, D.D., who is the Executive Director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools (the weekend of September 28 and 29), and upcoming new member programming to include a reception and boot camp (October 17 and 19, respectively).

Finally, Father Groff informed the Vestry that the church office will be updating its database software over the next number of months. This will mean that records will be updated and cleaned-up. It has been many years since the last major upgrade of the software system, so this will come with numerous benefits to enhance communication with parishioners.

New business was shared by Ginny Coykendall about the Seraphic Fire group returning to St. Mark's for a concert on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

Jenn Kramer thanked the Vestry on behalf of the Open Door program for a wonderful four years. She is looking forward to the continued partnership as they help unwed, teenage mothers. There have been 28 participants who have gone through the program since its inception.

Financials

There were no financials shared because the audit is in progress. 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@stmarksdbg.org.

St. Mark's at a Glance

Did you know . . .

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 1. 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. For those who wish to attend, the HOP house is located at: 1333 W. 31st Street, Riviera Beach, FL 33404.

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. We meet in Community Room A on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Parishioner Dave Lill won gold, silver and the bronze medals in the 2019 USRowing Masters' National Championship races in Grand Rapids, Michigan? A long-time rower and former Director of Palm Beach County Aquatics, Dave won in the competitions for the men's eight and fours as a member of the Palm Beach Rowing Association.

We will have a guest preacher on Sunday, September 29? We are extremely honored to welcome the Rev. Daniel Heischman, D.D., Executive Director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES), to St. Mark's next weekend. A noted speaker, workshop leader, and author, the Rev. Heischman is an Instructor in the Doctor of Ministry Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia. He preaches and leads faculty and parent workshops and retreats at Episcopal and independent schools, and serves as a facilitator for faculty development programs related to ethics and the moral development of students. His published books include *Good Influence: Teaching the Wisdom of Adulthood*, which focuses on the role that adults—be they parents or educators—play in the development of young people. The Rev. Heischman will be our guest preacher at services on Sunday, September 29 and will spend Monday, September 30 with parents, teachers, and students at St. Mark's School. He will conclude his visit with the student body during a special Eucharist service Tuesday morning. We look forward to welcoming the Rev. Heischman and hope you won't miss this unique opportunity to meet and hear one of the most important voices within the Episcopal school world. If you would like to learn more about the Rev. Heischman and NAES, you can visit www.episcopalschools.org.

A new-member welcome is being hosted by the Cooks at their home on Thursday, October 17? We are blessed at St. Marks' to have another large group of newcomers and this is wonderful way to greet our new friends. Boot camp is offered Saturday, October 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to anyone wishing to learn more about St. Mark's and the Episcopal Church.