

St. Mary of the Hills
Vestry Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2024

Vestry Members Present: (In person) Mike Austell (Senior Warden), Marshall Culp (Junior Warden), Buddy Fore, Sue Sweeting, Joe Doswell, Jill Storelli, Burt Mulford
(Via Zoom) Jim Snow

Vestry Members Absent: Michelle Curry, Lynn Searfoss, Leslie Billingsley

Others Present: Fr. Andrew Hege (Rector), Elizabeth Sudderth (Clerk), Amanda White (Treasurer), Fr. Sam Tallman (Priest Associate)

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

Fr. Andrew requested acceptance of the meeting agenda.
Jill Storelli made a motion with a second from Joe Doswell to accept the agenda.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew requested approval of the May meeting minutes.
Joe Doswell made a motion with a second from Jill Storelli to approve the May minutes as presented.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew led a devotion for early evening.

Amanda White shared the Treasurer's report.
She reported that the parish remains in a healthy financial position. Current revenue is better than budgeted. Amanda reviewed the detailed financial report with the Vestry.

Fr. Andrew shared the Rector's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review. Topics addressed were administration updates, Christian Formation, Andrew's upcoming vacation time, his sabbatical planning for late spring 2025, important upcoming dates in our parish life, and data on attendance and worship services. Average Sunday attendance YTD is 144.
Additional topics discussed by Fr. Andrew were:
Recognition that June 30 is the last Sunday that the current rectors at St. Lukes, Boone and Holy Cross, Valle Crucis will be serving. Both rectors are retiring after many years of serving their parishes. Andrew asked that we hold both churches close in prayer as they prepare to search for new clergy leadership.
Some desire has been expressed for parish members to begin wearing nametags again. It has been several years since this was a common practice for the congregation as a whole; currently only Vestry members are asked to wear nametags. Fr. Andrew will ask Bill

Devereux and Michael Marshall to price some options in different styles and will report back on what they find.

Mike Austell shared the Senior Warden's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review.

Marshall Culp shared the Junior Warden's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review. Topics covered were outdoor Stations of the Cross, Grounds committee priority list, and charitable tax giving and planning.

Fr. Andrew reported that he and the church staff will be reviewing the performance of ServiceMaster, the company who cleans our building. They will give any needed feedback on suggested improvements.

A comment was made that the vents in the restrooms on the first floor need to be cleaned. Andrew will pass that along.

Buddy Fore shared a progress update on the Tour of Homes.

Buddy reported that things are rolling right along. Approximately \$23,000 in contributions to the Patron Party has been received so far.

Fr. Andrew requested Vestry approval for the Nominating Committee who will be charged with developing a slate of candidates for the Vestry positions which will be open on January 1, 2025. Traditionally, Fr. Andrew, the Wardens, and the outgoing Vestry members form this committee.

Sue Sweeting made a motion with a second from Burt Mulford to nominate Leslie Billingsley, Joe Doswell, Buddy Fore, Fr. Andrew, Mike Austell, and Marshall Culp to form the Nominating Committee to select the slate of Vestry candidates to serve starting on January 1, 2025.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew asked Vestry members to consider serving as delegates to the Diocesan Convention on November 8-9 this year in Cherokee. The Convention will be hosted by the Western Deanery. Thomas Belt will be the keynote speaker. Andrew told Vestry members our delegates will be elected next month.

Sue Sweeting expressed interest in serving as a delegate.

Fr. Andrew reviewed the outdoor Stations of the Cross project. He reported that the cost of the housing to enclose each Station on our campus will be between \$3,500 and \$4,000 total.

Sue Sweeting made a motion to approve moving forward with the project to retain the craftsman to build seven housings to enclose the Stations at a cost not to exceed \$4,000. The funds are to come from the Capital Fund.

Burt Mulford seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Andrew noted he will check in with Rumple so that both churches are in consensus.

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

Valle Crucis Conference Center	\$2,000	to aid in capital improvements
Casting Bread	\$1,000	annual fund raiser

Total \$3,000

Joe Doswell made a motion with a second from Buddy Fore to approve these donations endorsed by the Outreach committee.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Wrap Up Time:

What did we accomplish?

- Approved Vestry Nominating committee members

- Approved next step in Outdoor Stations of the Cross project

- Approved allocations totaling \$3,000 from the Outreach committee

How can we improve?

- Move items which require Vestry approval to earlier in the meeting agenda

- Change format of financial reports to single-sided for easier readability

Fr. Andrew asked that all Vestry members be in prayer for the 5 candidates to succeed Michael Curry as Presiding Bishop. The Presiding Bishop will be elected next week by the 119 current Bishops.

Andrew also asked Vestry members to pray for the VBS volunteers, the children who are here enjoying VBS, and the great team of folks from both here and Rumble who have put this effort together over several months of planning and hard work.

Andrew noted that there will likely be a change in either meeting format, timing, or both in July, as the TOH Patron Party is the same night as our regular Vestry meeting night.

Stay tuned.

Sue Sweeting asked Fr. Andrew to address a possible update to the parish Mission Statement at an upcoming meeting.

Mike Austell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm.

Burt Mulford seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry