

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting - Wednesday, May 27, 2025

The meeting was called to order by the Rev. Dixon Kinser at 6:35pm and a devotion was given by the Rev. Erika Takacs. The others in attendance were Kathryn Vernon, John White, Jackie Piscetelli, Ralph Womble, Lucy Paynter, Sheldon Fort, Erin Adams, Charlotte Broughton, Salem Parham, Morris Friedman, Keith Googe, Jack Scruggs, Mac Dubose, Julie Williams, Grady Phillips, Tom McDowell, Lucy Strandlund, and Betsy Reiners.

Dixon asked for approval of the March 2025 minutes as presented. Ralph approved the minutes and Morris seconded the motion.

St. Paul's treasurer, Julie Williams gave an update on the current status of the church's finances. She said the Finance Committee met on May 20, 2025, to discuss the April 2025 financial statements. Here are some highlights.

- Pledge and non-pledge income for 2025 are ahead of budget by \$19k and \$12k, respectively for the year, primarily due to a stellar January
- Expense highlights:
 - Most expenses primarily in line with or below budget
 - Operating expenses over by \$14k due to relocation costs
 - This will be repaid when the new employee sells home
- Audit starts next week
- Capital Campaign
 - Of the \$600k that was owed to the church:
 - In February, \$150k was transferred from the capital campaign back to the church
 - An additional \$75k was transferred in April
 - An additional \$100k expected in May
 - Around \$75k - \$100k of pledges are still due this year. A reminder letter from Victoria will go out soon.
 - There are about \$400k of estate gifts that will more than cover the remaining balance due.
 - The distribution of any remaining funds will be directed by the Vestry
- Stewardship
 - Staff looking at wish list items.
 - Tom, clergy and stewardship will look over this list and start setting priorities
 - The goal is to have the list in place by the end of the summer
 - 1876 Society met last week

Mac Dubose, the chair of the Investment Committee gave a detailed report of the progress of the church's investments. One major development was the movement of our accounts from Morgan Stanley to Charles Schwab. The hope is we will save on fees with this new firm.

In new business, Sheldon Moser, for the Outreach Committee, asked for approval to give \$15,000.00 to World Relief to cover a budget shortfall because of the US governmental cuts. In addition, she asked for approval on an expenditure of \$2700.00 to pay for preschool tuition for two children from one of the families the Good Neighbor Team sponsors. Jack made a motion to approve, and Salem seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dixon gave an update on the new signs being ordered for the inside and outside of the church and surrounding campus and asked for approval to spend up to \$112,000.00 to complete this project. Charlotte made a motion to approve, and Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

In the Rector's Report, Dixon led a discussion about what the preschool space might become in the future and is it the right time to bring together a team to envision that. With so many questions still unanswered, he decided to table the discussion for another meeting.

In the interest of time, Dixon decided to move right into clergy reports.

The Rev. Lucy Strandlund is excited to be planning the Lantern Initiative offerings for the fall and winter program year. She is working on adult formation for Sunday mornings and there is a retreat scheduled in January with a New Testament scholar. In June 2026 there is an Icon workshop being offered.

The Rev. Erika Takacs shared what an enriching experience it was to host the confirmation service for Christ's Beloved Community here at St. Paul's. CBC is a church in our community who needed more room for this special service than they could provide. Bishop Jennifer was the celebrant, and it was a vibrant event.

Erika reminded us that the summer schedule is here with services at 8,10 and 5 on Sundays. June 8 is Pentecost, and we have 6 baptisms scheduled as well as a fire juggler. The Feast of St. Paul is on June 29, and the next baptism Sunday is August 17.

Often church shopping occurs during the summer months and Erika reminded us to get in the practice of introducing ourselves to visitors.

The staff is working with and shifting some things since the WSFCS calendar has changed and school will be starting much earlier in August this fall.

Starting in October, Choral Evensong will transition to the first Sunday of the month.

Morris Freidman, the Sr. Warden had nothing to report.

Charlotte Broughton, the Jr. Warden had nothing to report.

Lastly, Tom McDowell said the Finance Committee is looking for new members and Dixon reported the HR committee has been working on a current employee handbook.

Dixon adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm