

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 and the Rev. Dixon Kinser gave a devotion. Those in attendance were Morris Friedman, Lucy Paynter, Sheldon Fort, John White, Jack Scruggs, Ralph Womble, Charlotte Broughton, Jackie Piscetelli, Kathryn Vernon, Keith Googe, Salem Parham, Erin Adams, the Rev. Nick VanHorn, the Rev. Lucy Strandlund, the Rev. Erika Takacs, the Rev. Nancy Vaders, Tom McDowell, Victoria Bass, Julie Williams, and Betsy Reiners.

Dixon called for a motion to approved the minutes as presented and after a couple of corrections were suggested, the motion was passed.

St. Paul's treasurer, Julie Williams gave the financial report. She said the finance committee met on August 19, 2025, to discuss the July 2025 financial statements. Pledge and non-pledge income for 2025 are ahead of budget by \$50k and \$30k, respectively and primarily due to a stellar January. July was slow in terms of pledge income, but the committee is expecting things to pick up in August. Maintenance expenses were over budget due to Vestry approved projects and the worship budget was over because of a prepayment of Kanuga expenses. Utilities were under budget by \$10k.

Julie said there was record attendance at the finance committee meeting which provided an opportunity for a robust discussion about the financial collars and what changes should be made to best guide the Vestry in the future. She said discussions will continue in future finance committee meetings and an update will be provided to the Vestry once the committee has new guidelines to approve. The hope is that these will go into effect next year.

The current financial collar calculation shows that there are over 7 months (approx. 7.4 months) of operating expenses in reserves. Although there is a surplus, under the financial collars calculation, the church is in a 'yellow light' position. As such, the finance committee recommends that the vestry do not take on any new initiatives or elective expenditures unless they can be funded by sources outside of the general budget. Even though reserves remain fairly strong, the committee is especially concerned about the trend of losses and advises against any new financial commitment.

In new business, Tom McDowell said we received a 'clean audit' and thanked St. Paul's finance manager, Melissa Lester, for her diligent work. Tom asked for a motion to approve the audit as presented and Jack made the motion and Jackie seconded and the motion passed.

Victoria Bass, St. Paul's stewardship director, reviewed the timeline for this year's campaign: *Stewards of God's Grace*. There are several gatherings scheduled this fall for members to attend to hear more about the budget, the needs of the parish and recent accomplishments.

Tom McDowell brought pdf copies of 'Saint Paul's Episcopal Church 1876-1976' to the vestry members so they could read about the first 100 years of the church. As the parish prepares for the 150 Sesquicentennial celebration in 2026, Tom wanted the vestry to know more about the early years.

Tom showed the group a sample of the name plaque to be used in Dalton Garden to replace the current ones in the scatter garden. All the plaques will be replaced so they will all match. Tom ordered 100 at a cost of

\$3000.00. The buildings and grounds committee has requested approval to spend up to \$5000.00 for this project.

Tom and Charlotte lead a discussion about the cost of replacing the carpet in the preschool rooms which are currently being used on Sundays for children's Christian formation and nursery care. The estimate is \$19,000.00. Rick Duggins and his team have shampooed the carpets which has improved their condition. It was decided to table the discussion until more information can be gleaned about the future use of the preschool wing.

Sheldon, for St. Paul's outreach ministry, asked for approval to spend \$1350.00 from the Refugee fund to pay for preschool tuition for the child of a family we are sponsoring who is living at Ardmore Terrace. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval of the expenditure.

In the Rector's report, Dixon invited the Rev. Nancy Vaders, Director of Pastoral Care and Senior Adult Ministry to review the protocols for the church prayer lists. She said we maintain three separate prayer lists, a public/spoken list, a confidential list that is only known to the pastoral team and clergy, and a military list for all active service members.

You can add yourself or a friend or family member to this list at any time. If you were adding someone other than yourself, please get their clear permission about which list they would like to be added to, and contact Laura Hoffman, our communications coordinator to be added to that list.

lhoffman@stpauls-ws.org 336-723-4391 EXT.1208

If you have any questions or concerns about the prayer lists, please call or email Nancy nvaders@stpauls-ws.org 336-723-4391 EXT.1502

Regarding hospital protocol, if you are a family member of someone in the hospital or you are in the hospital, and would like to be visited by a member of the clergy, please call the main church office (336-723-4391) and let us know which hospital you have been admitted to, and the best contact number. Many of our local hospitals do not automatically report parishioners to us when they have been admitted, so we rely on your help to let us know whether you or a family member is in the hospital. If you call after hours, you will be prompted on how to reach the clergy on call.

Dixon asked the Sunday VOD (Vestry of the Day) to please check in with the off-duty police officer to be sure they know what is expected of them during their shift.

In clergy reports, the Rev. Erika Takacs explained that St. Paul's now has a verger guild. She is training seven people to be vergers and of the seven, two who will assist each Sunday morning with worship and will process with the clergy, acolytes, and choir. She was pleased with the turnout for acolyte training on August 10 and 17. She said there will be some small liturgical changes to worship this fall, one being to incorporate more psalms.

The Rev. Nick Van Horn said the youth trip was amazing and expressed his gratitude for all the vestry support. He said it was a meaningful time for everyone. Confirmation class for youth and adults is still being planned, and he will keep the vestry posted on the date when it is confirmed by the diocese. Nick is in school and working on his doctorate in social justice.

The Rev. Lucy Strandlund reported on the Mental Health First Aid training that was offered to the St. Paul's staff and others and was financed through a grant. This training educates folks about how to respond to an individual who is having a mental health crisis. She said it was well attended, and it was good to be together as a staff working on a common goal. The same training is planned for October 4 here at St. Paul's and anyone can sign up. The fee is \$25.00. Lucy is very pleased with the Lantern Initiative booklet that Jason Franklin, St.

Paul's communications director designed and produced. The booklet lists all the offerings for the program year so members can make plans to participate in events that interest them. Lucy passed booklets around for vestry members to see. She also said the local Pilgrimage that was offered at the beginning of August was well received and attended.

In the Sr. Warden's report, Morris Freidman announced that it is time to compile a nominating committee for next year's vestry slate. This committee consists of no less than five people who are eligible to vote, at least three who are vestry members and two who are not current vestry members. It is the task of the nominating committee to ensure that an adequate number of qualified nominees for vacancies on the vestry are presented to the congregation at the next annual meeting. Morris encouraged the vestry to consider members they know who would be suitable for this role.

The Jr. Warden, Charlotte Broughton had nothing additional to add to her previous reporting.

Keith Googe, vestry liaison to the Summer Enrichment summer camp said Laura Pallivacini, Aliesha Oakes, Rhett Butler, and the team of St. Paul's volunteers did outstanding work for the 60 children who attended the camp this summer of 2025. This summer's campers participated in swimming, crafts, science, prayer, fishing and lots of play.

Lucy Paynter reminded vestry members about ArtReach; the ECW fund raising event coming up on September 6.

Dixon adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.