

Vestry Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2026

Members Present: Kelly Kirby, Neville Blakemore Jr., Rob Peck, Melissa Klassen, Patricia Enriquez, Phil Eschels, Heather Duffy, Robin McNally, David Lee, Penny Shaw, Jessica Roufus, Diane Kyle, Chris Newton, Tim Bowman-Jecmen, Emerson Niehaus.

Also present: Suzanne Barrow, Edie Nixon.

Expected absences: Bill Beam, Heather Duffy, and Susie Thomas.

14 Vestry members were present, resulting in a quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

After the opening prayer, Diane Kyle shared Bishop Marianne Budde's children's book I Can Learn to be Brave. She reflected on how this book can teach us to be part of a community and help us invite new members into church activities.

There were no corrections to the July meeting minutes, which were accepted as presented.

Edie Nixon reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement.

- Pledges were down this month but were up for the year.
- Unpledged donations are over the budgeted amount.
- Very little spending occurred in July, which is a historically slow month.
- Operating expenses are over budget but are offset by increased pledges and income.

Neville Blakemore motioned to accept the Financial Report as presented, subject to financial review. Robin McNally seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Penny Shaw presented the Vision Implementation Team's proposed benchmarks for the Parish Goals they have been working on. A survey needs to be created to identify what the Parish wants to do and who is willing to lead. Robin McNally moved to accept the Parish Goals and benchmarks as presented. Phil Eschels seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Phil Eschels reported on behalf of the Stewardship Committee. The staff and committee are working on the materials that will be sent out on October 12. The speakers from the congregation have been confirmed. The committee hopes to complete their prep work for the campaign by the second week of November.

Rob Peck reported on behalf of the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

- The mechanical rooms need to be cleaned out. Volunteers are needed to sort and dispose of unwanted items.
- The gates on the Community Garden are being mounted, progress is slower than anticipated.
- Repairs to the organ are complete. It cost a few hundred dollars over budget, but the instrument is now fully functioning. A funnel system was installed to divert water around the organ in the event of any roof failure.
- Light bulbs were replaced in the sanctuary above the altar.

Phil Eschels reported that the Vestry members of the Nominating committee will choose two non-Vestry members to complete the team. They plan to have a slate chosen by the end of October.

The Vestry determined there will be no October meeting. The Vestry will attend the budget meeting on November 1st, instead.

Kelly Kirby reported on the following:

- The Vestry will need to decide at the September meeting who will be the deputies to the Diocesan Convention on November 13-14.
- The Deacon In Charge of St. George's Church, Dan Dykstra, will preach at St. Matthew's on the first Sunday of the month for the next year. The goal is to strengthen the relationship between the two churches and bring an additional clergy perspective to the pulpit. SMEC will send two laypeople to preach at St. George's once per quarter. When there is a 5th Sunday in a month, a priest or deacon from SMEC will preside at St. George's.
- A new Minister of Music has been hired, Mark Kaczmarczyk. He begins on September 1st, and the choirs will return within 2-3 weeks.
- Jan Scholtz is retiring as deacon at the end of this year.
- Steve Cherry will come to the September meeting to report on the Memorial Garden wall. He is beginning to get estimates for the work needed.

After a brief reflection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm. Vestry convened in the sanctuary for Compline, led by Diane Kyle.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Enriquez