

Vestry Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2025

Members Present: Kelly Kirby, Gaylee Gillim, Neville Blakemore Jr., Rick Lotz, Anne Shelby, Rob Peck, Melissa Klassen, Robin McNally, Heather Duffy, Phil Eschels, Chris Newton, Patricia Enriquez, Jamie Horsley.

Also present: Edie Nixon, Suzanne Barrow.

Absent: William Lewis, Sally McDonald, Jessica Roufus, Penny Shaw.

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

After the opening prayer, Chris Newton reflected on the fear experienced by members of our community who are afraid of being deported, with or without reason, because of our country's current immigration policies.

One correction was made to the May minutes and two to the June minutes, which were accepted as corrected.

Edie Nixon gave her Financial Report:

- Our cash flow is healthy. The Endowment is up 8.66% and total assets are up 2.16%. Edie clarified that the Diocese of Kentucky grant is for native plants and the Nicholas Eastman grant is for food pantry.
- Pledges have been coming in for a total of \$75,000 and we are currently ahead of budget. The church will not catch up on the Building & Grounds budget this year because of an exceptionally snowy winter. Sitting on good cash reserves heading into summer. General use expenditures this month included Catherine Banks' computer and part of a boiler pump.
- St. George's relief fund is a new fund that was created by the Outreach Committee. Because many non-profits are having their funding cut, the committee wished to be proactive in its support, specifically for the Scholars Institute that helps students with their after-school programs in support of education.

Robin McNally motioned to accept the Financial Report as presented, subject to financial review. Gaylee Gillim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rick Lotz reported the following on behalf of the Building and Grounds Committee:

- One of the building's 100 gallon-hot water heaters is leaking. The flame arrester/igniter needs to be fixed, which would cost roughly \$1500, but would not fix the leak. B&G received 3 quotes on a new water heater, which were presented to the Vestry. Rick Lotz made a motion to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to spend \$14,975 with Walker Mechanical to replace one hot water heater. Gaylee Gillim seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- Portico door lock has been replaced.

- David Johansen continues to repaint various areas in the church and improve the overall appearance.
- Lavonne Fingerson has volunteers regularly working in the Memorial Garden, which continues to look beautiful.
- The bell tower bid package was issued last week. Bid opening is Monday. Completion is expected at the end of October for the pad and electrical. Expect to have fully completed and operational by Thanksgiving.
- The roof leak in the Sanctuary, it has been determined, is the result of multiple fissures in the metal roof, which is 63 years old. Some organ pipes were consequently damaged. Our submitted insurance claim was denied, and we are now in the appeal process.

The Dimensions of Faith committee reported they met to talk about possibilities for next year's speakers.

The Stewardship committee is looking for speakers for the end-of-year campaign. Will use a similar format for the Stewardship brochure as last year's, which was created by Julie Mushkin.

Anne Shelby reported that the Vision Implementation Team met in June. Jessica Roufus has a committee working on promoting St. Matthew's events, as they did with "Godspell", which had an excellent turnout. Will Bogel is inviting people to take part in his committee working on encouraging fellowship.

The Gifts committee met and will accept a Steinway piano donated by Linda and Kevin Wardell, which will make it possible to have pianos in all areas in the church where services are held.

A local artist is carving artwork from the tree trunk on the corner of the church property.

In August, we will choose our deputies for the Diocesan Convention. Expected on the agenda are Budget and Canonical changes.

As part of our theological reflection, Suzanne Barrow shared that a SMEC newcomer remarked that our church is one of action, not just words, and that this is the future of the Episcopal Church. Many stories were shared about people within our church community who are acting as Christ's hands in the world.

After a brief reflection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. Vestry convened in the sanctuary for Compline, led by Chris Newton.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Enriquez