



CHAPEL of *the* CROSS

an historic Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

The Reverend Doctor David Christian Parish Hall

Attendance: Ashley Herden, Clerk; Martha Frye; The Rev. Will Compton, Rector;
Terri Hudson, Treasurer; Becky Herren, Senior Warden; The Rev. Tom Fanning, Associate Rector;
Meredith Bailess; Carroll Patton; Trey Denton; Ray Kinney; Clark Liddon;
Out: Russ Markle, Dick Dickinson, Heath Wray, Liz Welch

- Opening Prayer and Keifer's
- July Agenda
- Approval of the June 2026 Minutes
 - Motion to approve the June 2026 minutes made by Clark, 2nd Ray, unanimous approval
- Old / Ongoing Business
 - Treasurer's Report: Terri Hudson
 - Audit Report: Tolliver McMullan
 - recommends that the Finance Committee keeps an eye on bank statements as an internal control (not that there are issues, but just as a precaution)
 - only significant risk is theft of cash but not aware of any issues with that
 - issuing a qualified opinion due to valuing of buildings (this is consistent with past audits)
 - further discussion of items in audit report
 - motion to accept the Chapel of the Cross's 2025 financial audit completed by Matthews, Cutrer, and Lindsay made by Ray, 2nd Meredith, unanimous approval
 - June 2026 Financial Report
 - discussion of June 2026 financial report
 - motion to accept June 2026 financial report made by Clark, 2nd Carroll, unanimous approval
 - The Rev. Elisabeth Malphur's 2026 Housing Allowance
 - motion to designate \$38,000 of the Reverend Elisabeth Malphur's 2026 stipend as a housing allowance prorated for 5 months between August-December at \$15,834 made by Trey, 2nd Martha, unanimous approval

- Chapel Projects
 - Lighting Project: Russ Markle
 - materials are starting to come in for lighting project
 - Chapel of the Cross Stabilization Project: Russ Markle
 - motion to ratify the email vote from June 22, 2026, that read “Do you approve the suspension of the financial procedures and accept the quote from Burns, Cooley, Dennis for \$6,200 to conduct the boring samples for the Chapel of the Cross stabilization project and do you approve the funding for the boring samples coming from ‘Vestry Discretionary Funds’ in ODR?” Motion made by Martha, 2nd Clark, unanimous approval
 - Security Grant: Martha Frye
 - grant has been submitted
 - grant amount (\$200,000) breakdown:
 - \$15,000 for staff training
 - \$30,000 for active shooter alert
 - \$60,000 for backup generator
 - \$20,000 for gates and security bollards at 2 main entrances
 - \$50,000 for cameras/switches/monitor
 - \$10,000 for locks and hardware
 - \$15,000 for physical access controls at 3 entry points
 - hoping to hear mid-fall if grant is approved
 - discussion of grant costs
 - Magnolia tree removal
 - discussion of removing magnolia tree located approx. 8 ft from the COTC; concerns about damage from roots as well as if it falls toward the COTC
 - Clark will look into hiring an arborist to evaluate health of the tree and its lifespan

- Junior Warden’s Report: Dick Dickinson

- Senior Warden’s Report: Becky Herren
 - 175th events starting September 20, 2026 with stewardship; will culminate September 19, 2027 with events such as a clergy dinner, evensong, party on Saturday night, Sunday service with Bishop Wells
 - planning is going well
 - 9/20/26 stewardship video will be released
 - looking into doing a documentary about Chapel of the Cross; working with MDAH

- Tom Talk: The Reverend Tom Fanning
 - 7/28 CPR training 10am
 - spending time with Kenny O’Neal in ICU

- Rector’s Ruminations: The Reverend Will Compton
 - Welcoming Elisabeth
 - Aug. 2, 9:15 reception in Parish Hall for Elisabeth and family
 - Gearing up for the Fall.
 - August 2–blessing of backpacks
 - August 5–foam party, petting zoo, WNS starts back

- New Business
 - discussion of keeping Billy (grounds/maintenance contractor)
 - Ray feels like Billy is not keeping up or that maybe we have outgrown him; work never seems completely done or is very last-minute
 - Maybe we need to contract with a larger operation
 - Discussion of options; Ray will follow up and get quotes

- Compline: Meredith Bailess

- Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Carroll, 2nd Trey, unanimous approval