

Minutes

Vestry Meeting | April 28, 2026 | Calvary Episcopal Church | Memphis, Tennessee

Vestry Members Present: Bill Bangham, Zoe Bondi, Jordan Edmundson, Barbara Etheridge, William Etnyre, Heather Grosvenor, Leanne Kleinmann, Wes Nelson, Christina Ross, Matt Seltzer, Reg Udouj, Mary Jane Viar

Vestry Members Absent: Joe Brandenburg, Andy Estes, Allison Parker, Ginny Webb

Clergy Present: Katherine Bush, Wesley Rowell, Scott Walters

Others Present: Erik Ball, Katy Leopard, Connie Marshall, Steve Smith, Clay Woemmel

Scott Walters called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Christina Ross opened with prayer.

LPS and Waffle Shop Update: Katy Leopard and Connie Marshall provided the vestry with a summary of the 2026 LPS and Waffle Shop season. It was noted that positive energy was present throughout the series, both in the nave and in the dining room. Income was up this year although attendance was a bit less. It is likely that the absence of two speakers due to illness near the end of the series negatively impacted attendance numbers. Work on next year's series has already begun. Increased vestry presence along with new volunteers from the congregation were much appreciated. Continued vestry presence and more new volunteers will be appreciated next year.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 2026 Vestry meeting were reviewed. William Etnyre moved to accept the minutes as presented. Barbara Etheridge seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Reports: Erik Ball and Steve Smith presented the financial reports. Pledges are below budget. Statements will go out soon, and it is hoped that this will remind people to catch up on their pledges. Expenses are below or on budget for most line items. Buildings and Grounds expenses are over budget due to HVAC replacement in the kitchen and other HVAC repairs. This is a timing issue. Utilities remain high but are currently on budget. We continue to collect pledges for the capital campaign and pay toward the \$1, 027,000.00 balance on the construction loan. All capital campaign pledges are due by the end of this calendar year (2026). Bill Bangham moved to accept the financial reports as presented. Barbara Etheridge seconded the motion. The financial reports were approved unanimously.

Mineral Rights Lease: Erik Ball presented the proposed lease agreement along with the language negotiated to better benefit the church. The finance committee has recommended to the vestry

that the lease agreement be approved. William Etnyre moved to approve the lease agreement as presented. Bill Bangham seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rector's Report:

Holy Week

Attendance at services throughout Holy week was up from last year. Across all services, approximately one hundred more people attended in 2026 than in 2025.

Agape Meal

Clergy and staff received positive feedback about the Agape Meal being held in the Bethlehem Chapel this year. The setting added to the meaning of the meal.

Grizzlies Prep

The Grizzlies Prep School will move to the Believe Academy site for the Fall 2026 school year. However, they would like to continue to use our large building for the next academic year due to maintenance needs at their new campus which may make some space there unavailable. This is positive for Calvary because it allows us time to convene an advisory group to determine the best use for both buildings in the future.

Samaritan Counseling Center

The small building previously renovated for Grizzlies Prep will become vacant this fall, and the vestry agreed that Scott Walters will offer it to Samaritan Counseling Center as a temporary office while their building is being renovated. Scott recently joined the Samaritan Counseling Center board and will talk with the director to determine if the small building will meet their needs for temporary office space.

87 Adams Project

The committee meets regularly. During the first quarter of the grant, the focus has been on quiet, behind the scenes work. Going forward, June 19th (Juneteenth) is being considered as a kick-off date for the community engagement part of the project. On the design side, direct requests will be made to 10-15 artists, and they will be invited to present their credentials for working on the 87 Adams project. From these initial presentations, three artists will be selected to make formal project proposals.

Wesley's Ordination

Wesley's ordination to the priesthood is scheduled for the evening of Monday, June 8, 2026 at Calvary. It will be announced to the congregation after the date is officially approved by the Bishop of New Jersey in cooperation with Bishop Phoebe.

Vestry Areas of Focus:*Listening*

Safety on stairways around the church was briefly discussed.

Service Projects

April/May: Campus Beautification, June/July: Immigration, September/October: RIT, and November/December: Emmanuel Meal

Bill Etnyre and Heather Grosvenor are working on campus beautification efforts. A collection will be taken after church services (on a future date to be agreed on) to help pay for the cost of plants for our seventeen planters. Christina Ross will reach out to Joe Brandenburg to help with the immigration-related service project.

Announcements

Wes Nelson reminded us of the long-time ministry of Robbie Phillips who died recently. He encouraged us to express our gratitude and sympathy to her granddaughter, Dorri, who also works in the Calvary nursery. Katherine Bush announced the visitation that is scheduled for Robbie Phillips.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clay Woemmel, Clerk