

St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

Minutes of Vestry Meeting

7/21/2026

Vestry Attendance

Present: Mike Matthews (Jr. Warden), Richard Murphy, Peter Purcell (Sr. Warden), Bob Rhoads, Dale Marie Sandusky, Luba Skibo, Jill Storelli

Absent: Bob Amos, Jim Snow

Others Present: Fr. Andrew Hege, Lynn Searfoss (Clerk)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:49.

Agenda: Fr. Andrew Hege provided the agenda, which was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 2026 meeting were read and approved.

Evening Devotions: The vestry read and discussed the selected scripture and prayed.

Treasurer's Report: Amanda provided a written report, highlighting our "positive cash position." Monthly expenses in June exceeded revenue mainly due to planned computer technology upgrades, updating our cleaning contract, an increase in supply organists, and our twiceo0yearly Bread of Life payouts. It was noted that we sustained a \$288.48 theft due to a staff credit card being compromised.

Regarding the Tour of Homes, we are on a positive track, with pre-registration tickets exceeding those of last year. Although numbers are not available yet, Michael projects that our revenues will equal or exceed revenues for the past 2 years. It was also noted that the committee chairs are very mindful of expenses and have been making very wise decisions.

Outreach Committee: Mike Austell provided a detailed committee report, explaining the 3 proposed disbursements:

- \$1000 to Blowing Rock Elementary Back to School Festival. This is a key sponsorship for our school, in addition to the backpack drive which will take place throughout August.
- \$2000 grant to the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation to support childcare workers and help childcare facilities retain employees, thereby supporting the children who use the facilities and their parents. Ultimately, the Foundation hopes to raise \$150,000 for this important work.
- \$1000 to support the FARM Cafe Classic Disc Golf Tournament fundraiser.

The vestry unanimously voted in favor of the committee's proposed spending.

TOH Update: Richard Murphy and Father Andrew provided a brief update on TOH needs. Although many people have volunteered to help out, there are still opportunities to serve. In particular drivers are needed as are people willing to help clean up and put things away.

Junior Warden's Report: Mike Matthews reported that Geoworks hopes to begin the work on the rear wall in late August. Grant Seldomridge requested a 50% deposit for materials and will meet with Mike to review the project and insurance documents. It is recommended that we use the capital fund for the project.

Vestry members approved the blue color and fabric for the kneelers and pew cushions so that they can be ordered. He also reports that new mulch has been installed by Artistic Landscaping, that the trim for the sacristy door had been painted, and that he is waiting for a quote to repair the concrete in front of the church. The repair will be made using a new compound rather than removing it, which would be prohibitively expensive.

Mike reports that the parking lot drainage system needs repair and that he will talk to the city about the pipes and how they connect to the main drain to see if the connections can be more effectively configured.

Senior Warden Report: Peter Purcell reports that the Bishop Search Committee is working hard. The Committee needs the input of parishioners and has devised a survey which is fairly straightforward and quick to complete. It is hoped that our congregation will provide a robust response to guide the process. The higher the percentage of respondents, the greater the usefulness.

Peter also reports that he has learned a lot about other parishes in the diocese and that he has become even more appreciative of our own parish and all that our congregation is able to accomplish.

Rector's Report: In addition to his report on the current status of this year's TOH, Father Andrew spoke a little bit about the Rector's Forum and announced that he is about to begin Confirmation / Reception / Reaffirmation classes. Because we had been scheduled for a visit from Bishop Jose in October, we can now expect a visit from Bishop Rob Skirving sometime during the fall.

Father Andrew reported that there have been 94 celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, 122 Daily Offices offered, and 4 burial services conducted at this point in the year. He reports that our average Sunday attendance has been 144, compared with 169 during 2025.

Closing and Adjournment: The meeting closed with a blessing from Fr. Andrew and adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Searfoss, August 17, 2026.