

St. Mary of the Hills
Vestry Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024

Vestry Members Present: (In Person) Mike Austell (Senior Warden), Leslie Billingsley, Joe Doswell, Buddy Fore, Marshall Culp (Junior Warden), Jill Storelli, Sue Sweeting
(Via Zoom) Michelle Curry, Lynn Searfoss, Jim Snow

Vestry Member Absent: Burt Mulford

Others Present: Fr. Andrew Hege (Rector), Elizabeth Sudderth (Clerk), Fr. Sam Tallman (Priest Associate), Mike Matthews (Vestry Member Elect), Luba Skibo (Vestry Member Elect)
(Via Zoom) Amanda White (Treasurer)

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 5:46pm.

Fr. Andrew requested acceptance of the meeting agenda.
Sue Sweeting made a motion to accept the agenda as presented.
Mike Austell seconded the motion.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew requested the Vestry Elect members present be given seat and voice at the meeting; they do not have voting privileges until they take office on January 1, 2025.
Leslie Billingsley made a motion with a second from Sue Sweeting to welcome Vestry Elect members as described above.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew requested approval of the August meeting minutes.
Sue Sweeting made a motion to approve the August minutes as presented.
Joe Doswell seconded the motion.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew led a devotion for the early evening.

Amanda White shared the Treasurer's report.
The parish remains in a healthy cash position, and our CD and money market accounts are growing at a good rate. Amanda stated the parish is doing extremely well with both cash on hand and our investment accounts.
The final Tour of Homes financial statement was shared.
Fr. Andrew informed the Vestry that Misty Watson, CPA is working on the parish audit. We should have a report by next month.

Mike Austell shared the Tour of Homes proposed grant allocations. A detailed report of each grant request and recommended allocation was reviewed with the Vestry. Thirty-five groups requested funds; thirty-two of those are recommended to be funded. A total of \$90,250 is available for disbursement.

Sue Sweeting made a motion with a second from Buddy Fore to approve the allocation of \$90,250 as listed in the detailed allocation document shared with Vestry.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew commended the Tour of Homes leadership team for the amazing work they did on the Tour and the Outreach committee for their work in reviewing the grant requests to decide on allocation recommendations. He also expressed his thanks to Michael Marshall for his hard work.

Fr. Andrew shared the allocations endorsed by the Outreach committee this month:

Nest Academy	\$2,500	
Blowing Rock School	\$1,000	for Permanent Book Box Program
Western Youth Network	\$ 200	for math tutor for special needs student
Rise Against Hunger	\$4,100	amount to be matched by Rumble
Total	\$7,800	

The Vestry approved these donations endorsed by the Outreach committee.

Fr. Andrew discussed the annual giving campaign for 2025. The theme is Walk In Love. Our in-gathering Sunday will be October 13. Those who wish to pledge may do so online as well as with a pledge card. Fr. Andrew asked Vestry members to pledge early.

Marshall Culp submitted his written Junior Warden's report to the Vestry which is available for review. Topics addressed were the Sacristy project update, minor tree and branch removal, early-stage planning (he is speaking to 3 contractors/landscapers) of replacement of retaining wall/bulkhead on SE corner of building, and pricing of lych gate roof repair. He also expressed his thanks to Sue Sweeting for watering the grounds and to Artistic Design Landscaping for grounds maintenance. He also thanked Fr. Andrew and Bill Devereux for getting a new chair cart for the Parish Hall.

Marshall recently checked in with the sculptor who is continuing his work on the housings for the Outdoor Stations of the Cross.

Marshall suggested placement of a large Christmas wreath on the Bell Tower, which Fr. Andrew has approved.

Mike Austell shared the Senior Warden's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review. Topics addressed were the Tour of Homes and the allocation of the funds raised in that effort, and our call to love our neighbors as ourselves and to love one another as Jesus has loved us as we reach out to our parish members and the wider community.

Fr. Andrew shared the Rector's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review. Topics addressed were the phone system which is to be updated soon, Christian Formation updates, upcoming worship opportunities, and important upcoming dates in the life of the parish.

At this meeting, Andrew also urged everyone to sign up for Realm, announced that John Jordan and Billie Rogers will co-chair the 2025 Tour of Homes, and expressed his thanks to Buddy Fore for his great help, much of it behind the scenes, to assist in making the Tour of Homes a success.

Fr. Andrew also shared that many parishioners are dealing with stressful issues right now and many are holding something heavy at this time. Many are dealing with great sadness or illness, and many have experienced great blessings recently. He reminded us that our first call as Christians is to pray for one another, both for those who are experiencing suffering as well as joyous times. He also reminded us that he prays for the Vestry every day.

A snapshot of our community at worship YTD:

Holy Eucharists offered:	93
Daily Offices offered:	183
Average Sunday Attendance:	159
Baptisms:	7
Confirmations/Receptions:	10
Marriages:	4

Leslie Billingsley made a motion with a second from Sue Sweeting to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry