



ST. JAMES the FISHERMAN EPSICOPAL CHURCH

MAY 10, 2025 @ 1:00 BLISS HALL

VESTRY MINUTES

PRESENT

**Father Farrell Graves
Ellen Allison, Sr. Warden
Tom Fernandez, Jr. Warden
Jan Comfort
Toni DeLuca, Clerk of the Vestry & Vestry Member
Marianne DiSomma
Kathleen McDonald
RoseMary Stalter**

**Deacon Mike Ligon, Co – Treasurer
Deacon Jean Miller**

ABSENT

**Chris Kensel
Jesse McCrery**

- 1. Call to Order, Father Farrell**
Father Farrell called the meeting to order at 1:00 and seven Vestry members were in attendance.
- 2. Opening Prayer, Kathleen McDonald**
Kathleen provided the opening prayer and Toni will provide the opening prayer for the next Vestry meeting.
- 3. Reflection, Father Farrell**
Father Farrell read a passage from the Gospel of John, 21:1 – 19 and discussed with the Vestry.
- 4. Approval of the April 12, 2025 Vestry Minutes, Father Farrell**
Father Farrell asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Motion: Jan Comfort made a motion to approve the April 12, 2025 Vestry minutes, which was unanimously approved by the Vestry Members.

5. Rector's Report, Father Farrell

Father Farrell commented on the ordination of Deacon James Green. He will be a Deacon for six months. All who attended said it was a very impressive ceremony.

Father Farrell asked the Vestry and Deacons, how they would feel about St. James being a teaching church for clergy training. The Vestry and Deacons were agreeable to being a teaching church. Deacon James was well received by parishioners.

6. Treasurer's Report, Deacon Mike Ligon

Deacon Mike reviewed the Treasurer's Report: Vestry "Executive Summary Report", Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities Vestry for the end of April 30, 2025. (Reports are attached to Vestry minutes)

Deacon Mike reported that St. James' finances are doing well and encouraged everyone to read the reports.

Tom stated that we have not received a bill from the siding contractor because everything is at a standstill until we receive permits from the county.

Father Farrell said that there was an issue with outstanding garbage and sewer bills not being paid. The Administrator Assistant contacted the companies and found out that the bills were going to the wrong account. This has been addressed and Sharon Davis paid the two bills. Deacon Mike said that Sharon is in the office every Monday to pay any bills.

Deacon Mike asked if there were any questions. There were no questions from the Vestry.

Motion: Tom Fernandes moved that the Treasurer's Report be entered into the minutes as presented, which was unanimously approved by the Vestry Members.

**7. New Business, Ellen Allison
Parishioner Care/Visitation**

At a recent ECW meeting, members discussed parishioner care and visitation. ECW sends thinking of you cards to homebound parishioners or sympathy cards when a family member has passed away. Father Farrell is aware of who is in need of visitation or care, and we need to honor parishioner's privacy. Toni will meet with Father Farrell and discuss further.

8. Old Business

- **Grant, Marianne DiSomma**
Marianne reported that additional documents have to be attached to the grant. Once completed, she will forward to Toni, RoseMary and Jan for their review.
- **Lighting Project**
Prestige Lighting Company has been working on the church lighting and will be in place when the siding is completed. The first half of the bill from Prestige was received, and will be paid by Sharon Davis, Treasurer.
- **Door Locks, Father Farrell**
Father Farrell said that the door locks will need to be changed as per the National Episcopal Safe Church policy. This is very important for insurance purposes. If St. James were to have an insurance claim, we would be denied. The Vestry discussed church members who would need to have a key, and different types of keys (regular key or a key card). Ellen will investigate key cards and report back to the Vestry. Anyone who has a key, must have completed the background check.
- **Social Media Update**
Jan, Marianne, Jesse and Chris have been working on Instagram and Facebook. We are now able to post on Instagram. Marianne is investigating website companies and the cost of a website administrator.
- **Prayer for St. James, Deacon Jean**
Deacon Jean is working on it and will report back to the Vestry.

9. Wardens' Reports,

- **Jr. Warden, Tom Fernandez**
Hopefully, by next week, we will have the siding permits from the county.

Tom needs the termite contract to address the issue with the termite company. The termite company stated that they do not have to compensate us for the cost because the termites are not live termites. Ellen and the Administrator Assistant looked in the files and were not able to locate a contract. Toni and Ellen will look in the shed, boxes on the shelf in the hallway and Vestry minutes from 2019 – 2024.

Tom said that once the siding and lighting are completed, we will need to address the cement that is sinking on one side of the garbage bins by the side of the church.

- **Sr. Warden, Ellen Allison**

Tracy Lobb volunteered to be the nursery coordinator. Callie McCrery volunteered to be the coffee hour coordinator. Kitchen committee is Lenny Jane Gray, Stephanie Lynott and Holly Goff. Chris will take care of the sidewalk issue in the prayer garden. He will do a presentation next month on the Main Street parking lot.

Ellen, Tom and Dale, siding contractor, met and discussed, the cross on the church needs to be centered; a fence is needed around the HVAC; and the lattice around the building will not be replaced and to paint the stone gray.

Tom said that the siding that meets the roof, might present with some issues.

Treasurer Candidates: The accountant Ellen spoke to previously, and who seemed interested, is no longer interested. He would have charged \$1,000 a month for 7 – 8 hours of work. She has contacted another company who would charge \$125 for just the initial meeting. Ellen has spoken to a possible candidate from the community and there are two parishioners who expressed an interest. The volunteer from the congregation does not receive a salary.

10. Liaisons' Reports,

- **Deacons' Report**

Deacon Mike was not present for the Deacon's report.

Deacon Jean reported that Gary Miller replaced the benches. Thank you, Gary. Deacon Jean received coats for the Coat Closet. This will greatly help to replenish the coat that were distributed this past year.

- **Building, Tom Fernandez**

Tom previously reported on the status of the siding and lighting.

- **Grounds, Kathleen McDonald**

Kathleen submitted the May Grounds Report. (Attached to the Vestry minutes) The Grounds committee is continuing to blow off the leaves and pine tags from the courtyard and Powell Street; Kathleen, Toni Scott – Berenson and Pam Maddox-Jefferson take turns watering the plants in the courtyard and planters. Bob Rozzi is mowing the Main Street lot in May, Jerry Thrift and Kathleen will alternate the moving of the graveyard and Memory Garden and Bob Lynott mowed the first part of May. Dan McDonald moved the planters away from the siding and secured the banner on Powell St. He also refueled the mowers.

The next cleanup will be May 30th at 8:00.

Thank you to Gary Miller for refinishing the courtyard benches. Please thank the grounds' volunteers when you see them.

- **Communications, Jan Comfort & Marianne DiSomma**
Jan is working on updating REALM. Jan and Marianne reported previously on social media updates.
- **Finance, Ways & Means, Toni DeLuca**
Toni does not have anything to report at this time.
- **Fresh Face Forward, Ellen Allison**
Ellen does not have anything to report at this time.
- **Outreach, Toni DeLuca**
ECW had their end of the year potluck luncheon and meeting for 24 – 25. Meetings will reconvene September, 2025. Jan presented at the meeting the book, *Anatomy of a Revived Church*, and encouraged people to sign up for the book and to attend the book discussion meeting in June.
- **Parish Life, RoseMary Stalter**
Reminder: May 15th potluck dinner in Bliss Hall at 6:00.
- **Worship, Jesse McCrery**
Jesse was not present for the meeting
- **Graveyard, Chris Kensel**
Chris was not present for the meeting.

11. **Comments from the Audience**
No attendance at the meeting

12. **Closing Prayer and Adjournment, Father Farrell**
Father Farrell provided the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 2:15.

Motion: RoseMary Stalter made a motion to adjourn the Vestry meeting at 2:15, which was unanimously approved by the Vestry Members.

Antonia (Toni) DeLuca
Clerk of the Vestry
Date:

Ellen Allison
Sr. Warden
Date: