

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting - Wednesday, August 26, 2026

The Rev. Dixon Kinser called the meeting to order at 6:30PM and gave a devotional. Those in attendance were Salem Parham, Betsy English, Ben Baker, John White, Erin Adams, Ralph Womble, Sheldon Fort, Charlotte Broughton, Jackie Piscetelli, Bill Davis, Lucy Paynter, the Rev. Erika Takacs, the Rev. Nick VanHorn, Tom McDowell, EYC representatives Caroline Walsh and Eleanor VanHorn and Betsy Reiners.

Dixon asked for a motion to accept the June 24 minutes as presented. Ralph made a motion and Sheldon seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom McDowell gave the monthly financial report in Julie Williams' absence. He said pledges are still on track and over budget. Core expenses (salaries, benefits, utilities etc) are in line. Overages in maintenance and worship are funded by vestry and ministry funds. The deficit is \$35k vs budget of \$58k.

In addition to the monthly financial picture, Tom explained that the WS Foundation is going through some changes in the endowment fund vehicles being offered and explained what they are offering now.

The Organizational Endowment Fund provides annual income, but the principal may not be invaded "unless otherwise approved for distribution by the Foundation Committee of the WSF. There are no specifics offered of what is needed to make this request of the Committee. Tom said this is basically the old agreement, and St. Paul's has 5 of this type of fund, currently.

The Organizational Quasi-Endowment Fund is an additional fund being made available that provides annual income as well as the opportunity to invade principal. This from the foundation: "The Foundation Committee of The Winston-Salem Foundation ("the Foundation Committee") may, in its sole judgment, authorize distributions in excess of the Distributable Amount if at least one of the following conditions is met: a) The proposed distribution enables the Organization to acquire or renovate a capital asset; b) The Organization is facing unexpected, nonrecurring financial needs, and the Distributable Amount will help meet those needs; or c) Such distributions will benefit the Organization, advance its charitable and exempt purposes, and benefit the community. Requests for such distributions must be made by a unanimous vote of the Organization's governing board. These requests are advisory only and are not binding on the Foundation."

Tom said the investment committee recommended in the future, as needed, that we use the Organizational Quasi-Endowment Fund. Betsy English made a motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee and Jackie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom announced the internal church audit has been completed, and he reminded the vestry that he sent out the report via email. Erin Adams made a motion to accept the audit as presented and John White seconded the motion. The motion passed.

In new business, Dixon announced that Sally and Bill Wells have agreed to serve as delegates to the Annual Diocesan convention on November 20 and 21. Their term ends in 2028. Charlotte made a motion to approve the delegates, and Lucy Paynter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dixon said that Matthew Phillips will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, December 12 at 11AM in St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Durham and because we sponsored him, he asked for everyone's signature on the ordination form for the diocese.

In the Rector's Report, Dixon gave an update on the leadership transition at Love Literacy. The transition committee is reconsidering the need for a consultant. The interim director, Amy Shuman, is capable of steering the committee and has the skills to help with the necessary fundraising that is needed.

The One Foundation campaign is in progress, and Dixon has been attending several grateful gatherings at local venues. These events are an opportunity for St. Paul's members to ask questions and to learn about the ways the parish is giving, growing, and evolving. Emma LeBella has been assisting Dixon with the planning of these events and Dixon is grateful for her good work.

Dixon said he has pulled together a search committee for the next Stewardship Director, and they will have their first meeting next week.

The parish Kanuga weekend is September 18,19,20 and Kate Reece and Cate Lynch are hard at work with all the details.

Next month, on September 23, Tom is offering another class on Finances 102 at 5:30. If you can come a bit early to the September vestry meeting, you can take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the financial side of managing St. Paul's.

Dixon shared a list of staff members and their roles to the group and gave an in-depth explanation of each person's duties on staff.

In her clergy report, the Rev. Erika Takacs said the summer was fun, busy and that we baptized 10 children on August 2. She offered a service-volunteer retreat on August 15 and 60 people came. It was a great opportunity for fellowship, extra training and to enjoy lunch together. On Sunday, September 13, the service times will return to 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:15AM and 5:00PM. The leaflet project continues and the clergy, communications team, and musicians have all weighed in and Erika has a final draft. In other liturgy news, Erika said in the future when we pray for positions of authority in our prayers of the people, we will be including those in Congress, local legislatures, and the courts in the prayers as well as the President, Governor, and Mayor. The reasoning behind this is that in other places, the prayer book specifically offers prayers for all three branches of government, and we want to be consistent with the BCP. Erika showed the vestry a new metal that Jason designed to give to senior acolytes of which we have 4.

The Rev. Nick VanHorn shared that the mens ministry is thriving, and they are having fun while creating a space for meaningful fellowship. He said graduate school is going well, and he is grateful for the work he is doing. Nick has been asked to join the Diocesan Transition Committee as they search for a new Bishop since Bishop Sam Rodman is retiring.

The Rev. Lucy Strandlund was away, and Dixon reported for her that Jason is working on a booklet for the Lantern Initiative offerings and Adult Confirmation classes will start in October.

Sr. Warden, Charlotte Broughton said the Rev. Nancy Vaders sends a special invitation to every vestry member to attend the next Senior lunch on Wednesday, September 16. Charlotte Broughton will be the speaker.

Jr. Warden, Jackie Piscetelli gave a playground renovation update and said the tree removal is complete, and the retaining wall will be next. Progress was slowed due to Duke Energy needing to move some power lines before the tree work could commence.

Dixon reported that the work continues on the stone cleaning.

Senior Adult liaison, Lucy Paynter said a group traveled to see the frescos in West Jefferson and enjoyed a lunch in Ashe County. Senior Adult lunches return on September 16 and on the third Wednesday of the month. The Bingo night was a big success and \$1000 was raised for Senior Adult activities. Bonnie Flythe and Melissa Rogan are putting new energy into planning senior adult trips. It has been suggested that St. Paul's offer bus service to seniors attending the Kanuga weekend.

Youth reps, Caroline Walsh, and Eleanore VanHorn said the youth had a great summer and enjoyed the retreat and distributing Meals on Wheels, until the bus broke down.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55PM with an executive session to follow.