

JANUARY VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 5, 2026, at 6:30 pm

Members present: Rev. Katie Ayers, Moderator, Lisa Clarkson, Senior Warden, Rusty Davis, Junior Warden, Julie Claytor, Treye Byars, Betsy Cate, Tammy Brazzell, Drew Robb, Butch Addison, Anne Lott, Treasurer, and Louise Barker, Secretary.

The monthly vestry meeting was called to order by Rev. Katie and she opened with prayer.

Rev. Katie welcomed new members Lisa, Tammy, and Drew. She explained the mission of the vestry as a body is to make decisions about the business of the church; she expects members to attend vestry meetings (generally the first Monday of each month at 6:30p), regularly attend worship services, help with committee assignments, be committed to financial giving, and to come to her with any questions or concerns. Rusty also welcomed the new members. A copy of the by-laws was given to each new member.

The minutes of the vestry meeting held on December 4, 2025, which were previously emailed to all members by Louise Barker, were addressed. Rev. Katie asked if there were changes that needed to be made. Hearing no changes, additions or corrections, Rev. Katie asked for motions to approve the minutes as written. Motions were made by Betsy and Treye to accept the minutes as written and the vestry approved.

Treasurer's Report: Anne Lott asked for questions regarding the treasurer's report which she had previously sent to members. She asked if members would like to continue getting the "Comparison Report" which she has prepared for a few years. Members agreed the report was of value and would like to continue receiving it. Anne read a thank-you note from organist Trish for her Christmas gifts (attached to minutes).

Anne and Rev. Katie reported that International Processing Plant has donated a check for \$750 to be used for Missions and Outreach. Anne proposed that the check go to Julie to assist with the purchase of books for the Little Free Library at Gadsden. The vestry agreed.

Junior Warden's Report:

- Rusty has received a quote from Bryan Reynolds of \$400 to remove the tree in the new cemetery which is growing too close to the cemetery wall. After a brief discussion, Anne made a motion to accept the bid with second by Julie. The vestry approved.
- Rusty reported the project to replace rotted wood on the church building and cover the parapet walls with bronze metal caps has been completed.
- Rusty will touch base with John Davis about repair work to the handicap entrance and he will check the sacristy door.
- Rev. Katie thanked Rusty for work to exterminate pests in the sanctuary. Rusty will ask a friend with a drone if he can assist in locating entry points for the wasps and beetles. He suggested the temp in the sanctuary be lowered during the week.

- Rusty reported that work has been done at the rectory on the HVAC system by John Marsh.

Senior Warden's Report:

Lisa stated she is happy to be on board. As this is her first meeting she had no report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Oyster Roast: Butch presented plans (copy attached) for the oyster roast fundraiser scheduled for March 7. He proposed we increase the number of tickets from 250 to 275. Tickets will sell for \$50 each. Rusty will reach out to Danielle to begin social media advertising soon. There was a suggestion to add sausage and corn on the cob to the menu. Drew will make a stew. Butch asked that everyone work on door prizes and to round up as many tents as possible. We also need 35-40 more folding chairs. Because of the time change the next day it was suggested the time for the event be set at 3-7pm.

Lent Planning: Rev. Katie is working on a Lent study; Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is February 17th – Lisa will organize with vestry assistance; Ash Wednesday is February 18th and there will be two services; the wooden cross will go up on Ash Wednesday or the weekend after; there will be one service on Maundy Thursday (evening) and one on Good Friday (noon).

Baptisms: Three baptisms are scheduled for this coming Sunday (January 11) – Julian and Julie Rose and Tegan Floyd.

Courtesy Notice: Rev. Katie read an announcement from Bishop Richards (attached).

There are no plans for the bishop to visit St. John's this year.

Rev. Katie discussed the Diocesan Pledge worksheet. Options were – to pay the higher amount (\$23,517) which was a \$6000+ increase over last year or to pay the lesser amount (\$16,143) or not pay. Rev. Katie would like us to pay the pledge as we have always done in the past, which is used to help fund the diocesan budget. Lisa made a motion to pay the lesser amount and adjust our budget to reflect the difference. Rusty seconded the motion and the vestry approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rev. Katie asked for thoughts about 2025 and hopes for 2026:

Rusty – happy to see that attendance has grown and hopes the trend will continue

Betsy – appreciated the participation of children (acolytes, lectors and liked children's sermons)

Treye – likes the collaboration with the Ruritan and hopes to see other opportunities

Julie – appreciated the concerts and the fellowship they offered

Lisa – the church is the center and space should be used accordingly

Anne – proud that we continue to support projects at Gadsden for the students and to foster relationships with teachers and staff

Tammy – likes that the attendance has increased since she's been here

Drew – likes the hospitality and community

Rev. Katie – was very pleased with the Christmas service

The next vestry meeting will be Monday, February 2nd at 6:30pm.

Rev. Katie led us in Compline and the meeting closed at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Barker, Secretary to the Vestry