

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting- Wednesday, May 27, 2026

The Rev. Dixon Kinser called the meeting to order at 6:35PM and those in attendance were Jackie Piscetelli, Kathy Ausen, Bill Davis, John White, Sheldon Fort, Ralph Womble, Salem Parham, Ben Baker, Betsy English, Lucy Paynter, Erin Adams, Laura Palavicini, the Rev. Nick VanHorn, the Rev. Lucy Strandlund, the Rev. Erika Takacs, Grady Phillips, Tom McDowell, Mac Dubose, Fred Williams, Eleanore VanHorn, Caroline Walsh and Betsy Reiners.

Erika offered a devotion.

Dixon asked for a motion to approve the April 22, 2026, minutes as presented. Sheldon made a motion and Ralph seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom reported on the April financials and said pledges & grants remain strong, and we are \$180k over budget. The expenses are in line with maintenance being over due to Vestry approved expenditures which are covered by B&G reserves. The salaries and benefits are over budget due to it being a 3-payroll month. May was a 3-payroll month and since the staff is paid bi-weekly, it skews the numbers higher.

Chairperson, Mac Dubose reported for the Investment Committee and introduced Fred Williams to the vestry. Fred will be taking over for Mac as chairperson for the Investment Committee.

Outreach Director, Laura Palavicini joined the meeting to offer the vestry some ideas and guidelines for when we encounter an unhoused neighbor on Sunday. There was a lengthy discussion, and much was learned.

Dixon requested permission to spend up to \$2500.00 on advertising for the Kanuga weekend, this September 18, 19, and 20th. He hopes this will garner additional sign-ups for this year's weekend. Ben made a motion to approve the expenditure and Erin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

In the Rector's report Dixon said the Festival Weekend was amazing! He thanked everyone for their support and participation.

Dixon explained that the national church's requirements for everyone working in or volunteering for the Episcopal Church need to take Safe Church Training. He offered the vestry members a list of dates and times when the Diocese of North Carolina will be training online so they can get certified.

The Executive Director of Love Literacy, Esharan Morris Johnson, has resigned from her current role and Dixon along with Laura Palavicini and others are searching for an interim Executive Director. Dixon will keep the vestry posted as things progress.

Dixon invited everyone to attend the ordination of Matthew Phillips this Sunday at 5:00PM at St. Paul's. The ordination will replace the 5pm service in the chapel and will take place in the Nave with the Bishop in attendance and other local clergy.

In clergy reports, Lucy S. reminded the vestry of the Icon Writing Workshop taking place at St. Paul's June 1-5. The workshop is full and registration is closed.

Lucy and Erika are planning a Pilgrimage in Canterbury, England for April 2026.

Nick shared that the youth awards show was a big success and lots of fun. There are 12 teenagers signed up to attend the youth retreat in the first week of June in Blowing Rock. Nick has just completed his first year of graduate school.

Erika said there is a lot going on at St. Paul's and that seven hundred people attended the 10am worship service with Bishop Curry at the festival weekend. She reinvited the vestry to the ordination on Sunday, May 31 saying it is such a cool service. The sesquicentennial celebrations continue with the feast day of St. Peter and St. Paul on Sunday, June 28. Erika said there are several children being baptized on Sunday, August 2 and there is a liturgy leaders lunch scheduled on August 15. The work on the revised worship leaflet continues.

In the Sr. Warden's report, Charlotte Broughton, who sent a message since she couldn't attend the meeting, of appreciation to the St. Paul's staff for all the hard work and efforts they put in for the sesquicentennial festival weekend.

In the Jr. Warden's report, Jackie announced the neon cross is now working.

As the liaison to the Human Resources committee, Dixon said the committee continues to meet and help with thorny employee issues and is revising the employee handbook.

Regarding Summer Enrichment, Ben announced that the camp begins on June 22 and that Summer Enrichment Sunday is July 12.

In stewardship, Ben said the chairs for the next campaign are David Broughton, Christine Storch and Kathryn Vernon. There are ten informational gatherings planned and the goal is to raise three million in pledges. Kristie and Jonathan Blanco and Richard and Karen Rogers will co-chair the 2027 campaign. Kate and Mark Reece are writing thank you notes to everyone who pledged to the current campaign.

Grady Phillips, the youth delegate to the vestry is graduating from high school and will be attending college this fall. Grady introduced the new delegates; Caroline Walsh and Eleanore VanHorn.

Dixon adjourned the meeting at 8:05PM.