

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting - Wednesday, November 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order by the Rev. Dixon Kinser at 6:35 and the Rev. Nick VanHorn gave a devotion. The others in attendance were Morris Friedman, Keith Gooze, Lucy Paynter, Salem Parham, Jack Scruggs, Ralph Womble, Charlotte Broughton, Erin Adams, Kathryn Vernon, Victoria Bass, Grady Phillips, the Rev. Lucy Strandlund, the Rev. Erika Takacs, Tom McDowell, and Betsy Reiners.

Dixon asked for a motion to approve the minutes for October 22, 2025, minutes as presented. Ralph made a motion to approve and Jack seconded the motion. The motion carried.

St. Paul's treasurer, Julie Williams could not attend tonight's meeting but emailed a report to vestry. It is included here:

The Finance Committee met on November 18, 2025, to discuss the October 2025 financial statements.

Pledge and non-pledge income for 2025 are ahead of budget by \$60k and \$30k, respectively for the year.

Regarding expenses, October was a 3-payroll month, so salary expense is a little skewed, but on budget for YTD. Other expenses are in line except for vestry approved maintenance. We will likely be over by a few thousand at the end of the year due to several successful events (obtained new donors).

The Unrestricted fund balance was up by about \$200k YTD, even though we are running a deficit.

Victoria Bass, the stewardship director, provided an update on 2026 pledges, which she will provide directly to the Vestry at the next meeting.

There was continued discussion about the financial collars and what changes should be made to best guide the Vestry. We are looking at both balance sheets and income statements and will provide an update to the Vestry once the committee has approved. New guidelines are planned to go into effect for 2026.

Stewardship Director, Victoria Bass presented the latest numbers for the *Stewards of God's Grace* campaign.

Pledges received so far total \$2,275,607.25. Of these 433 pledges, \$5,255.44 is the average per unit/household and 40 are new.

There are 193 pledges outstanding from fiscal year 2025 commitments not yet received for fiscal year 2026 totaling \$702,160.

We lack \$724,393 to meet our 3Mil goal.

We have received \$32,000 in unexpected pledges this week from both new members and members who have moved out of town.

Pastoral Care Director, the Rev. Nancy Vaders and Dixon have done a pastoral care check on the remaining 193 names. This list, minus the pastoral care concerns, will go to Mark and Kate Reece for their review and then move to committee and some extra volunteers to make calls between December first and fifteenth.

In new business, Dixon discussed the purchase of a vergers robe which is worn by the vergers so they can be spotted and recognized on Sunday morning. The funds to pay for the robe will come out of the Ecclesiastical Arts budget and the cost is 10,000.00. The vestry gave unanimous approval for the expense.

The Sesquicentennial has some expenses that Dixon asked to be funded. Dan Locklair has written a 'festival hymn' especially for the 150 anniversary of St. Paul's to be sung during worship in 2026. The fee for that is \$5000.00. A coloring book is being produced with lined pictures of the stained-glass windows in the nave. The cost of production is \$500.00. Lastly, the Rev. Jane Patterson is our guest preacher on January 25, 2026, and her fee and travel expenses are \$500.00. Dixon asked for a motion to fund these expenses and Jack made a motion to approve and Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dixon asked for approval to spend 8387.00 for the deposit on the September 18-20, 2026, parish weekend at Kanuga. Charlotte made a motion to approve, and Erin seconded the motion and it passed.

In the rector's report, Dixon said the first Sunday with the Forsyth County sheriff on campus went smoothly.

Dixon is pleased with the new sound system contractor, SyncLogic. He went on to explain all the work that was completed on their first visit and what is on the docket for the future.

In clergy reports, Lucy Strandlund said she is currently planning adult formation classes for 2026. She said there are 12 adults in the confirmation class and the enneagram retreat on November 7 and 8 was great. The Rev. Jane Patterson is leading a retreat on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at the Station about St. Paul. Rev. Patterson will preach at the 9 and 11:15 services on Sunday, January 25, 2026.

Erika talked about the balance between action and contemplation during this season in the church. She said the Christmas eve and Christmas day service times are the same as last year. Other services are Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday evening, December 7 at 5pm and Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday evening December 21 at 5pm. On the third Sunday of Advent, we'll bless the new advent wreath and as always, the Feast of Lights on Sunday evening, January 4 at 5pm.

Resources for contemplation during advent are Morning Prayer via Facebook and the newly added Friday 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist. Speaking of the 12:00 noon HE, Erika said we had an adult baptism at one of the noon services recently and it was so meaningful.

There may be a leaflet revamp in 2026.

Nick reminded everyone that our own, Louis Patrick Mua will be ordained on Saturday morning, December 13 at St. Mary's in High Point at 11:00 a.m. All are invited.

He said the youth are producing a documentary about the history of EYC at St. Paul's in concert with the Sesquicentennial.

The Sr Warden, Morris Friedman said the vestry nominating committee will meet on December 4 to discuss a slate for the next vestry class. He invited everyone on the vestry to a Christmas party hosted by him and Colleen at their home on December 4, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

The Jr Warden, Charlotte Broughton said the new cutting garden has been installed on campus.

Jack Scruggs mentioned what a success and fun time was had during the visit with the choir from St. Paul's, Charlottesville.