

**Galilee Church
Vestry Minutes
February 17, 2026**

1. Fellowship and Opening Prayer - Fr. Randall

Present

Michael Via, Wendy Pelton, Susan Freese (present by zoom), Bryant McGann, Tim Stiffler, Linda Whitehead, Tom McAfee, Crystal Schaad, Tony Zontini, Mary Fletcher, Dee Oliver, Fr. Buchanan

Apologies received

Don Clark

Non-vestry members present

Robbie Berndt (Parish Executive), Fr. Randall

Time of introduction: Each vestry member introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Vestry Minutes

Motion to approve

Mike moved, Tom seconded. Motion approved by voice vote

3 . Rector's Report, Fr. Buchanan

Officer Elections

Each year at our February vestry meeting, we hold officer elections.

The Rector appoints the Senior Warden; Wendy will continue in this position and complete year 2 of her 2-year commitment.

Linda has agreed to serve another year as Junior Warden, as has Mike for Treasurer. The only position for which we do not have a candidate is Registrar. Typically, the Registrar records the meeting minutes and submits them promptly after the meeting.
January

Average Sunday Attendance

ASA started strong in January (620), but the 2 "storms" set us back. However, I'm sure we'll regain momentum as we move into the spring.

Programs

Programming has resumed: The Women's Bible Study (Wednesday evening/Thursday morning), In It Together (the Berndt Marriage Course), Trivia Night, Youth Ski Trip, Contemplative Prayer, and the annual Lenten Series are all either underway or about to begin.

4. Senior Warden's Report - Wendy Pelton

General Organization

At the last vestry meeting, a survey was conducted to identify opportunities for improvement in the way the vestry operates. Feedback was helpful and resulted in the following changes for 2026:

- More e-mail versus text communication
- Meeting time shift - less time covering reports and more time spent in discussion of old and new business or other themed discussion topics
- Continued opportunities for vestry prayer time
- More opportunities to have touch-points with the ministries at Galilee

Please note that the vestry schedule in 2026 may include a weekend gathering for vestry bonding and more strategic planning - dates will be forthcoming.

Month in Review

Galilee's Annual Celebration provided us with an opportunity to recognize outgoing vestry members for their three years of service and confirm our new vestry members: Mary Fletcher, Bryant McGann, Crystal Schaad, and Tim Stiffler. We were also able to distribute Galilee's annual report and field questions from those in attendance. An opportunity to mingle over coffee and refreshments followed the meeting time.

We look forward to the start of a new vestry year.

January brought us a snowy Sunday, during which we had a modified service schedule. Despite the weather, our snow Sunday service was surprisingly well-attended. Not including the snow day, average year-to-date attendance for all services is 594.

Special events included Trivia Night, Galilee Gal's Night Out, a pancake breakfast in honor of Shrove Tuesday, a Valentine's Day string concert, and a youth group ski trip. As we ponder love during this Valentine month, let us consider how we can "be

devoted to one another in brotherly love [and] honor one another... " (Romans 12:10 NIV)

Joyfully in Christ,
Wendy Pelton
Senior Warden

5. Junior Warden's Report - Linda Whitehead

- The current phase of the organ has gone well. The former organ was removed and sold to St Pius X in Norfolk. Next week, work will begin on the flooring in the balcony followed by the cabinetry, after which the pipes will be put in place.
- The diffusers on the back balcony wall were moved approximately three feet to make room for the pipes. Holes from the original locations were filled and painted.
- The pews that were removed for the initial work on the balcony organ will be reinstalled in the next phase when 3 pews on one side of the aisle will be removed once again.
- Jordan Hall will be available for use by Friday, February 13 as Quimby finishes their current phase of work on the organ.
- Cracks in the Sanctuary's north wall were filled and painted.
- Siding on the small roof above the kitchen was replaced and painted.
- Because of the high winds on Sunday, February 8, Bryant McGann and Jock Freese used cars to transport riders from the parking lot to the church. The golf cart is expected to be in use for the Galentine's event on February 12. A cover is being ordered to provide extra protection for the cart.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Whitehead
Junior Warden

6. Organ Project Update - Tim Stiffler

1. Quimby Organ will be completing the first phase of the installation by this weekend. Once completed, all flooring protection and equipment/materials will be removed from the sanctuary. It is my understanding that we will be able to return all of the pews after Quimby completes phase one.

2. Shortly after Quimby pulls out from Phase 1, our general contractor will begin installation of a new floor and a portion of the balcony. I estimate that this should take a couple of weeks.

3. The next big stage of the project will be the installation of the cabinetry, which will encase the organ equipment (up in the balcony). This work is scheduled to commence on April 6, however this is somewhat of a moving target as the cabinet company is still working out final details of the cabinetry and new balcony railing. This work is estimated to take approximately two weeks to complete once it has begun.

4 . Once the cabinetry has been installed, Quimby will return and complete the installation of the railing.

5. Finally, the cabinetry contractor will return to finish off the trim work and install the new balcony milling. I am sorry that this timeline is not terribly specific regarding a final date to finish the project, but I hope it gives you a sense of how things will be progressing over the next couple of months as we attempt to complete the installation of this amazing new organ.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if I may provide any additional information or further clarification.

Thanks,
Tim

7. Finance Report - Michael Via

Giving/Revenue

MTD 26K more than budget
MTD 48K more than last year

Expenses

MTD 19K less than budget
MTD 9K less than last year

8. Old Business

- 2026 Officer Elections: Fr. Buchanan appointed Wendy to serve as Sr. Warden. The vestry elected Linda to serve as Jr. Warden, Michael to serve as Treasurer and Crystal to serve as Registrar.
- Liaison and Committee Organization
- Upcoming Events at Galilee

9. Testimony and Faith Sharing: Father Andy

10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment: Wendy Pelton

Next Meeting: 7:00 p.m., March 17, 2026