



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 April 28, 2026 @7:00 pm

Present: *the Reverend Denise Trogdon, 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*

Absent: *Dana Duncan, Judy Cote, David Hay, Becky Forbes*

1. Sr. Warden John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. The Reverend Denise Trogdon offered the opening prayer.
3. Approval of Minutes:
After a call for March 2026 minutes approval by Sr. Warden John Gilbert, **Bryce Edwards moved and Ron Niclas seconded the approval motion. The Vestry unanimously passed the aforementioned minutes.**
4. Book Study:
Ideas from Chapters 7&8 within *Strong Ground* were then reviewed. The Very Rev Eric Bash lead the discussion, and Vestry members emphasized embracing vulnerability and our values and acting courageously despite fear. Or, as Rev. Denise Trogdon said "living into our values so our behaviors match our mission."
5. Discussions

Weekend Service Schedule

- As in the past there will be a summer change of the Saturday@5 service to Sundays @5 until after Labor Day.
- Consideration was then given to combining the 2 Sunday morning services, 8:30 and 10:15, to one 9:30am service, The reasons behind this are that:
 - Eric will be the only priest remaining at ASEC, and this would ease his extensive workload somewhat.
 - Most retired clergy helpers are away for summer and unavailable.
 - Denise said that the 8:30 service now has a solid group of about forty, so she feels they could adjust and transition temporarily. In terms of timing, she felt the change should begin June 7, a week after her retirement.

- After member discussion, Scott Songer suggested the temporary summer hour change should be voted on tonight. He moved that ***Sunday morning services should be combined and changed from 8:30 am and 10:15am to 9:30am, starting the weekend of June 7th and ending after Labor Day. The motion was first endorsed by Robin Pender and seconded by Bobby Helbig before unanimous passage by the Vestry.***
- Denise and John, with input from Irene Pedersen, will draft a letter to the congregation explaining the reasons behind temporarily merging services.

Stewardship

Bryce summarized the results of the Stewardship campaign saying:

- At \$844,112, we are somewhat short of our overall goal thus far, so we may have to adjust the budget going forward in the future. Only 187 pledges were submitted.
- On a positive note, there have been a few changes, with a few members amending their pledges upward.
- Two more informative “Did You Know” series articles will be forthcoming.
- He was also concerned about the likely effect Denise’s leaving might have on the generosity mindset of some parishioners.
- Denise reminded all that with only one remaining minister drawing a salary, the reduction in expenditure should assist the budget for at least a month or two.

Capital Campaign

In contrast, John said the Capital Campaign has been a success and it will continue until the end of May. “We have exceeded our goals but not with large numbers of parishioners.”

- \$1,001,505 has been pledged,
- To everyone’s surprise, only 83 people signed up, representing 42% of the pledge base. It was hoped that at least 124 would have supported this effort.
- Charlie Forbes will announce the degree of campaign success this coming weekend at all three services.
- John indicated that both the Campaign and Finance Committees are working on a grand plan for future projects and expenditures using this funding, with recommendations for future Vestry approval.
- He felt one of the likely projects will be the CDC because of the state’s withdrawal of funding support.

6. New Business:

Interim Priest

- John indicated that he’d had a discussion with a potential Interim candidate, and if she assents, he felt it would be useful for the Vestry to talk to her.

- However, she said she had commitments before accepting and needed time to pray and reflect first. John said: "It's all her decision and her level of interest is a little unclear" But, he also indicated that she has emailed him with practical questions about the position.

Search Committee

John then indicated that a Search Committee has formed and met to begin the process of hiring a full time rector to replace Denise.

- They recently voted a resolution to move forward to hire a consulting search firm. He said their cost estimate seems reasonable for the search process and most payments will occur at the end of '26-beginning of '27.
- Materials will need to be developed to build our parish profile for future candidates to study.
- More specific information will be presented at the next Vestry meeting.

Columbarium

Ron Niclas indicated that the Columbarium architect is now working on detailed drawings, and once completed, they will be submitted to the town for approval. This could only be a few weeks away.

- In light of this, money from the Columbarium component of the Capital Campaign needs to be moved with approval of the Vestry. So, ***it was moved by Scott and seconded by Bryce that the Vestry approve transferring the Columbarium component of the Capital Campaign in its entirety, with authority to spend the approved amount of \$220,000; work will then commence after town approval. The Vestry voted unanimous approval of the motion.***
- John then informed the group that the grass portion where remains presently are also interred, will be respectfully covered and protected during construction. "Every effort will be made to preserve the sanctity of the space."
- Denise said a letter will also be sent to family members assuring them that we will respect the space.

7. Reports & Misc.

Since all liaison reports are sent ahead of the meeting, John asked if there was any additional information that needed comment or emphasis.

Cristina Giroux described an incident during which EpiscoPals women in the kitchen area were startled on a recent evening around 7 pm. Two strange men indicated they wanted to charge their machinery using the church's back outlet.

- The women were concerned about the possible frequency of this action when no one was present in the church.
- John suggested that the outside circuit breaker be shut off to avoid this in the future.

- Cristina asked Irene to take this incident to the Building and Grounds Committee.

Scott then reported from the diocese that their Capital Campaign starts within a week.

- All Saints was thanked for already tithing through our own Capital Campaign.
- Also, the diocese is considering building a worship entity in the Bluffton Hardeeville area.

Representing the Communications Committee, Matthew Malok requested that Vestry liaisons please send any relevant photos to Jessie from their committees since these are immensely helpful in presenting the diverse work of All Saints to the community.

- Jessie will also be working to improve the church website over the summer months, and she is open to suggestions.
- Denise commented that the hall bulletin boards near Gordon Mann needs photo updating since former Vestry members are present and new ones are not there yet.

8. Next Meeting:

May 26 @ 7:00 (via Zoom)

Beforehand, read chap 9&10 in Strong Ground for discussion

9. Closing Prayer

Eric offered the closing prayer.

10. Adjournment followed at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita L. Hill
ASEC Vestry Chief Clerk