

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

September 25, 2025

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden

Kimberley Boyd, Junior Warden

Sue Bowron

Jim Bradley

Jo Brewer

Jim Brim

Steve Carlson

Helen Scovill

Anita Smith

Jason Voyles

ABSENT:

Cheryl Kelley

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:30PM.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Treasurer's Report and Minutes from August approved unanimously. Carlson/Brewer.

BUSINESS:

Finances

- \$7,327 balance Bicentennial Campaign
- Currently only \$22k in the red which is good for this point in the year.
- No outstanding payments for phase 1 of renovations
- Conversations ongoing for phase 2 timing and scope
- Currently there are ~\$100k in outstanding pledges for phase 1 of campaign that could come in by April 2026. These funds can be used as seed money for phase 2.
- 2026 pledges
 - Currently 1 week in and have \$33k in pledges
 - 8 new pledges = \$21k
 - 13 increased = additional \$18k
- Auditor draft should be in by Friday
 - Plan for finance zoom meeting prior to next vestry meeting and link in COG budget
 - Auditor name: Cosurge
- COG
 - Change in handling of outstanding balances. Now following policy as stated
- Current signers on accounts. Will add in new signers when new vestry rolls on.

Outreach

- Stacey Morley and Paul Klas are going to step in as co-chairs of the outreach team and have been working with Darlene in the transition.
- 4 groups reached out for additional funds. Vote unanimously approved

(Voyles, Smith)

- NE GA Speech center 3k
- ryan joiner foundation 4k
- sacred roots farm 5k
- Center Point GA, Inc 3.5k
- \$2k in Doug Smith fund will be transferred to the above, thus zeroing balance.
- Organizations have until November/December to apply for 2026 funds.

Building & Grounds

- Painting and staining continues at chapel
- Tables for parish hall have been acquired
- Work set for sanctuary plaza sitting wall
- Playground pad improvement
- Future work
 - Looking for vendors for parking lot restriping and potential for structural changes
 - Gathering quotes for cleaning service

Family Ministries & Discipleship

- From Brandon: Fascinating stories of transfers and visitors
- Kevin Flack - reflect with younger families on what is truly important

Participation Update

- Looking at defined group of parishoners who can help with set up and take down for parish events.
- PALS program is going well with newcomers and new parishoners. Information in newsletter.
- Calendar for bicentennial is incoming.
 - Starts Feast Day 2027 and ends Easters 2028.
 - not necessarily adding new things but building them out ie feast days and seasons, things already on normal calendar... open spaces in key parts of year that could be used in 2027... Copenhagen boys choir during lent 2028???

- We will need to add in a budget line item so should it be 2026 and more in 2027?
 - speakers are expensive!
 - thoughts about pollination gardens or workshop, environmental garden, atlanta botanical garden or something perhaps.
 - Look at deer clan with Cherokee nation - conversation around healing - funds for linwood trail near burial mound.
- October 26th parallel service planned outdoors at Linwood. Celtic service.
- 50 people attended first Charis group... next is october 8.
 - From Fr Stuart: "a really curious space. people getting to know each other on a much deeper level"
 - Each month as many different backgrounds come. readings are from different faith groups...
- meg is doing phenominal job with community life work.
- next meal is thanksgiving meal

Stewardship

- mailing complete, information communicated.
- Fr. Stuart going to make video to discuss finances
- Fr Stuart plans to make follow up calls to families who do not pledge.
 - 60% of parish participates financially. 56% pledge, other in plate
 - for the next 2 years Fr. Stuart going to call 40%.
 - Learn what is missing, barriers, whats keeping from pledge, etc

Other Business

- Discussion of recent clergy conference
 - The presiding bishop was present
 - Diocese of Atlanta and GA met together for the first time since 1907. The Meeting was at Rock Eagle.
 - Discussed how we articulate in a grounded way what the gospel

calls us to do. what risks are we willing to take, resources willing to leverage. Not relying on shorthand and catchphrases.

- Clarifying Episcopal church is not a party platform, much more than that. issues
- Group will be Traveling to Greece next month
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The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm with a closing prayer by Helen Scovill.