

St. James Vestry Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026

5:45PM

Participating: Rector De Freeman, Rev. Amanda Doshier, Parish Administrator Meghan Fancher, Sr. Warden Margaret Cadden, Jr. Warden Bruce Stone, Treasurer Amanda Montz, Dan Campbell, Gary Garner, Lisa Hansen, Jennifer Lambert, Bettsie Norton, Rhett O'Keefe, Cappi Sully, Austin Young and Clerk Mary Mullins Redditt

Absent: Bill Dowdle, and Ken Talbert

Opening Prayer -

Amanda opened us in prayer.

Recitation of the mission statement -

The vestry then recited the mission statement.

We are a community anchored in Christ, seeking God, sharing His love, and serving others.

Meditation – Margaret Cadden

Margaret offered a meditation on the importance of listening versus doing, based on a Henri Nouwen meditation.

Vestry Member Welcome & Introduction

Each vestry member, officer and staff person then shared a few minutes about themselves in order to get to know one another better.

Discussion

Building Project Discussion

- The Building Committee has been discussing that the school continues to grow and we are still planning to leave the second floor of their building as a shell. The construction will end when we need to add Third Grade and, then, we will have no additional classrooms. Have begun to start finishing off two classrooms upstairs (out of a possible 6). Will have to supply fresh air for the second floor, buying a DOAS unit for the upstairs that is over \$300 K itself. Bid is \$566 K to add the classrooms and the bathrooms needed, along with the fresh air supply. The DOAS unit also dehumidifies and is ideal for the air quality needed in schools.
- Building is coming along and there is a LOT of space. They gym is much larger than anticipated.
- Don't have to make any decisions tonight, but we need to be thinking about how we will move forward.
- May want to ask for the price for finishing off all the classrooms. May end up having a savings overall and would not have to fundraise another time.
- Bruce would like us to see how we are doing on fundraising before we continue consideration of additional costs. The Growing Faithfully Capital Campaign report was provided in October 2025. Mary will research this and send it to all the vestry members.
- We don't currently have the funds to pay for the additional build out. Our options are to: 1) borrow additional money from the bank, 2) continue to fundraise at a higher amount that will be explained, 3) have an additional capital campaign, or 4) go to the school board and let them know they are responsible.

- The school board plan is to eventually have up to 6 grades. Need to ensure that we are looking at revenue stream back from adding the school classes. Parents have a trust level with us that we are still advancing, so we need to keep this in consideration as well. We will not retain the students we have if we don't add grades. Mary will find the class revenue build out that Jim Ketchum shared with us previously to share with group.

Building Naming options

The placeholder is "The St. James Center". At the next meeting, we will need to decide on a name so all need to begin thinking about it. The building is for both church and school, so we need to ensure that the name is not specific to one. Cappi will reach out to the school board for ideas and De will also send out to the parish for naming suggestions.

Staffing options

De is talking to a couple of clergy and would like to hire someone that will have roles at both church and school. This is confidential for now. Vestry will have an opportunity to interview with them.

Decisions

Financial Update – Amanda Montz

January Financial Report

- January was a good month for the church (see attached report).
- School income was higher than last year. The school is basing its budget on 100 students attending next year.
- Nothing out of line with income and expenses Net operating total for the month is \$175 K.
- Balance sheet is strong. Owe \$50 K in liabilities.

Stewardship Update

Have had 223 pledges in for \$1,170 K (3 pledges ahead of last year, as well as in dollar amount).

Growing Faithfully Campaign

Cash balance in Growing Faithfully was \$1.6 million. Have big expenses coming up and expect to draw on the line of credit in March. This is good as expected to draw on it as early as January.

2026 Budget Talks and Approval

- Budget for 2026 is in line with where we were for 2025.
- Anticipating \$2.8 mil for the year in income.
- Net operating total is \$32 K in the positive.
- Salaries will increase with additional staff and insurance will be increasing with inflation, in addition to the expansion. Also our diocesan pledge will increase.
- "Outreach" includes our diocesan pledge, priest discretionary fund and outreach activities.
- ***Bettsie made a motion to approve financial report, Dan seconded and all approved.***

Vote for the Endorsement of Application for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate for Ellen Huckabay

Bettsie made a motion to approve Ellen's application for ordination, Dan seconded and all approved.

Vote to approve January Vestry Minutes

There were some corrections. \$275 K for monthly operating expenses, along with the approval of Bruce as Jr. Warden. The draft will be updated and sent around to the vestry members as well as posted. ***Bettsie made a motion to approve the amended minutes, Dan seconded and all approved.***

Updates

Lent program & dinners to begin Wednesday, February 25

Margaret encourages all vestry members to come and help prepare, serve, and clean up after the first meal. Meal begins at 5:30, program begins at 6:00 and we are usually through by 7:00 pm. Food is being purchased and will be prepared. Would love for people to come help serve and cleanup. Dan and Mary volunteered. Many are out of town.

Lent Concerts & Lunch to begin Tuesday, February 24

Lent Friday Fish Fry to begin Friday, February 27

Men of St. James are busy planning this. Can order online. Take out or eat in. Cost is \$15 for fish, hushpuppies, coleslaw and a different side each week. There will be no walk-ins because have to plan volumes. Deadline to purchase is the Tuesday before each Friday. Bruce asks school liaisons to let parents of schoolchildren know they can pick up dinners when they pick up their children from school.

Closing Prayer

Amanda closed us in prayer at 7:16 p.m.