

Galilee Vestry Meeting November 2025

1. Attendance

Vestry Members: Susan Freese, Wendy Pelton, Michael Via, Father Buchanan, Linda Whitehead, Don Clark, Tom McAfee, Betsy Cromwell, Katie Denton, James Noel

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

Absent with Apologies: Dee Oliver

Absent without Apologies: Tony Zontini, Bud Syme

2. Fellowship and Opening Prayer

Father Randall offered the opening prayer.

3. Approval of Vestry Minutes

Called to order at 7:05 PM. James Noel moved to approve the minutes and Tom McAfee seconded the minutes. Minutes approved.

4. Rector's Report

Parking

Thank you for proactively parking off site. As I said in a recent bulletin, the goal isn't to use the PACC and Holiday Inn sites as "over-flow" parking--but rather to have enough of us park off site so that overflow parking is never needed. As we move toward Christmas Eve, I expect Sunday parking to become very tight.

Rector's Discretionary Fund, extraordinary expenditure

The clergy maintain a checking account, called the "Rector's Discretionary Fund" which is used primarily for charitable purposes (e.g. paying utility bills, grocery bills, feeding and clothing the homeless). Gifts from parishioners fund the RDF. In addition to charitable uses, the RDF can occasionally be used for non-budgeted purposes, like buying a gift to thank a parishioner for exceptional work. In those situations, the best-practice for the clergy is to report to the vestry that such an expense has been made.

Fr. Ben and I decided to spend \$170.65 to purchase a gift from Taste Unlimited to honor a parishioner whose selfless effort has sustained and supported the Women's Bible Study over the last two years.

New Ministries for younger parishioners

I'm happy to report that "In It Together" (a ministry begun by younger parishioners, for younger parishioners) is doing well. They are averaging 30-35 each Sunday. Fr. Andy and Dana also began a monthly group for younger parishioners in their 20s-30s who do not yet have children--and this ministry is going strong with about 22 attending each month. Finally, a group of parishioners in their 20s recently requested a "George MacDonald Reading Group"--so I connected them with Terry Lindvall, who is walking them through selected writings from George MacDonald each Sunday morning after the 9:15 service. It's very exciting to see how the Lord is at work with this group.

5. Old Business

- a. Nominating Committee Update. Betsy reported on the positive progress the Committee has made. Candidates are still being finalized.
- b. Stewardship Committee Update. Don reported that there has been more responses than anticipated at this point in the year, but there is still more work to do to satisfy our goal.

- 6. Finance Report and Budget Updates** Michael reported that it has been a good month from a revenue standpoint. Regarding the budget, the Finance Committee set to meet again soon as the stewardship numbers come in. The Committee will firm up the numbers in December and the final budget numbers will be completed in January of next year.

7. Liaison Report

Don opened up about conversations around where some of the musical equipment should be located due to some noise and space concerns.

Betsy reported on WORSHIP. Summaries included in the attachments around the Eucharistic Ministry, the Acolytes and Crucifers, Altar Guild, Offering Counters, and the Flower Guild.

8. Junior Warden's Report

Parking team update - Galilee now has a replacement golf cart. Parking has not been too busy except on some Sundays at the 9:15 service. Signs are available to put out when the lower lot is full. Thanks to the Wilkins and Vias for the use of their golf cart. Parke Atkinson has brought new energy to the parking team, but there is still a need for more volunteers. Perhaps an "ask" in the Galilee newsletter would be helpful.

The new landscaping company (Vigor Landscaping) has planted the fall flowers along the borders and in the urns alongside the front doors. New plastering of the wall in the Sanctuary has been completed. Painting is expected to take place the week of November 17. In the basement, the rooms affected by the leaks from the broken pipe in the front right border have been repaired.

Scraping and painting of woodwork is taking place on the exterior near Tucker Hall.

Quimby will be back at the church in November to evaluate the space in the balcony in regard to placement of pipes for the organ.

There is a need to update the Galilee guidebook. In December, Wendy, Susan and Linda will meet to discuss the ministry diagram and updating each ministries' responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Whitehead – Junior Warden

9. Senior Warden's Report

The stewardship campaign has been a success. Although pledges are still coming in, more than 58% of our pledge goal was achieved in the first two weeks of the campaign. Thanks to Dee Oliver and Lillie Tillar for speaking, and thanks to Molly Rueger, Anne Cutchins, Betsy Cromwell, George Craddock, Connie Lea, Ellen Ellis and Dee Oliver for assisting with stuffing envelopes. We look forward to celebrating the end of the campaign during Ingathering Sunday.

Our parish was actively involved during the 2026 vestry nomination period, and we are awaiting a final list of four candidates from the vestry nominating committee. We are blessed to have a solid list of qualified candidates.

Attendance has been strong, with an average of more than 600 people in attendance each Sunday. Other meetings and events have also been well-attended. This month the men enjoyed a weekend retreat, and a new women's Bible study series was launched. Many people commented about the beautiful and peaceful choral eucharist for All Saints' Day.

Upcoming ministry opportunities include the JCOC dinner preparation on Tuesday, November 18, and the Boardwalk Ministry on November 29. We have also received requests for help from two of our regular mission support areas:

- a) Kitchen - migration of platters and warmers
- b) Gift Store - in need of volunteers

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of Lords. His love endures forever. (Psalm 136:1-3, NIV)

Joyfully in Christ,
Wendy Pelton
Senior Warden

10. New Business

None to report.

11. Testimony and Faith Sharing: James Noel

12. Closing Prayer and Adjournment: Michael Via