

Vestry Minutes
16 September 2025

Opening Prayer

Father Ben Randall

Attendance

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

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

Absent with Apologies: James Noel, Tom McAfee

Approval of Vestry Minutes

Don moved to approve August 2025 Vestry Minutes; Dee seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

- A) Motion was passed in August to change the number of candidates for future vestry elections. Discussion resumed at this vestry meeting, exploring options.

Susan moved to approve a change to 4 candidate slate for the 3-year terms, beginning in 2026. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously by members present.

- B) Discussion followed about Galilee and the Montessori School. Susan moved to close the school effective 2025-2026 school year. Dee seconded the motion. A majority of vestry voted to close school, with Fr. Buchanan abstaining, and Bud voting nay.

New Business

None

Rector's Report

- A) Vestry Election and Candidates

Tonight we need to complete the discussion and vote around the vestry election slate. I want to be clear about the process I've suggested, and make sure that each of you understand that the congregation still has input on the front and back end of this process--as well as the nominating committee in the central part of the process.

Step 1: We solicit the congregation for nominations.

Step 2: Nominations are vetted by Rector and Parish Administrator

Step 3: Vetted names are forwarded to the nominating committee, who has received guidance about hoped-for vestry composition.

For example: we currently have 9 people on vestry from the 9:15 service--given that the 9:15 represents just over half our Sunday attendance--we should aim for 6 to 7 people from that service.

Additionally: We presently have an even divide between female and male.

Step 4: Nominating committee prays and discerns and presents a slate of 4 for the annual meeting.

Step 5: At the annual meeting, a vote is taken about whether or not to accept the slate: Yea or Nay.

This approach is used by many large and successful parishes--it is not unusual or strange.

B) August/September

I'm grateful to our staff and parishioners who have all helped to get us off the starting block this fall. We've had a solid start to the fall programs, with the Women's Bible Study beginning this week, very strong attendance at youth groups, and a wealth of toddlers and babies. "In it Together" has begun thanks largely to Marshall and Callie Everett--and the 20-30 age small group is meeting monthly at the Buchanan home. This past Sunday we ran out of parking at 9:10am. Special thanks to Bryant McGann who has overseen the golf cart ministry and now a parking team.

Reminder: As we continue to Christmas, it's essential that as many people as possible park off-site.

Fr. Buchanan+

Senior Warden's Report (Wendy Pelton)

Junior Warden's Report (Linda Whitehead)

Plaster has been removed from the south rear wall in the nave to determine whether or not the new gutters have mitigated the leak in the wall. So far, the results look promising. When we feel confident that we have fixed the leak, the plaster will be replaced.

The storm today has generated significant water in the former conference room, and has been removed all day. We will have to look further for the cause of the leaks, and understand better what needs to be done to fix the issue.

Finance Report (Michael Via, Treasurer)

Vestry Liaison Report

Faith Sharing

Closing Prayers and Adjournment