

## **Vestry Minutes**

### **19 August 2025**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Father Ben Randall

#### **In Attendance**

*Vestry Members:* Susan Freese, Father Buchanan, Wendy Pelton, Michael Via, Bud Syme, Don Clark, Tony Zontini, Dee Oliver, Linda Whitehead

*Others:* Robbie Berndt (Parish Executive), Fr. Ben Randall (Senior Associate Rector)

*Absent with Apologies:* Betsy Cromwell, Tom McAfee, James Noel, Katie Denton

#### **Approval of Vestry Minutes**

Motion was passed to approve July 2025 Vestry Minutes.

#### **Rector's Report**

Many (old and new) programs are beginning in September; please register for and attend the Hoedown, Theology on Tap, coffee hour, and circulate among services as attendance increases across the fall.

#### **Senior Warden's Report (Wendy Pelton)**

At last month's Vestry meeting, some themes emerged as we pondered our mission of renewal. Among them were grace, hope, peace, gratitude, renewing mind and heart, families growing together, mentorship, and a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. This month we will begin focusing on ways to further align the happenings at Galilee with our mission. We will also be engaged in future planning with respect to our stewardship campaign and 2026 Vestry elections. Summer at Galilee has been a time of welcoming visitors and returning college students. We also had an incredibly well-attended Vacation Bible School, thanks to the support of Lillie Tillar and the entire parish. There have been many opportunities for connection through young adult gatherings, Grandparents @Prayer, a Galilee Women breakfast gathering, the Men's Prayer Breakfast, circle meetings, and the Galilee Knitters. Special services have included Soaking Prayer and Visio Divina. Fall events to look forward to include the formation of a Grief Share group, the Fall Hoedown, and the Theology on Tap series. We also look forward to the start of a new Sunday School year and other opportunities for Christian formation. Blessing of the Backpacks will occur on August 24th as children

prepare to return to school. Let's not wait until Thanksgiving to be grateful. God has done many things this year for us as individuals and as a parish. Let's praise Him for supplying our needs. Let's verbally thank others around us who have served as mentors and given sacrificially. Let's be intentional about connectedness and kindness.

Joyfully in Christ,  
Wendy Pelton (Senior Warden)

### **Junior Warden's Report (Linda Whitehead)**

- Jordan Hall has been returned to its former state after a wonderful, successful week of VBS.
- EBC is scheduled to seal the slate in the Sanctuary on August 1 and 12. This work is done every two to three years.
- The installment of new gutters has not fixed the leak in the nave. Russell Lyons conducted an imaging search with an infrared camera, but did not locate the source of the leak. Beck Roofing is looking into this ongoing issue.
- The parking issues have greatly improved due to the installation of posts in key areas of concern, along with signs and cones as needed.
- The chiller is back up and running. Johnson Controls repaired some broken pipes. and Jordan Hall. Currently there are no issues with the level of humidity in the Sanctuary.
- Montessori School's flooring has been stripped and waxed in anticipation of the children returning in August. In addition, the epoxy flooring in the Montessori bathrooms should be installed by the time school starts.
- Claire Gilman and Ann Malbon have been added to the Galilee Gardeners team. Plans are being discussed to enhance several of Galilee's outdoor spaces.
- Mary Dolch reported that Quimby has given permission for the Chancel organ to be used during services. This summer, the organ was used for the Hymn Sing in July, a funeral and a wedding. There is still some work to be done on the bass pipes (along with the installation of a few more) before using the organ for Sunday worship. Also, the humidity levels in the Sanctuary (therefore the pipe chamber) must remain consistent for the pipes to perform at an optimum level.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Whitehead

### **Finance Report**

July was a slow month financially. We are \$102K under budget in terms of pledge revenue. Either Father Buchanan or Wendy Pelton will send a special email reminder to the parish.

### **Vestry Liaison Report: Michael Via**

Men of Galilee liaison report for August 2025 vestry meeting, submitted by James Noel & Michael Via.

The deep faith and service of the Men of Galilee (MOG), including the Men's Prayer Breakfast (MPB) group, is felt in all aspects of Galilee Church life. With strong support from women, Men of Galilee lead the way serving in the choir, as musicians, greeters, and as ushers for funerals and various church services. At least two men now serve on the altar guild. MOG also serve as parking lot attendants and golf cart operators. Doing what they do best, the MPB group prepares meals for Winter Shelter, Galilee Lenten lunches and for the coffee hour between services. Men also help out opening and closing church before and after evening events.

A good number of the MOG support Nigel's "Welcome Home Initiative" ministry for veterans. Every year, members of the MPB group volunteer as preparation and cleanup staff, shopkeepers, door monitors and general support for VBS week.

Last year on Friday night of the men's retreat, a spiritual event and hunters' feast was held at Rick & Lillie Tillar's house with close to 100 men in attendance. This year, the men's adventure is headed to Jamie & Robin Rawles' house for another spiritual celebration and hunter's feast on Friday night, November 7th. (Speaker to be determined).

On Saturday the 8th, the men will be attending Galilee/MPB member, Bahman Azarm's Adventure Park and Nautilus Tower project at Owl Creek Landing. (Bahman Azarm is a key figure in the adventure park industry.

As CEO of Outdoor Ventures Group (OVG), he is recognized for designing, building, and operating aerial adventure parks).

The MOG/MPB group collects money for weekly men's prayer breakfasts which are freshly prepared, by teams of 3-5, every Wednesday morning. Weekly attendance varies between 25-35. Funds are distributed to local charities and organizations.

In the past year, these individuals have spoken at MPB:

Fr. Andy (5 times)

Fr. Nigel (4)

Fr. Ben (4)

Melissa (3) - 2 African trips, raising service dogs

David Wynne (2)

Nathan

At least 7 MPB members - Jesus Journeys

Dr. Lee Kanter - parishioner & part of a group of local Messianic Jews that are spreading the word of our Lord

Jesus on the internet, radio and TV.

Rebekah, Dana - clergy spouse journey

Marie Clunan - journey to being ordained

Anna Spinks - Faith-Based Approach to Health and Wellness

Larry Giddens - college recruiting and faith

Bahman Azarm - Nautilus Adventure

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Oseje, professor of Missiology at Regent University

Kori Poplin, Yoga Teacher - Faith journey.

Dr. Bud Lively, Associate Professor of Education at VWC. - his reading journey as it relates to the Bible.

Scott Hamilton - Young Life

Mike Simone - faith and water project

Ben Fraser, parishioner, Westminster Canterbury Fellow for Religious Studies and Lifelong Learning at VWU.

John Correll - parishioner, Conversion to Christianity from Judaism

Sarah Hummel, President of Seapointe College in Norfolk - about the college

Dallas Stamper, Exec. Director of PiN

Dr. Samuel Randall - his journey as a minister.

Rob Allman, CBN VP of News

Jamie Rawles - about his and Robin's trip to Camino de Santiago.

### **Galilee Christian Formation 2025, submitted by Betsy Cromwell and Susan Freese**

Christian Formation in the Episcopal Church is a lifelong process of discipleship focusing on growing in a relationship with God and becoming more like Jesus.

Accepting the Holy Spirit to guide one towards spiritual maturity and a deeper understanding of one's faith. Learning and practicing Christianity from within and among the community.

Christian formation ministries at Galilee are strong and growing both in programs and participation.

Children's Ministry- Lillie Tiller

Age 0-5\* Grade

The children's ministry is thriving! They have a record number of children under 3, and many new families each week.

- Nursery 0-2

Toddler 2-4

- Children K-5th

- Baptism

- First Holy Communion(annual)

- Children's Sunday School (weekly)

- Children's Chapel (weekly)

- VBS (annual) Original curriculum created by Lillie

VBS 2025 David & Goliath

- 200 children

- 125 Galilee children

- 64 teen volunteers

- 41 adult volunteers

Nursery - needs extra laps to hold & love babies & toddlers, not change diapers!

Children's Ministry Assistant - opening

Location change - all children's ministry is now located upstairs. Children's Chapel has outgrown St Andrews

Student Ministry- Ezra Boswell Director, Betty Michels, Associate

The focus of Galilee's Student Ministry, ranging from middle school through high school is to facilitate the next step in Christian development, learning and application in everyday life.

Leaders engage the students to explore deeper into the meaning and application of the Gospel and the parables. This group study is enhanced by the use of small groups and volunteer participation.

Beyond the weekly "study" meetings, students can engage in age related activities. These are offered to bolster and magnify a spiritual growth, sense of community and an opportunity to serve others. Most notable are Confirmation classes, retreats to the Outer Banks, Wintergreen, Shrove "Sunday" Breakfast, serving at The Boys Home of VA.

Highlights: Student participation is strong. Sixteen adults agreed to mentor Confirmation candidates

Ezra is super excited for the fall, and boy has he been busy! He jumped right in and led the teens for VBS, as well as went with the group for the best week of summer serving at the Boys Home.

Ezra is also a musician and has talked with Mary & Jen about participating in the worship from time to time. In addition, another bonus, he leads worship when the students meet as well. Maybe Galilee will have a student worship band in the future?

2025 Confirmation class will be confirmed Sunday October 12th. There will be a dinner the evening before for the students, parents, & mentors.

Sept 7 -meet & greet Ezra (parents & students) @ The Tillers

Middle School

- Sundays 3-430
- Midweek Bible Study

High School

- Sunday 430-6

Midweek Bible Study

Confirmation (annual) 2026 Confirmation Candidates will be forming in January

Missions(annual) Boys Home of Virginia

Adult Ministry

NEW: 20's & 30's

- Singles & Couples

Currently meeting monthly at Andy & Dana's

From Dana Buchanan:

We had our second young adults community group on Monday, July 28. We had 18 people participate. The age range is 20-early 30s. Singles as well as engaged couples and some newly married.

Our goal is to create opportunities for Christian fellowship within this age/life group and come alongside them as we share our Christian journey and experience of God. This week we talked about how they currently relate to experience God and where they might want to grow in their relationship to God.

King, Savior, redeemer, Friend, healer, rabbi or other aspect of God. Feedback from this group about why they are coming to the Episcopal Church was remarkable to me.

1. They love the liturgy they are delving into the meaning behind it and the scriptures.

One young lawyer called the Book of common prayer "poetry with scripture in it"

Many are coming from non-episcopal backgrounds, but are being drawn to the liturgy.

2. Many expressed that they don't want PowerPoint presentations, slideshows or concerts. They are clearly looking for a different experience than what they get in a classroom or other setting. They want to be transformed by their worship experience and feel like they are in a different space than work or school or a concert.

3. Many are choosing to come to the 745 service.

4. A few people with ADHD said that they found the liturgy helped them to focus and enter into worship. It provided a structure that was needed.

5. They take seriously participating in communion. It was exciting to see their first desire to experience God through Episcopal liturgy.

6. Several are interested in theology and systematic theology.

7. I believe there's an opportunity for exploring the book of common prayer, the Scriptures and the biblical basis for the liturgy.

## NEW

In It Together-a new ministry designed for parents and working adults (roughly 30's-50's) who are raising kids, building careers, and trying to stay grounded in their faith during one of life's busiest seasons.

- Sunday gatherings begin September 7th @ 10:20am in Jordan Hall (after the 9:15 service)

- Six Packs & Scripture Men's Series: 1st and 3rd Fridays @ 6am (workout/run club)

- 2nd Thursdays @ 8pm at various homes (led by Fr. Ben)

- Fall Kickoff Party: TBD @ the King's home

## NEW

Grief Share: No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful, confusing process. A GriefShare group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week support group program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability and gain solid support each step of the way.

If you have experienced the death of a family member or friend, you are invited to attend. For more information, visit [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org). Registration (including book) is \$20. You can register here or through the Galilee Church app. Questions? Contact Ruth Wilkins at [ruthn8r@gmail.com](mailto:ruthn8r@gmail.com).

## ONGOING:

Morning Prayer via Zoom (M-F 8-8:15am)

Monthly Worship & Prayer Service (15th Tuesday 6:45pm)

PATHS for Prayer - Thursdays 8:45am St. Andrews

Grandparents@Prayer

Intercessory Prayer

Soaking Prayer

Contemplative Prayer

Visio Divina

Adult Forum (Sunday 8:45-9:15, 10:30-11am)

Galilee Women Bible Study- Wednesday Evening & Thursday Morning

Retreat (Bi-annual)

Men's Prayer Breakfast- Wednesday 7-8am

Alpha (January 2026)

Koinonia Group (every other Sunday evening)

Theology on Tap

## Old Business

Vestry discussed the nominating and election process for vestry.

## New Business

None.

**Faith Sharing:** Linda Whitehead



## **Closing Prayers and Adjournment: Father Buchanan**