

# **Annual Meeting Written Report**

## **January 24, 2020**

### **2020 Parish Report**



**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**531 West College Avenue**  
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## **Annual Meeting Written Report January 24, 2020**

1. Prayer for Annual Meeting
2. Nominations and Vestry Election Results
3. Minutes from 2020 meeting
4. Treasurer's report for 2020 – ATTACHMENT
5. Senior Warden's Report
6. Day School Report - ATTACHMENT
7. Introduction of incoming Senior Warden
8. Closing Prayer

### **Prayer for the Annual Meeting**

Almighty and everlasting God, who by the Holy Spirit did preside in the council of the blessed Apostles and has promised through your son Jesus Christ, to be with the Church to the end of the world; we ask you to be with this meeting of this parish here assembled in your name. Save us from all error, ignorance, pride and prejudice; and in your mercy we ask you to direct, sanctify, and govern us in our work by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Guide us, Lord, in the choice of our Vestry members; may they be sensitive to the direction of your Holy Spirit and discharge their duties faithfully. We pray for all who have been members of this congregation who have worked and worshipped here with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Qualifications for a Member of the Parish Vestry**

(c) The qualifications for a member of the Parish vestry shall be as follows:

A confirmed communicant of the Parish in good standing of not less than 18 years of age, a frequent attendant upon the services of the Parish for the six months next preceding the election and a regular contributor and pledger of record, or a member of a family unit which is a regular contributor and pledger of record for the support of the Parish; PROVIDED

(1) a husband and wife shall not both be members of the vestry at the same time; and

(2) members of the paid staff (including clergy) of a Parish working more than ten (10) hours per week, and their spouses, shall not be eligible to serve. In case of a question as to eligibility, the report of the Rector in consultation with the Treasurer shall be final, provided that subparagraph 2 of this paragraph shall not apply to vestry members taking office prior to March 1, 1999.

[Arkansas Canon 24, 6c]

**Biographies of Vestry Candidates**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**January 24, 2021**  
**Vestry Nominations**



**Conley Ferguson-Meyering**

Conley Ferguson-Meyering is an active member of St. Marks and has worked with the Two Saints program in the past as well as being a team leader and volunteer with many events. Conley grew in the Church of Christ before becoming a Baptist. He has been an active Episcopalian of almost four years. Conley is no stranger to hard work and is very familiar with fiscal responsibility regarding budgets and project management having been part of the Executive Team at Southland Casino for 11 years. Through his involvement with St Marks, Conley has developed what he considers a very basic but effective philosophy regarding his decisions. He wants to be ready to answer the five questions he believes he will be asked when he stands before God according to Matthew 25.

1. Did you feed the hungry?
2. Did you clothe the naked?
3. Did you welcome the stranger?
4. Did you visit the prisoner and those in need?
5. Did you love Me with all your heart?

Conley believes the first four questions answers the fifth.

Conley is married to MG Ferguson-Meyering who is also a member and former vestry member of St. Marks.



**Chase Jenkins**

My name is Chase Jenkins and I am running for the Vestry. I am a cradle Episcopalian and have been a member of St. Mark's for many years. I was raised in this church, being both baptized and confirmed here. As a child I was a Crucifer and Acolyte. Following my marriage at St. Mark's in 2001, I moved to Alabama where I lived until 2015. /since returning to Jonesboro, I have become an active member of St. Mark's. Currently I help out as usher, a member of St. Mark's Men's Club and lend a hand at Helping Neighbors once a month on Tuesday evenings.

My decision to run for Vestry comes at a time when the Church faces many challenges. It is my desire to work toward growth in membership, stewardship, and community involvement. I would appreciate your vote and support.



**Andy Peeler**

I have been a member of St. Mark's since 1982; wife Marian and I were married there in 1983; we have two sons (Eric and Logan).

I have served the parish in several capacities over the last almost 40 years: EYC director, several terms on the Vestry, several times (including currently) as Stewardship chair, head of the Vision 2000 capital campaign, active in Men's Club, and on the Day School Board. I also initiated efforts to form the St. Mark's Endowment and the St. Mark's Day School Endowment.

I also have served our diocese on the Camp Mitchell board, as president of the state Men's organization, on the Executive Committee, on its Board of Trustees, and on the Nominating Committee that resulted in Bishop Benfield's election.

I look forward to the bright future of our parish and participating in any way I'm called.



**Jo Ann Steed**

I have been a member of St Marks for 30 years. I have served and participated in a variety of activities and roles: vestry, Sunday School teacher, lector, Eucharist Minister, and Daughters of the King. I am retired after teaching for 42 years. I love reading, cycling, and traveling. I have two wonderful sons who were raised in St Marks. Robert lives in Jonesboro, and Ryan is married and lives in Memphis. My family also includes rescue dogs Wally and Emma. I love this church; it has enriched my life in more ways than I can count. If elected to the Vestry, I will be honored to serve.

## Annual Meeting January 26, 2020 Minutes

Sr. Warden Steve Replogle called the St. Mark's Annual Church meeting to order at 11:45 am on January 26, 2020. Prayer was spoken by Reverend Dr. Scott Trotter. Yvonne Nipper was appointed Clerk for the meeting.

### Election of new Vestry members

Steve Replogle stated there are a total of 12 members serving on the Vestry, and each year three rotate off, thus, we elect three new members each year at the Annual meeting. He also read from the Canon the *Qualification for a Member of the Parish Vestry*

Note: (see page 3 of the 2019 Parish Report)

Steve also read part of the. "*Who shall be entitled to vote in any Parish Election?*" (Note: see page 3 of the Parish Report) He also noted all names submitted for election have been checked and are eligible to become Vestry members

There was also information regarding: *Who shall be entitled to vote in any Parish election.* (See 2019 Parish Report, page 3)

Steve stated one additional name has been added to the list of Vestry Candidates, Lori Alpe, for a total of eight candidates. All who were qualified to vote were asked to raise their hand to receive a ballot. The question was asked if Absentee ballots would be accepted. Steve said as long as there was evidence in some form (text, email) that they came directly from the absent member.

### Appointment and Election of Day School Board Members

Steve stated there are two openings to be filled on the Day School Board, one is to be appointed the other will be voted on. Normally the Priest would make the appointment but in the absence of St. Mark having a Fulltime or Itinerant Priest, the Sr. Warden will make the selection, he appointed Deb McInturff.

Steve opened the floor for nominations to the Day School Board. Aylia Poston nominated Andy Peeler. Julie Hampton stated there was no prior notice that this election would be held. As a result a number of individuals feel unprepared to vote without time to pray and study the candidates. Steve responded this is done each year in a semi-automatic manner, without prior warning; however, this is a ligament question and will be listed on the agenda for next year.

Rosemary Latanich asked how long is the commitment and what are the qualifications for serving on the Day School Board? Adel Barnett responded, "*We are under the umbrella of the church, but not directly governed by the church*" also, if there are any other concerns one could come to a Day School Board meeting which is held the third Wednesday of each month at noon. Andy Peeler stated when he found out he was to be nominated, he looked up the School Board By Laws and noted there are to be six members of the Day School Board plus a non voting ex-officio member. Each member serves a three-year term. Terry Barnett moved the nominations cease. Rusty Guinn seconds the motion.

Adam weeks also voiced his concern over voting so quickly. He said this is such a touchy issue, and he will be voting against closing the nominations, not because he has anything against the candidate, but he proposed we wait until after the Vestry elections, as there may be newly elected Vestry members who would make good candidates. Rusty Guinn called for the vote. Steve asked for a vote by those who want the nominations closed. The vote count was 19.

He then asked for a vote by those who want the nominations left open until after the Vestry election. The vote count was above 20.

Motion to leave the nominations open passed, the question will be called later in the meeting.

### Treasurer's Report

David Worlow, Church Treasurer told the members the Treasurer's Report is listed on Page 8 of the Annual Report. He stated there was a slight deficit in 2019 that was projected to be \$85,000.00, however, it was less at \$66,251.90. He said some of the funds came from our Reserve account, and if we are just in a cycle, we are ok. However, if it becomes a long-term trend, then something will have to be done. This completed his report. Scott Troutt made a motion to approve the Finance Report, Becky Carr seconds. Motion approved

Susie Grommet directed the membership to page 7, under "Other Reports", line four that states in part "still owe \$135,00 on the loan." She asked for clarification, Steve said a zero was left out, and should read, "\$135,000.) Scott Troutt amended his motion to include this correction.

Steve asked for approval of the 2019 Annual Report minutes, 2018 Minutes have not been found, so they are tabled until further notice. Scott Troutt made the motion and MG Meyering seconded. Motion approved.

### Sr. Warden Report

Steve said there are a lot of good things going on at St. Mark's, we are in a valley, but things are starting to rebound a bit. He wanted to express his appreciation for some special people and groups for holding things together. Steve presented the Proposed or Tentative Budget for 2020; he stated it is tentative because there are a number of members who have not yet pledged. There is a "Transfer of other Funds" line listed in the budget. This amount can be used to pay for a lot of necessary ministry expense in 2020. He noted we have a deficit of approximately \$58,000. which will be paid out of a larger Reserve fund. He also said there are more members present today than have pledged. He encouraged the members who have not pledged to fill out a card and turn it in today, and we can wipe out the deficit now.

Additional Reports included in the Report continue on page 12-21. Please find them on the above pages.

They are:

Church Office Staff

Altar Guild,

Jr. Warden

Vergers Report

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

Acolytes, Eucharistic Visitors

Music Ministry

Children's Christian Education,

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community)

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Greeters

Two Saints' Kitchen,

Daughters of the King

Vacation Bible School

Flower Guild

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Newcomers/Welcoming Committee

Men's Club

Helping Neighbors

Day School Director's Report & Budget

Mr. Al Poston thanked the Ushers for the wonderful service to this ministry and noted we have a number of openings for additional Ushers.

Sr. Warden, Steve Replogle stated that Senior Warden is an appointed position, and in the absence of a Priest, the Bishop has made that appointment. Steve introduced our new Sr. Warden, Mr. Tom Haynes. Sr. Warden, Tom Haynes stated the votes have been counted, and introduced the new Vestry members.

Lori Alpe, Susie Grommet, Garry Latanich, and Terry Rogers. Alternate member is Dennis Zolper. He thanked everyone who ran for the Vestry, and said the ones not elected would be the first ones he called to get their input on ways the Vestry can be more effective in serving the Parish. Tom swore in the new Vestry members.

(Note: see the complete expression of appreciation in the Annual Report.

Sr. Warden Tom Haynes noted we have one open item remaining on the agenda, the election of a new Day School Board member. He opened the floor for any additional nominations, there being none, he asked the membership to vote, Andy was unanimously approved.

Following closing prayer by Tom Haynes, the membership gave the outgoing Senior Warden, Steve Repogle a standing ovation for his untiring work and leadership during some challenging times.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne Nipper

# Annual Reports for 2020

## Senior Warden Report

### Senior Warden Report

Senior Warden: Tom Haynes

This past year has been quite unusual. The fact that you are reading this report instead of gathering together over a meal is yet another reminder that we are certainly making the best out of the situation we have been presented.

Having said that, I am hopeful for our future at St. Mark's. To start, we have a very dedicated group of employees who, without which, I do not know how we would have stumbled through this past year. Please join me in showing your appreciation for both Dana Moses and Rhonda Dauer for the countless hours and thankless work that they put forward to ensure that we keep things moving. Their work does not go unnoticed.

I also cannot go without thanking Fr. Dennis Campbell for spending the past several months with us as interim priest. His presence was, although not as "in person" as we all would have preferred, a very constant and helpful presence at St. Mark's. He was able to meet with many parishioners during his time here, and he worked diligently to help assist St. Mark's operate during this challenging year. In his absence, we have also been blessed to have Rev. Katherine Wren to guide us in worship, which I would encourage all of you to participate in until our new rector, Fr. Kevin Gore, arrives in March.

Of course, in addition to odd circumstances due to the pandemic, we are not without "typical" challenges. Although we have addressed several issues with the grounds this past year and made several repairs, there are many other physical plant projects in need of consideration. Years of deferred maintenance have created a backlog of projects that we have slowly but surely climbing out from underneath, but there are several more projects – at the church and rectory – that are in need of attention.

Our other big challenge is financial. With the uniqueness of this year, as you might expect, pledging numbers are down. As of today, we have had 32 pledges for a total of \$118,000.00, which is well beneath what will be needed to operate in 2021. If you have not already done so, I ask everyone to submit a pledge for giving sacrificially in 2021. If you have pledged, consider if you might increase that amount.

Finally, I have missed seeing all of you during this somewhat surreal time to serve as Sr. Warden. It is certainly not how I would have chosen for things to be, but I had no say in that. I look forward to all of us meeting together soon.

Best regards,

Tom Haynes

Church Staff

Rhonda Dauer, Bookkeeper  
Dana Moses, Parish Administrator  
Joy Sanford, Organist  
Rhonda Dauer, Music Director  
Rose Mary Latanich, Children's Ed. Director  
Lori Alpe, EYC Director  
Betty Donnell, Kinsey Barns,

[bookkeeper@stmarksjonesboro.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stmarksjonesboro.org)  
[secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org](mailto:secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org)  
[jandjazz@suddenlink.net](mailto:jandjazz@suddenlink.net)  
[music@stmarksjonesboro.org](mailto:music@stmarksjonesboro.org)  
[rosemarylatanich@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarylatanich@gmail.com)  
[lori.alpe@gmail.com](mailto:lori.alpe@gmail.com)  
Nursery attendants

## Day School Director's Report

St. Mark's Day School is celebrating 43 successful years! We are proud to continue the vision of a handful of concerned parents that laid the foundation for the school in 1977. St. Mark's continues to be a provider of a quality preschool program meeting the needs of children 6 weeks to 4 years of age.

With an enrollment of 135 children, St. Mark's continues to offer an environment for our students which promotes high self-esteem, problem solving skills, and an opportunity to grow and develop physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually, and intellectually in a safe and loving atmosphere. St. Mark's also offers independent programs which further enrich the learning experience for the child. These programs include Tumbling for Tots, Compuchild, Kindermusik, and TOTS. The spiritual needs of our children are met with a chapel service every Wednesday. In the classroom and during aftercare, the children always say a blessing before lunch and snacks.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Day School board for their constant support and encouragement through the good times and more trying times. The members of the board serving this past year are Aylia Poston - Chairperson, Jonathan Jacobs - Secretary, Shelia Guinn, Adele Barnett, Deb McInturff, Andy Peeler, Valerie Johnston - Book keeper, and Terry Barnett - Vestry liaison.

The staff of St. Mark's is of the highest quality and we are blessed to have each of them. Our teachers are loyal to the school and devoted to the children while also being a pleasure to work with. The staff for this year is as follows: Director - Peggy Stripling Assistant Director - Michelle Vaughan Book Keeper - Valerie Johnston Baby House - Cheyanna Gonzalez, Linda Miller, Teri Morris, Ranita Chakraborty, Amber Timms, Morgan Casey, Vickie Timms, Ryleigh Sprendel, and Kayla Spradlin. MDO I & II - Suzannah Jackson, Cheyanna Gonzalez, Morgan Casey, Lauren Browning, Autumn Estrada, Haley Morris, and Abby Rogers. MDO III - Courtney Noell and Debbie Williams. 2's - Jennifer Patsey, Venessa Samarjian, Sommern Willie, Sue Bond, and Dorcas Broadway 3's - Beth Nixon, Barb Lossing, Autumn Estrada, Kelcee Sitzer, Billie Bond, and Jessica Richmond. 4's - Tiaya Demby, Lauren Browning, Jessica Richmond, Tiffany Troutt, and Janelle Smith Before and Aftercare workers - Kelcee Sitzer, Jeanne Stephens, Jessica Richmond, Debbie Williams, Lauren Browning, Tiaya Demby, Leah Carter, Kelcee Sitzer, Sue Bond, Ryleigh Spengel, Abby Sloan, Abby Rogers, Kayla Spradlin, Haley Morris, Cameron Hafner, Tristan Cato, Miranda Wyatt,

So many things had to change due to Covid. We closed the school following the lead of the Jonesboro Public Schools from March 16th to May 26th. We did lose a number of children either because parents had to have care and found a day care that was open or they became concerned with the virus threat and kept their children home. During that time we received the PPP money and were able to continue making payroll for all of our teachers while we were closed. Opening back in May we had tuition coming in and that was just enough to make payroll. The staff never missed a paycheck! St. Mark's has since been forgiven for the PPP loan. God is good!

We did have to cancel the 4 year old Graduation Ceremony and the fund raising event Cookies with Santa. St. Mark's is continuing to follow the CDC recommendations on running a day care or school. We have been very blessed and lucky! I am so grateful to our parents and staff for their cooperation, compassion, and love during this difficult time.

One of most exciting things that happened is the Baby House is now fully paid! Quality care for infants in Jonesboro is definitely needed and we have a very long waiting list.

St. Mark's Day School is a full time school with part time options. Parents can choose from attending Monday Through Friday, Monday Wednesday Friday, or Tuesday Thursday. Regular school hours are 8:30 to 2:30 and extended care is 7:30 to 5:30. We work with the needs of each parent to help make the school experience a positive one for the whole family. The last day of the traditional school year will be May 21st

and May 24th will be the first day of the summer program. Summer care offers all of the options and hours of the traditional school year but it is a little less structured and geared more towards summer fun.

We wish to say thank you to St. Mark's Parish and Vestry for your continued support of this important Outreach Ministry. Many lives have been touched by the St. Mark's school family and we hope to continue that tradition into the future. We feel truly blessed to be a part of this school and church. Yours in Christ,

Peggy Stripling

- Note – The full day school report with included financials is accessible as a PDF from the website.

### **Prayer for the Closing of a Vestry or Annual Meeting**

God of our coming and going, God of our past, our present, and our future, we have met, we have celebrated, we have remembered. We have visioned, shared hopes, and dreamed dreams, and now we go out into the world in which we do most of our living and our ministering. As we go out, remind us that we do not go alone. As we go out, remind us that we go with a mission. As we go out, fill us with love, hope, and peace to share with the world. May our lives and our ministry be signs of your love and promises and possibility for the world. AMEN



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Episcopal Church

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