

Minutes

Vestry Retreat | January 16-17, 2026 | Calvary Episcopal Church | Memphis, Tennessee

Friday, January 16

Vestry Members Present: Bill Bangham, Zoe Bondi, Joe Brandenburg, Jordan Edmundson, Andy Estes, Barbara Etheridge, Heather Grosvenor, Wes Nelson, Allison Parker, Christina Ross, Matt Seltzer, Reg Udouj, Mary Jane Viar, Ginny Webb

Vestry Members Absent: William Etnyre, Leanne Kleinman

Clergy Present: Katherine Bush, Wesley Rowell, Scott Walters

Vestry members gathered with the clergy at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall for fellowship, dinner, and an introductory activity. Scott Walters introduced and facilitated the activity. Each vestry member shared a beloved object and the story behind it, enabling those in the group to get to know each other better.

The evening concluded with information regarding the schedule for Saturday and a closing prayer.

Saturday, January 17

Vestry Members Present: Bill Bangham, Zoe Bondi, Joe Brandenburg, Jordan Edmundson, Andy Estes, Barbara Etheridge, William Etnyre, Heather Grosvenor, Wes Nelson, Allison Parker, Christina Ross, Matt Seltzer, Reg Udouj, Mary Jane Viar, Ginny Webb

Vestry Members Absent: Leanne Kleinman

Clergy Present: Katherine Bush, Scott Walters

Morning Session:

Vestry members gathered for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in the Atrium. At approximately 9:30 a.m., Scott Walters called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Allison Parker, Senior Warden, provided an overview of the vestry. Key areas of focus included vestry guidelines, parliamentary procedure, standing committees, endowment, voting and non-voting members, elected and appointed officers, ministries, and the 87 Adams project/Mellon Foundation grant.

Allison concluded with a reflection on the importance of honesty, prayer, and ministering to each other. PowerPoint slides from the presentation are available upon request.

Scott Walters opened the next section of the retreat, *The Good Samaritan & Mary: Guides for a Flourishing Parish*, by inviting vestry members to reflect on what is going on at Calvary.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 10, verses 25-42 followed. Barbara Etheridge and Wes Nelson volunteer to read. Following the reading, each person present reflected on it, specifically the actions of the Good Samaritan and Mary.

This is a story of presence with themes of renewal, refilling, and being apostles. Table discussions followed where each group reflected on how we at Calvary are like Mary and the Good Samaritan. Each table shared their ideas.

We are like Mary

- Welcome
- Being cared for
- Tuesday Women's Bible Study
- Fellowship/Laughter
- Bold Wisdom/Elders
- Help raising a family
- Wednesday night energy/Mid-week
- Eucharist
- Coffee Hours
- Trust
- All of me is welcome
- Tradition/Stability/Liturgy
- Sacraments
- Questioning (Bold)
- Evensong/Music/Organ
- Sacred Ground/87 Adams
- Awareness
- Beauty/Art/Welcoming spaces/AIDS fabric sculpture
- Quiet/exhale
- Calvary's presence in the community

We are like the Good Samaritan

- Room in the Inn
- Pastoral Care
- Flower Guild
- Emanuel Meal
- Waffle Shop
- Vestry
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Choir
- Formation
- Usher
- Funeral Guild
- Weddings
- Open door/Access
- 87 Adams
- Children's Ministry
- Community Breakfast

Good Samaritan, continued

- Interacting with different people
- Feeding all
- Capital Campaign
- Stewardship
- Invite all to the table
- Managing resources
- Vocation/work values
- Clear values
- Truthfulness
- Contrast to scrolling
- Talking about Calvary
- Ebet/hospitality
- Vocabulary
- All ages offer music
- LPS
- Wednesday night
- Give who I am
- Sermons
- Sharing ideas from Calvary

At noon, lunch was served. During lunch, a brief business meeting occurred.

Business Meeting:

Minutes

The minutes of the December 2025 Vestry Meeting, submitted by former clerk Madge Deacon, were reviewed. Allison Parker moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Bangham seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Report

The financial report for December 2025 was presented by Scott Walters (due to the absence of the Treasurer). New vestry members had several questions regarding the financial report. A helpful explanation of key items in the year-end report, written by Margaret McLean, helped to guide the discussion and clarify questions. Matt Seltzer moved to accept the financial report as presented. Allison Parker second the motion. The financial report was accepted unanimously.

Announcements

Clay Woemmel, Clerk, circulated a sign-up sheet who wish to lead the opening prayer at each vestry meeting. All meetings now have volunteers to offer prayers. Scott Walters announced the topic of the next retreat session and the time that it would start.

Afternoon Session:

Following lunch, Clay Woemmel led vestry members in activities designed to clarify vestry areas of focus for 2026.

Each vestry member wrote down those things that were key areas of focus for them. Then, in groups, discussion about areas of focus occurred. Each group was asked to narrow their list of foci to three and list them in priority order.

Group 1

1. Service Projects
2. Emanuel Meal
3. Listening

Group 2

1. Listening
2. Gatherings
3. Service Project

Group 3

1. Security/Safety
 2. Aid to Immigrants
 3. Encourage giving
- *Listening

After processing with all present, it was determined that listening is something that vestry members should always be doing as representatives of the whole congregation. Therefore, space will be held on each vestry agenda for what is heard from the congregation. Two additional areas of focus were selected: 1) Service Projects and 2) Gatherings.

Service Projects

Joe Brandenburg, William Etnyre, Heather Grosvenor, Allison Parker, Christina Ross, and Mary Jane Viar expressed interest in service projects. Allison will send an initial email to get the group together. Initial ideas include RITI, LPS, and Waffle Shop.

Gatherings

Barbara Etheridge and Heather Grosvenor expressed interest in gatherings. Anyone else may join them. Barbara will send an initial email to get the group together.

The retreat concluded at 2:00 p.m. with a Eucharist in the Bethlehem Chapel.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clay Woemmel, Clerk