

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

1. Fellowship and Opening Prayer – Father Ben

Present

Michael Via, Wendy Pelton, Susan Freese, Bryant McGann, Tim Stiffler, Linda Whitehead, Tom McAfee, Crystal Cameron-Schaad, Tony Zontini, Mary Fletcher, Don Clark, Fr. Buchanan

Apologies Received
Dee Oliver

Non-vestry members present

Robbie Berndt (Parish Executive), Fr. Randall

2. Discussion & Approval of Vestry Minutes

Motion to approve Fr. Andy – Tom second motion

3. Rector's Report, Fr. Buchanan

Set tentative Date for Vestry Retreat
Friday, May 1 & Saturday, May 2
Location: TBD

4. Senior Warden's Report - Wendy Pelton

The season of Lent at Galilee was initiated with multiple Ash Wednesday services. Lenten lunches featuring a series of talks about God's covenants have provided an opportunity for reflection and growth during this season. Terry Lindvall also hosted a Lenten reading group for singles.

Other special events included collaborating with Eastern Shore Chapel to provide dinner for the homeless on March 12, a candlelit choral service, and the ongoing marriage series hosted by Robbie and Jodie Berndt.

Many other groups continue to faithfully meet between Sunday services. Attendance was moderate in early March, possibly due to spring breaks for local private schools, but we are still up 5.7% year-to-date as of March 8.

Vestry activities have included committee formation and reviewing updates on the organ project and financial plan for 2026. As vestry members, let us humble ourselves in new ways, inviting less of ourselves and more of Christ into our everyday activities. Let's also continue to pray that hearts, minds, and souls would continue to be touched each week by all that goes on at Galilee. Daniel 9 is a great chapter to ponder during Lent. I

especially love verse 19: "Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

Joyfully in Christ, Wendy Pelton Senior Warden

5. Junior Warden's Report - Linda Whitehead

The flooring in the balcony is mostly done and the project will be completed after Quimby comes in and completes their work on the casements and pipes. This month the church grounds have been readied for spring with trimming of trees, raking and fresh mulch. The door to the roof on the north side of the church has been replaced. Air conditioner upkeep continues with monthly replacement of filters, and recently a new filter was provided for the water filtration system. Quimby is scheduled to return on or about April 20.

Bryant McGann provided an update on the Golf Cart Ministry: There does not appear to be an overflow parking issue as some parishioners are voluntarily parking at the Holiday Inn. Next year, the cart will be used at the 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service. Parking can be tight as a regularly scheduled meeting is held during the same time. The new golf cart cover has helped during the strong easterly winds. Bryant plans to have the golf cart available before 9:00 a.m. for those parishioners who arrive early. With the weather getting warmer, the number of volunteer drivers has risen. Rocky Womble has returned, and there are some new first-time drivers.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Whitehead - Junior Warden

6. Organ Project Update - Tim Stiffler

New Subfloor to level out balcony flooring is complete. Electrical relocation and new conduit for wiring have been installed. New floor surface has been installed. Remaining wind chests scheduled to be delivered to Quimby by March 15, 2026. Recent delay in completing blower repair work because the man doing this work has been ill (Bob Otey). Reconditioned blower is estimated to be completed within the next six to eight weeks (outside date May 10, 2026).

Quimby planning to return to Virginia Beach to install the bulk of the remaining organ components during the last two weeks of April. Once the second phase of the Quimby organ install is completed, new casework, cabinetry and balcony railing (New Holland) will begin. Currently scheduled for May 18, 2026.

After cabinet/casework installation is complete, Quimby will return to complete installation and final tuning. This date will be established after all case work and railing are installed.

7. Finance Report - Michael Via

OFFERINGS:

MTD \$270K more than budget
MTD \$295K more than last year
YTD \$312K more than budget
YTD \$362K more than last year

A large annual donation came in earlier this year than previous years. Normally this hits in Q3

EXPENSES:

MTD \$13K more than budget
MTD \$79K more than last year
YTD \$8K less than budget
YTD \$67K more than last year

NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT:

2026 MTD Net Operating surplus \$173K
2025 MTD Net Operating deficit \$67K
2026 YTD Net Operating surplus \$301K
2025 YTD Net Operating deficit \$6.5K

8. Old Business

- 2025 Parochial Report Summary
- Building Legacy Fund (Discussion)
 - Goal was one day to have a dedicated building fund to purposefully set aside money to mitigate expenses. Long term goal - \$2 million using the interest pay to pay for some of the expenses.
 - Robbie: Report for capital projects/expenses was done 7 years ago – suggested a maintenance fund to mitigate expenses– they recommended setting aside about \$300k per year. We spend \$250-\$300K year on maintenance.
 - It's not a separate trust and vestry can change rules at any time.
 - Potential upcoming building expenses – boilers, Montessori School reconfiguration

Motion to Approve draft language to establish Building Legacy Fund.

Motion: Susan moves, Michael second

Motion approved by voice vote

Motion to Approve Committee

Bud Syme, George Craddock, Bryant McGann

Tom moves – Crystal second

Motion approved by voice vote

9. New Business

- Vestry Retreat Planning (May)

10. Liaison reports – Don Clark

• Family Service Ministry

- Family Ministry Update Staffing: Dorothy Hall has rejoined the Family Ministry as my assistant. Dorothy previously served in this role prior to COVID and brings more than 20 years of experience in Christian children's education. Her support has already been such a gift as our programs continue to grow. Sunday Mornings: Children and youth programming runs continuously from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm each Sunday, with a steady stream of toddlers, children, and teens, coming through the upstairs.
- Current Challenge: Our primary operational challenge is Sunday School coverage. Many parents use this hour to connect with other adults in the church community, which I totally understand and support. To address this, we are working toward building a larger rotating volunteer team, particularly among parishioners who are no longer raising young children at home. Our goal is to have a stronger rotation in place by August.
 - Current challenge – needs more staffing/volunteers for Sunday School coverage – concerned about ratio of children to teacher
 - Fr. Andy will address this tomorrow
- Upcoming Programs: First Communion classes (2nd grade and up) and Confirmation classes begin March 22. We are planning for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, including filling 4,000 eggs.
- Vacation Bible School: Registration is already full, with the majority of participants coming from Galilee families. We are looking forward to a week of fun this summer!

• Music Report

- We've been blessed to see lots of amazing things happening in our music ministry this past year. Part one of our pipe organ project is nearly complete, and we've started using that portion of the pipe organ in our chancel for services. The new (well, old restored!) pipes have added a new sense of depth to the worship at both the traditional and contemporary worship services. We look forward to seeing the installation of the Skinner pipes in the balcony this summer!
- Our children's choir has gained a few new members this year, and the group went on a field trip to Christ and St. Luke's in Norfolk last month, where they joined forces with 70 children from other churches to sing a big combined Evensong. It was wonderful to see them work with other kids and other conductors in a new environment, and hopefully the first of many such opportunities!
- The adult choir ebbs and flows - we've gained several women in the past year, and lost a few strong men's voices (if you know of any men who love

to sing, send them my way!) I'm particularly grateful to them all for carrying on while I was on maternity leave, and continuing on with our schedule of special services. This year they sang four services of Compline, Faure's Requiem, Lessons and Carols, big services at Christmas, and are now preparing for Holy Week and Easter services, as well as our final Evensong of the year, which they will sing with the children's choir on May 17th.

- One particularly exciting development in the past year has been the start-up of our organ scholar program! We're blessed with not one, but two young ladies within our congregation who have started organ lessons this year. Having a program in place to nurture these young organists' development as ministers of sacred music is giving them a unique window into this part of our church's life. Stay tuned for their appearances on the organ bench in the coming year!
- Some other highlights from the music program this year were our Summer Music Series concerts, where we featured both guest artists and members of the congregation, and a bagpipe concert with our very own Father Andy and his friend and colleague, Jim Roberts. We also hosted top-tier concerts by The Virginia Chorale, Norfolk State University Concert Choir, Galatea Chamber Ensemble, and our own Jennifer Gammill gave a wonderful and varied Christmas program here in December to promote her new CD! All these programs not only brought joy and lifted the hearts of our congregation, but have been avenues of getting other people inside our doors for the first time. ~Mary.
- **Worship Liaison Report**
 - Contemporary Service Music Report 2025- The contemporary music team at Galilee is thriving. With solid and consistent members, both paid and unpaid, we are able to deliver quality music every week.
 - Heather is our dynamic up- front worship presence, and Jennifer guides the band, with the same drummer and bass player almost every week. Acoustic, electric, and miscellaneous players volunteer and we have a rotating, flexible schedule that works for everyone so they feel free to take off whenever needed.
 - Variety is maintained through classical, bluegrass, traditional, gospel styles, and more through the offertories and occasional featured themes. Heather has also brought in a steady flow of newer contemporary songs to keep our set lists fresh and full of vitality.
 - We have requested an electronic drum set for this year, but never heard back about whether the budget could handle it in 2026 .Overall, we are very content with how things are flowing and love the support that the congregation and leadership gives us!
- **Healing Prayer Ministry The Rev. Nigel Mumford - Priest Associate at Galilee.**
 - Nigel oversees 31 active prayer ministers, Nigel is available to meet with supplicants for private prayer (50 min. session) Monday thru Thursday between 8:30am and 12 noon. These are offered in person, by phone or

via Zoom. This has become "global" since many who reach out for prayer session (via zoom) have been from across the globe! USA, UK, France, Korea, Ghana, Philippines, New Zealand, Germany, Hawaii, Singapore, are just to name a few! On occasion (per rector)

- Nigel will visit parishioners in nursing homes or in hospital, and has been requested to officiate at weddings, and funerals.
- Fr. Andy has renamed Monthly Healing Services to: Prayer & Worship & Service: These services are held on the FIRST Tuesday of the month. Nigel is there for anointing and prayer along with the prayer team. offering brief healing prayer/laying-on-of Hands. The service is open to the community for all denominations.
- Nigel leads Soaking Prayer on the 2nd Thurs. of the month 8:45am - 9:30am. Soaking Prayer is a time of silent prayer. "Soaking in His presence. Attendance ranges from: 18-30.
- Nigel teaches Foundations of Healing Ministry. (Understanding the Healing Prayer) Throughout the year.

11. Group Discussion Topics

- Required equity training – April 18 at Galilee
 - In person training and there is an online option
- Review Upcoming Events
 - Eucharist on Wednesday, Lenten Lunch Series, Newcomer Dinner March 22, Blood Drive, Contemplative Prayer, Women's Bible Study, Men's Breakfast, VBS is full – waiting list, the WHI is next week – March 28 - 10am Saturday final ceremony
 - Maundy Thursday, Easter Vigil
- Quick update strategic planning committee
 - Tom McAfee – formed a core group to identify a strategic mission. Wendy, Linda, Susan, Bryant, Dee, Tom & Fr. Andy – long term planning, biblical and mission foundations, action plans, resources & financial assessments etc.,
 - Regular Meeting concludes at 8:03pm

12. Testimony & Faith Sharing: Tom McAfee

13. Closing Prayer & Adjournment

Next Meeting: 7:00 p.m., April 21, 2026