

Christ Church Vestry Meeting
April 23, 2025
In-Person & Zoom

Attendance

Clergy: Rev. Noelle York-Simmons & Rev. Robbie Laughton

Others: Julie Simonton, Meredith Bracco & *Terry Goolsby

2026: Steve Reed, Cornelia Horner, Jay Purcell Manchester & Ken Knapp

2027: Kathleen Hickman, Chris Thompson, & Nan Lawson

2028: Jane Baird, Paula Dubberly, Jessica Hughes, & Steve Slaton

* attended via Zoom

Absent: Wendy Montes de Oca

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Opening Prayer was led by Kathleen Hickman.

Consent Agenda - Steve Reed

Jessica Hughes moved and Jane Baird seconded to accept the March vestry meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Staff Introduction - Meredith Bracco, Communications

- Meredith has been here 12 years after starting as a temp.
- She is the one-stop shopping resource for communications
 - Website
 - tour & visiting pages are the most visited
 - Parish Life & e-Parish Life
 - Production of brochures & stewardship information
 - Spring to Action information
 - Fence banners
 - extraOrdinary Times
 - Social Media
- 3 goals
 - increase positive awareness of activities at the church
 - attract new people to the church
 - Increase events
- Events include internal & parish events as well as space rentals & non-member weddings

Questions were asked about the banners and signage about service times.

Also, the question was asked: what would she love to do with more help or more money - the answer is more money to keep up with printed materials and timing of advertising. Also more help with social media presence.

Pertaining to the livestreaming and podcasts of sermons - what are the metrics on those lately? Have they been increasing? She will check the podcasts stats - generally, they have been increasing, especially since adding the link to the page on our website.

Stewardship Report - Julie Simonton

Julie started with an introduction of Terry Goolsby, our consultant for the comprehensive campaign.

- Feasibility study will likely be in May
- This will help us know if we should proceed with the campaign
- The campaign will likely conclude by May of 2026
- Terry has been fundraising for the church for 22 years
- The teaching they do along with the campaign is structured to increase the generosity of the congregation and typically shows a 2-3% increase in annual giving

It was asked how vestry members can be helpful in a campaign

- First, as cheerleaders leading conversations

There was discussion about the timeline, which will be distributed. The timeline is fluid and will be modified based on the information gathered throughout the different phases.

Other questions prompted discussion on the processes.

2025 giving

- We are on track with our annual giving - we are 0.4% behind, and Easter was later this year.
- We raised close to \$80K for Spring to Action.

Treasurer's Report – Noelle York-Simmons

Revenues & expenses are effectively equal for March and right in line with where we budgeted them to be.

February Revenues: \$174.3K

February Expenses: \$174.5K

We are still awaiting the financial reviews from the auditors and are actively seeking a new firm - recommendations are welcome, keeping in mind that experience with churches is important.

Conflict of Interest Forms - Noelle York-Simmons

The forms were passed around to be signed in person along with the conflict of interest policy for reference.

Treasure Chest Updates - Noelle York-Simmons

Working to get the language of the treasure chests into the language we use throughout the church.

Several things have already been put into place

- An art exhibit will be in the auditorium which falls into Finding God in Art
- Monthly Monday concerts fall into Radical Welcome being an open house for the neighborhood in addition to Finding God in Art.

More are in the works such as working to create an Adult Formation Committee.

Executive Session

Steve Reed moved & Nannette Lawson seconded that the vestry go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously, and the executive session began at 8:12 pm.

Fowler House Update - Noelle York-Simmons

- There is no news - there seems to still be a struggle with the timing of when they can get funding
- The security deposit of \$175K is needed to be counted in the school's account by the bank, but that is confusing as it is to be held for the church in the event of a breach of the lease.
- The school has 27 students signed up for the Fall and expects 40 by the start of the new school year.
- We have asked Ross if they are interested in a one year extension, and they have indicated they would only take a three year extension, which drastically increases our brokers fees.

Jay Purcell Manchester moved & Steve Reed seconded the motion to return from executive session. The motion passed.

Executive session returned at 8:19 pm.

Safe Church Training - Noelle York-Simmons

This training is required of vestry members once every three years. If you have taken it for another volunteer committee, the records should be in Shelby.

Cornelia will send the link as well as the list of classes that need to be taken by vestry members. Once your training is complete, please send your transcript to Cornelia for filing with the church.

Offutt Fund Investment Committee - Nanette Lawson

The Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer are always members of this committee plus up to 4 other vestry members. Nan Lawson, Ken Knapp & Cornelia Horner are currently on the committee, so there is room for one more.

Jane Baird moved and Chris Thompson seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Jay Purcell Manchester to serve on the Offutt Investment Committee for Mission and Outreach.

Jessica Hughes moved & Jane Baird seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Fred Knops and David Fenstermaker to serve as subject matter experts on the Offutt Investment Committee for Mission and Outreach for a second three-year term ending in April 2027.

Since both of these subject matter experts are serving the same time frame of terms, it would be good to find a third SME to allow for staggering of the terms.

News & Notes

- Spring to Action had a goal of \$50K and raised \$73K! We were on the leaderboard.
- Easter was great as was the Easter Vigil on Saturday night with three adult baptisms.
- We have 7 baptisms this Sunday and another 7 in July.

Rector's Report - Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

- Chris Thompson's administration of the flowers at Easter provided a reminder that we don't have a flower guild. He has done a great job, but it would be nice to have more people helping. If you have ideas for people to help, please raise them up. Perhaps the name "Flower Guild" is too old school.
- Abbott Bailey has suggested that she might be interested in being on retainer as supply clergy for when we need someone such as Shrine Mont weekend or if someone is sick. She'll send a proposal.
- The bees have arrived. There is a hive outside Noelle's window in the window well protected by a wall. They are Sazccataz bees which are High honey producing and low aggression. Wes Lunsford has donated them and will maintain them until they are settled. He will also train people that want to learn about them.
- We are getting closer to changing the database from Shelby to ACS Realm. We need this change in time to start the comprehensive campaign. The change will likely happen in the next month or two with the help of a consultant.

Warden's Reports - Steve Reed

- Nothing new to report

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- May 4 - Outreach Sunday
- May 7 - Dinner Church
- June 13 - 15 - Shrine Mont - it sold out last year so sign up fast!

Closing Prayer

Paula Dubberly offered the Closing Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.