

Vestry Meeting
St Paul's Episcopal
6/24/26

Present: Erin Adams, Kathy Ausen, Charlotte Broughton, Bill Davis, Betsy English, The Rev. Dixon Kinser, Tom McDowell, Joe Oppermann, Jackie Piscetelli, The Rev. Lucy Strandlund, The Rev. Erika Takas, Julie Williams, Ralph Womble

Call to Order

The Rev. Dixon Kinser called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

Devotional

The Rev. Lucy Strandlund offered a devotion on a best practice for St. Paul's Vestry: Show up for parish events.

Appoint Secretary

Kathy Ausen was appointed Secretary for the meeting in the absence of Betsy Reiners.

Approval of Minutes

Upon request by Dixon, Ralph Womble made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. A motion to second was made by Bill Davis. The motion carried.

Financial Report

Julie Williams summarized the year-to-date numbers also found on her written report:

- Pledge income is \$230,000 ahead of budget though income may show a decrease over the summer months. Part of the overage is due to prepaid pledges made at the end of 2025.
- Non-pledge income is ahead of budget by \$6,000.
- The onsite portion of the audit is completed.
- Following receipt of a windfall donation of \$750,000, the Endowment and Finance Committees are investigating the best strategy for proceeding.
 - o One option is to add it to the Winston-Salem Foundation endowment fund.
 - Though the Foundation's rules may change soon, at present this would lock the principal of the endowment in the Foundation's fund. The committees believe it is important that funds not be permanently locked in at the Foundation.
 - The Foundation currently pays out 4% of the principal. The current bond market can pay 5%.
 - o A second option is to create a quasi-endowment at St. Paul's.
 - St. Paul's would then control the principal.
 - As funds grow, the funds could be invested.
 - Such an endowment would require amending the investment plan.
 - The amendment would specify that funds could not be used for operating expenses.
 - o A third option is to consider an outside investment agent other than the Winston-Salem Foundation.
 - o It was noted that the donor's wishes should be clarified to be sure funds were not intended to be added to the Tower Fund.

New Business

Rust staining on church

Joe Opperman has identified 17 stones with rust staining. A set of diagrams showing the church from all four cardinal points locates each of them. Some of the Massachusetts-sourced stones used have occlusions of iron running through them. As the iron oxidizes, rust is formed.

To determine the cause of the present rusting, a rusted stone will be chiseled out of place. A core will be taken and the empty pocket examined. Then, considering all factors in that location, he can test two questions:

- No steel structures were used in building the church. However, could a steel spacer added later be causing the problem?
- Is rusting occurring mostly at the bottom of the stones rather than the face of the stone, and, if so, why?

Several of the rusting stones are located high and on an incline. A lift will be needed to reach some of them. Stones located on the north side of the church on level ground can be reached with simple scaffolding.

It is suggested that one of the rusting stones on the east side be left as is. Only a complete scaffolding build would allow access to this stone. The cost of scaffolding is prohibitive.

Care will be taken to repair so that the stones age well without further rusting. The work will be done by a craftsman who will be available within a month.

Approximately two weeks will be needed to complete the repairs.

The price of repairs will be calculated on an hourly basis for the craftsman's time. The quote for the job is \$36,000.

At a request from Dixon, Charlotte Broughton made a motion to approve up to \$40,000 for rust removal. Ralph Womble seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rector's Report

Update on Preschool space discernment

Dixon is in the process of talking with consultants about options for use of the space.

Safe Church Training Follow Up

Vestry members who have not yet completed a Safe Church Training are encouraged to register for one of these upcoming online sessions:

- June 8 from 6:00-8:00 pm
- June 17 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- June 28 from 12:00-2:00 pm

Once completed, Deacon Lauren should be notified at lvillemuer@stpauls-ws.org.

Love Literacy

Amy Shuman has been hired as Interim Director and will start work for one year on July 6. Dixon and his team will now begin working with the consultant on a search for a permanent Executive Director.

July Vestry Meeting

It was decided to skip the July Vestry meeting. *This has been disputed by Lucy and Dixon.*

Financial Session

A Financials 102 session is planned for August. This overview will update Vestry members on events since the last session held at the Vestry retreat in February.

Bishop Sam Announcement

Bishop Sam Rodman of our North Carolina Diocese has announced his retirement as of Fall 2027. The Diocesan Standing Committee will appoint a Nominating Committee to search for the new Bishop. Bishop Rodman will retire once a new Bishop is in place.

Clergy Reports

The Rev. Lucy Strandlund reported a successful week-long icon writing retreat in June. The 15 participants consisted of both St. Paul's parishioners and others from various parishes in several states. The workshop was a Lantern Initiative opportunity for spiritual growth and connection.

An information session will be held on Sunday, June 28 to describe the Old Way to Canterbury Pilgrimage to take place on April 13-22, 2027. Guides for this Lantern Initiative pilgrimage from London to Canterbury, England will be Lucy and Erika along with logistical support from Progressive Pilgrimage.

The Formation schedule for next year is currently in the planning stage.

The Rev. Erika Takas reported a successful and glorious Ordination to the Diaconate of Matthew Phillips in June at St. Paul's.

She reminds the Vestry that though the successful Sesquicentennial Weekend has passed, there are additional activities to celebrate the anniversary ending with the Feast of Lights on January 10, 2027. The next event is guest preacher Kelly Brown Douglas on June 28 at the 10:00 am service.

St. Paul's will host a diocesan acolyte festival in October.

St. Paul's acolyte, Gloria Moran, is producing a video demonstrating acolyte skills to be used in trainings or refreshing skills before serving as an acolyte.

Six baptisms are scheduled for Sunday, August 2.

On Saturday, August 15 an Open House for worship leaders is planned for lectors, chalice bearers, vergers, and acolyte leaders. This will be an opportunity to share ideas, problem-solve, and collaborate for a coordinated ministry.

Senior Warden's Report

Charlotte Broughton encouraged Vestry members to check the VOD schedule and fill empty slots as needed.

Junior Warden's Report

Jackie Piscetelli announced that work will begin soon on the playground renewal project. There is currently a delay in work by Duke Energy, but the project should be completed by Labor Day.

Liaison Reports

Ben Baker, liaison to the Summer Enrichment program, submitted his report for the program which began on Monday.

- Several sponsorships are filled; more are still needed.
- He believes the leaders, Rhett Butler and Aleisha Oakes, are great guides for the program.
- There are a full calendar and a good variety of activities scheduled.
- One volunteer lunch slot is yet to be filled. He encourages Vestry participation at <https://signup.com/go/ftXaiEa>.
- Current volunteers would like to identify a new generation of volunteers. This is a long-running program, and new help is being sought.

Leaders and campers will attend the 10:00 worship service on July 13 to celebrate the program.

Adjournment

Dixon adjourned the meeting at 7:50 and convened an Executive Session.