



All Saints Episcopal Church - Hilton Head Island, SC
Celebrating and Sharing God's Love for All
Our mission is to be a channel of God's love

Vestry ZOOM Meeting Minutes June 23, 2026 @7:00

Present: the Very Rev. Eric Bash, John Gilbert, Irene Pedersen, Anita Hill, Bobbie Helbig, Cristina Giroux, Ron Niclas, Bryce Edwards, Robin Pender, Scott Songer, Matthew Malok, Judy Cote, David Hay, Becky Forbes, Dana Duncan

1. Sr. Warden John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
2. The Very Reverend Eric Bash offered the opening prayer.
3. Approval of Minutes:
After John called for approval of the May 26, 2026 minutes, ***Judy Cote moved, David Hay seconded, and the Vestry unanimously passed the aforementioned minutes.***
4. Book Study:
Ideas from Chapters 11&12 within *Strong Ground* were then reviewed. Eric led the discussion, and Vestry members emphasized ideas within the chapters, defining differences between transactional and interpersonal approaches to human interactions.
5. Discussion:
Stewardship Campaign – Referring to this earlier campaign, Bryce Edwards informed the Vestry that “We called it done at about \$50,000 below our goal. Yet, we’ve grown from last year’s regular contribution levels; it’s hard to say how much of this relates to the presence or absence of Denise. Our work will be cut out for us in 2027, and the committee will begin meeting in late August.” Scott Songer has agreed to assist the team.

Capital Campaign – Dana Duncan shared that during a committee meeting this past week, it was noted that the total amount pledged is \$1,065,000. The amount over a million will be placed in the Foundation’s accounts. Grateful for the group’s help, he said this campaign was also now finished.

Progress in Top Level 2026 Goals

1. In terms of leadership transition, John indicated that ASEC has received two prospectives' Interim packages from the diocese; he had a short conversation with both individuals. A candidate who indicated that he specialized in repairing dysfunction and problems was deferred, and a second candidate had just accepted a call to another position. Yet another candidate from South Carolina who felt his strengths were in areas enhancing spiritual formation, pastoral care, and maintaining working areas within the church was then considered. A Vestry ZOOM call with this individual will likely be scheduled for this coming Friday.
 - Regarding Rector selection, a parish survey will be e-mailed to all members on June 29 for their opinions about qualities in a Rector.
2. In terms of church wide communication, Matthew Malok said that Jessie is reviewing the present website, with intent to improve it. If something is noted by anyone, they are to send the information to Matthew first, and it will be relayed.
 - John noted that the Connection Station is also being reviewed to make sure it is current. He encouraged directing newer people to both of these areas.
4. In terms of educating for faith driven generosity, Bryce indicated that he, Robin Pender and Ron Niclas have conversed extensively about how to educate and increase pledges. "We are gathering a lot of possibly effective ideas of how to increase pledges for 2027. Every single person needs to understand that pledging is part of being a member of our parish, no matter how small or large the amount."
5. In terms of broadening community engagement, Scott Songer indicated he is gathering feedback from several on the Social Justice Committee. He said he and Cristina Giroux were working on this area of welcome, possibly to be called "Open Doors." Some principles they'll employ include Keeping it Simple, with things kept tangible and visible. Their eventual goal is to create one new community partnership and utilize one new (or past successful) event. This will welcome outside groups, making it easier to participate once they show up.
 - Irene Pedersen then asked Eric about progress on creating the upcoming church calendar. He said that after asking ministry leaders to submit important dates, they'll all have a better overview of the entire program year. After submittal, they will all work on the calendar sometime in mid-July.
 - Judy Cote inquired whether the neighboring new rabbi had been visited or welcomed. Eric agreed it would be a good idea to do so, and he said he will try to do this soon.

- Mention was also made of holding a “Ministry Fair” this October, similar to the one in 2025 which brought in several new volunteers.

6. New Business:

Capital Campaign Expenditures- John indicated that the Vestry has already voted approval for two items needing Capital campaign funds: the Columbarium (*whose preliminary plans were submitted to the town of Hilton Head this morning*) and the HVAC repair and replacements. Three more items require Vestry consideration, having already been approved by the Finance Committee:

- Sound systems within the church and Gordon Mann Hall have become problematic, so a request for \$15,000 of Capital Campaign money is needed. Ron Niclas said that the project needs to commence first with an analysis by a sound engineer, and then with a purchase of equipment he recommends.
- ASEC’s contribution of \$25,000 to the diocesan Capital Campaign also needs to be approved. Scott was asked to provide a pledge form for the diocese to be included with the pledge amount. [added note: John signed the pledge card on behalf of All Saints and mailed it to the Diocese on Saturday, June 27.]
- To be able to manage the loss and removal of ABC state funding, ASEC’s CDC requires \$32,500 to support and keep the present three-year-old class going. In the meantime, multiple grants are being written and submitted, one of which is to the national Church.
 - When Bryce asked if this amount exceeded our campaign’s numbers, Eric informed him that there was an ample cushion, and it was taking only 1/3 of what was initially asked.
 - John explained that this amount is to insure the future of the school for the upcoming year’s four year old class.

Irene then moved and Bryce seconded a motion to approve the noted expenditure amounts for all three items: the sound system, the diocesan campaign contribution, and the CDC’s money. The Vestry vote was unanimous in its support of these expenditures.

Church Cleaning Contractor – Irene noted that the present provider Krystal Klean, despite talking to its crew several times, is producing widely variable and unsatisfactory performance quality within the church building, bathrooms, and CDC areas. The church currently pays them \$3200 monthly for once weekly service.

- Campus Mgr. Kevin Dyer is now talking to other providers who offer twice weekly cleaning for \$4200-\$4500. These include Lowcountry Commercial Services and Castell Cleaning.
- Irene noted that additional discussion is needed with the B&G committee, the Staff, and Finance Committee before finalizing the path forward. However, the Vestry is being given a “heads up”, so they’re aware of the entire

cleaning situation at present; likely, an e-vote for a new service will be needed later for passage.

7. Vestry Member Ending Comments

- Dana questioned why the names of those assisting with a liturgy were regularly given personal credit in the weekly bulletin, but Flower Guild members for that week were not named. Eric said it was likely pure oversight, but it would be corrected.
- Ron wanted to let the Vestry know that the Finance Committee recently had written procedures to comply With ACH requirements in order to satisfy State Street Bank's expectations.
- Anita Hill questioned why the Finance minutes did not mention a comparison of costs or rates of return, since several church funds were transferred from Vanguard to Schwab. Becky explained that the transfer was made to primarily facilitate ease of accounting with all funds in one vs. five accounts and that Vanguard and Schwab investment returns were equivalent.
- Matthew inquired whether the Bishop was thanked for facilitating a recent meeting at All Saints. John indicated that he personally thanked her for coming and sharing her insights and information.

8. Eric then offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

9. It is uncertain whether there will be a need for a July Vestry meeting, so stay tuned. Next chapters that need to be read in Strong Ground are 13 & 14.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita L. Hill
Vestry Chief Clerk