

Galilee Vestry Minutes
August 18, 2026

1. Fellowship & Opening Prayer – Father Ben

Present: Wendy Pelton, Susan Freese, Bryant McGann, Linda Whitehead, Tom McAfee, Crystal Cameron-Schaad, Dee Oliver, Mary Fletcher, Don Clark, Tim Stiffler

With Regrets: Michael Via, Robbie Berndt & Father Andy

Without Regrets: Tony Zontini

Non-Vestry Members Present: Fr. Ben, Paige Lee & Grayson Bryant

2. Discussion & Approval of Minutes

Tim Moved, Linda Second

3. Legacy Fund Introduction & Discussion w/Special guests Paige Lee & Grayson Bryant

Discussion Notes: Grayson – planning for a large wealth transfer for next generation. Many churches don't have sophisticated fundraising or long-term planning. There is room to establish a structure that would allow for some of our families that love the church and want to see legacy continue through their estate planning.

Paige – opportunity to see legacy continue for future generations, long term planning for business complexes, replacement reserves etc., Having endowment is extremely helpful for projects that can be planned for and others that can't be planned for. Great opportunity for parishioners to donate and make Galilee part of their estate planning. The idea is to have it invested for long-term planning and needs.

Simple strategy ideas for Galilee to implement:

- Create a hub within philanthropic enterprise with basic knowledge – using existing web platform.
- Marketing materials and strategy – videos, meetings, brochures, frequency of announcements.
- This should fall outside of annual stewardship drive. Probably an annual or bi-annual ask.

4. Rector's Report

Fr. Ben filling in for Fr. Andy - Extraordinary growth. No summer slowdown. On average 100 more adults across 3 services this summer. 7:45am – growing by about 30%. Parking challenges discussion. 9:15am largest challenge. Leadership researching solutions.

Written Report: July marked yet another very full month at Galilee. My thanks to every parishioner (and vestry member!) who gave time to preparing for, executing and cleaning up the VBS. It was a massive undertaking, and one of several important planks in our overall program for evangelizing and discipling our children. Thank you also to Lillie Tillar for her creative mind and leadership.

Pin Ministry

Dallas Stamper reached out two weeks ago with a financial request: PIN purchased a property near their main location to provide more assistance to homeless individuals wishing to move off the streets and into a home. Their need was just over \$50,000 and Galilee provided a \$5,000 check from the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Parish Cook Out

Previously known as "rally day" or "ministry Sunday" or "Hoe-Down!"--this year we are calling it the Parish Cook Out, on September 20th. There will be food, music and activities for adults and children--and the opportunity to share about ministry and fellowship at Galilee.

Mid-September

Around the cookout, a flurry of activity will commence, including but not limited to:

- *Ancient Paths of Prayer (Wednesday night and Thursday morning)
- *Women's Bible Study (Wednesday night and Thursday morning)
- *Alpha (Thursday evenings)
- *New Sunday morning adult offerings

Fr. Buchanan+

5. Senior Warden's Report

Written Report: As summer is wrapping up, we have a number of things to celebrate. In addition to wonderful worship services, our parish has enjoyed summer book clubs, music programs, and a variety of ministry events.

All-service attendance has remained constant through summer weeks, ranging from 650-653 from the end of June to present.

Vacation Bible School was well attended. Many thanks to Lillie Tillar and all involved in supporting this ministry. Middle and High School youth have had continued opportunities for connection through game nights and other events, and there will be a Middle School retreat in September. In It Together, a group for parents of young families, is planning a beach day on August 23.

Fr. Andy and his wife Dana are also hosting a dinner for young adults without children on August 31. Galilee Women are kicking off fall programs with a breakfast gathering August 15. In preparation for Alpha and other fall activities, Christian education classrooms are getting set up in the basement, the projector and screen in Jordan Hall were updated, and paint is getting touched up. The vestry also hosted a kitchen clean-out day. Organ progress continues, as we move towards the goal of getting all remaining parts sent to Virginia Beach.

The vestry is also preparing for our fall pledge drive and has provided our nominating committee with the information they will need to begin compiling candidates for next year's vestry. Our strategic planning committee is compiling recommendations for long-range planning. As we begin to prayerfully consider what is ahead for us in 2027, it is not too early to start thinking about how God may use your time, talent and resources to bless your church and the community around us. In doing so, you will also be blessed!

Joyfully in Christ,

Wendy Pelton

Senior Warden

6. Junior Warden's Report – Linda Whitehead

Written Report: DeStephano Painting has several projects this month: painting the upstairs Ladies' Room to the right of the office, the room off the Cove, a former Montessori classroom which will serve as a multi-purpose teaching and gathering space for special groups, and the railings around the perimeter of the church.

John and Josh Vik will complete painting the fence around Father Ben's residence this month.

The basketball hoop near the stage in Jordan Hall has been removed and the new projector screen installed. In addition, new carpeting has been selected and ordered for the space.

Crystal Schaad and her volunteer team, Dee Oliver and Tom McAfee, transformed the kitchen and storage area off the kitchen into very orderly and pleasing spaces. The hope is that anyone working in the kitchen will help to keep it that way.

The chiller has been functioning well since the filtration system was put in place.

Twelve new 72" tables were ordered and will be used for various functions including Alpha which will take place in Jordan Hall beginning in September.

Parking continues to be a challenge especially between the 7:45 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. services. Parking is especially tight between the first Adult Forum ending and the 9:15 service beginning.

Brother John David has organized the church library and is encouraging parishioners to take advantage of the faith-based reading materials available.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Whitehead

Junior Warden

7. Finance Report – Wendy for Michael Via

REVENUE:

MTD \$48K more than budget

MTD \$61K more than last year

YTD \$462K more than budget

YTD \$498K more than last year

EXPENSES:

MTD \$19K more than budget

MTD \$48K less than last year

YTD \$36K less than budget

YTD \$28K less than last year

NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT:

2026 MTD Net Operating deficit \$34K

2025 MTD Net Operating deficit \$108K

2026 YTD Net Operating surplus \$380K

2025 YTD Net Operating deficit \$146K

Full written financial reports available upon request.

8. Organ Project Update – Tim Stiffler

We have retained the services of Brock Smith (former employee of Quimby Organ) to assist with the coordination of items necessary to complete the organ installation. Brock

is on a monthly retainer, beginning August 1, 2026. Mike Quimby is aware of this decision and is supportive of the idea of having Brock assist us with finishing the Galilee project. So far, Mike Quimby and Brock are communicating well. Brock has reached out to all the important sub-contractors associated with the project. Together with Mike Quimby and Brock, we are working on a strategy to get all remaining organ parts delivered to Galilee and establish a timeline for the blower installation, fitting of remaining organ pipes, millwork installation, electronic cabling, etc. Full installation schedule and written reports are available upon request.

9. Strategic Planning Committee Update – Tom McAfee

General Discussion.

10. Liaison Report (Men of Galilee)

The fingerprints, deep faith and service of the Men of Galilee (MOG), including the Men's Prayer Breakfast (MPB) group, are found everywhere at Galilee. Men of Galilee serve in the choir, as musicians, greeters, and as ushers at funerals and various church services.

At least two men now serve on the altar guild. MOG also serve as parking lot attendants and golf cart operators. A good number of the MOG support Fr. Nigel's "Welcome Home Initiative" ministry for veterans. Members volunteer as preparation and cleanup crews, food servers, shopkeepers, door monitors, and general support for VBS week. Doing what they do best, the MPB group prepares meals for the Ash Wednesday early morning service, Winter Shelter, Galilee Lenten lunches, WHI and for coffee hour between services.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast group meets every Wednesday morning from 7-8:00am for faith, fellowship and prayer. In addition to sharing our faith, learning about the Bible, praying for each other and others. Full written report available upon request.

11. Old Business

- Projector / Jordan Hall Project
- Kitchen Cleanout
- Vestry rotation – working with Bonnie Wheeler on service demographics for new vestry nominees

New Business

- Fall Parish Cookout – September 20
- 2027 Pledge Drive

Testimony & Faith Sharing: Tim Stiffler

Closing Prayer & Adjournment: 8:21 pm

Respectfully submitted, Crystal Cameron-Schaad, Register