Galilee Vestry Minutes
September 15, 2026

1. Fellowship and 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, Fr. Andy
    - With Regrets: Tom McAfee, Mary Fletcher
    - Non-Vestry Members Present: Fr. Ben & Robbie Berndt

2. Approval of August Minutes
    - Susan Freese – Motion, Michael Via – Second

3. Rector's Report
    - Met with Alfred Darr about strategy for stewardship campaign

    - Written Report: August surprised us with continued high attendance, instead of the usual dip. We enter September with an average Sunday attendance of 656, and hope for a robust start to the program year. Robbie has moved quickly to prepare the downstairs space, and 2-3 of the 4 classrooms will be used on Sunday and during the week. My hope for the winter and spring is that 3 to 4 of the rooms will be in use each week.

      I have begun writing a position description for a third full-time priest, and expect to circulate it in mid-October. We will post the position at the seminaries, but also through the "clergy grapevine." The anticipated hiring date would be early summer 2027. I have also asked Lillie to look for a nursery coordinator to oversee our childcare workers and volunteers on Sunday morning.

      Our VB Fellows intern, Luke Lerner, began his internship at Galilee after Labor Day, under Fr. Ben's supervision. He will be taking on a variety of roles during the week and will assist as needed on Sunday mornings (20 hours a week). A larger number of the fellows have chosen to make Galilee their home in the last 2 years, and I encourage you to look out for them and welcome them to Galilee.

4. Senior Warden’s Report
    - Vestry nominating committee for 2027
        - Bonnie Wheeler is chairing. Committee is also comprised of the four outgoing Vestry Members (Tom McAfee, Wendy Pelton, Linda Whitehead, Tony Zontini and four parishioners (Anabelle Stiffler, Robin Rawles, Lindsay Painter, Ben Unkle).

    - **Written Report**: By the grace of God, Galilee continues to grow and prosper. All-service attendance has remained steady at 657 as of September 6. Many thanks to Katherine Wynne, who hosted a well-attended breakfast for the Galilee Women. Thanks also to David and Ruth Wilkins, Father Andy and Dana Buchanan, and others who opened their homes for Christian fellowship last month.

      Crosses were distributed to serve as reminders to pray for our young students as they embark upon a new school year.

      The Alpha course and a new slate of courses for Christian formation will launch mid-September. Vestry nominating committee and stewardship committee activities are underway.

      The vestry is making additional time to pray for fall events and the final stages of the organ project. We are excited about what God has in store for us and confident that capable teams are in place for oversight.

5. Junior Warden’s Report – Linda Whitehead
    - Fr. Andy thanked Linda and Robbie for all the work downstairs. We had 160 adults in formation classes on the first weekend using downstairs classrooms for all 5 classes.

    - **Written Report**: Painting has been completed in the hallways and classrooms of the former Montessori school. In addition, the door frames and doors of the upstairs children's rooms will be painted and ready for the start of the fall kick-off on September 13. Next on the painting schedule is the room off the Cove. John and Josh VIk finished their painting of the fence surrounding Fr Ben's residence.

      Three windows were replaced in the church. Two in the lobby and one on the second level.

John VIk cleaned the carpeting in the children's rooms and Lillie Tillar has reorganized and refreshed each room in anticipation of the new fall season. The wall in the former accountant's office was removed in order to enlarge the 2-year-olds' room.

There is an inviting new Mom and Baby room on the second floor.

Last week, approximately 4 sprinkler heads were worked on/replaced on the church grounds. The uplighting on the Pacific side of the church and courtyard was repaired as half of the lights were not working.

Parking capacity continues to be a challenge, however, Father Andy's announcements during the Sunday services, parking information in the Galilee Weekly News and the addition of the golf cart lot have been very helpful in easing the problem. Bryant has determined it is approximately 210 steps from the lower lot to the sanctuary, 180 steps from the Holiday Inn parking area to the sanctuary using the crosswalk, and 300 steps from the PACC lot. For the parking breakdown of each week, please see Bryant's monthly parking report.

6. Finance Report – Michael Via
    - Group discussion: Organ fund. Waiting to get final numbers on total expenses to finish the project.

    **REVENUE:**

    MTD $15K more than budget

    MTD $107K less than last year

    YTD $478K more than budget

    YTD $392K more than last year

    **EXPENSES**

    MTD $56K less than budget

    MTD $67K less than last year

    YTD $92K less than budget

    YTD $94K less than last year

    **NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT:**

    2026 MTD Net Operating surplus $24K

    2025 MTD Net Operating surplus $64K

2026 YTD Net Operating surplus $405K

2025 YTD Net Operating deficit $81K

7. Organ Project Update – Tim Stiffler
    - All remaining parts and pieces are expected to be on site by the end of September.
    - Sean O'Donnell (Skinner organ specialist) came on site this week to inspect the wind chests. Confirmed that main parts for organ are in top condition.
    - Quimby is also coming on site this week.
    - Full installation schedule and written reports are available upon request.

8. Liaison Report: Tony Zontini
    - Written Report: On Thursday, July 9, 2026, the Galilee Medical Mission Team of 26 volunteers traveled to Wise, Virginia where the team met at the Health Wagon Clinic on Patriot Drive. The Health Wagon staff recognized the arrival of the Team and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Ben Carey in recognition of his leadership for the Team.

      On Friday, July 10, 2026, the Team began seeing patients at the clinic. After work, we met as a group and had dinner together.

      On Saturday, July 11, 2026, the Team returned to the Health Wagon Clinic to continue providing medical and spiritual care. After work, some of the Team ate early to allow time to attend a Blue Grass Music event and other Team members ate at La Casita Restaurant.

      On Sunday, July 12, 2026 the Team departed for home.

      The Galilee Medical Mission Team consisted of 26 volunteers and 23 of these volunteers have worshipped at Galilee! The Galilee Medical Mission Team treated about 85% of the 907 patients treated and saved the Health Wagon over $100,000 in medical care.

      The Galilee Medical Mission Team to Wise, Virginia will return to volunteer services July 15 - 19, 2027. Full report available upon request.

9. Old Business
    - Legacy Fund review from last meeting. Bryant to create one-pager for next meeting with details so we can discuss roll-out strategy for 2027.

10. New Business
    - Parish dinner on Sunday, September 20 at 4pm

- Motion to Adjourn at 7:48pm – Wendy Pelton - Motion, Don Clark - Second

11. Testimony & Faith Sharing – Dee Oliver

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Cameron-Schaad, Register