

Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Date: October 14, 2025
Meeting Format: Hybrid (In-person and Zoom)
Start Time: 5:30 PM

Attendees

Vestry Members Present:

Rev. Neil Willard, Rector
John Wallace, Junior Warden
Sheeba Thomas, Clerk
Ken Alexander
Jeanine Baker
Rosine Hall
Betty Key
Kip Krause
Pam Lovett
David Madrigal
Michael Massey
Sue Murphy

Assisting Clergy Present:

Rev. Katherine Tuttle, Director of Parish Life and Membership
Rev. Allen Junek, Associate Rector

Staff Present:

Dustin Jesudason

1. Opening Prayer (Rev. Neil Willard)

Neil opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Palmer Church App for Mobile Devices (Dustin Jesudason)

- Palmer has launched a new app for Android and Apple devices.
- An announcement is planned for this week's e-newsletter
- Staff will be available on upcoming Sundays to demonstrate its functionality.
- The app operates on the ShelbyNext platform – the same platform that supports Palmer's website.

- The app's features include:
 - Viewing Sunday services
 - Accessing the church calendar of events and parish directory
 - Event sign-ups (e.g. retreats)
 - Online giving and personal donation history
- Upcoming Enhancements include
 - The ability to make annual pledges from the home screen.
 - Scheduling for services (e.g. acolytes, readers etc.). This will replace MinistryPro.
- Additional updates are planned in the coming weeks to months
- Dustin welcomes feedback from users, to help him optimize its functionality.

3. Capital Campaign (John Wallace)

In preparation for Palmer's **100th Anniversary in 2029**, the vestry discussed launching a capital campaign.

Suggestions made for capital campaign projects included:

- Campus-wide maintenance and assessment
- Improved accessibility at church steps (revised railing)
- Updated plexiglass covers on stained glass windows
- Installation of a *piscina* (liturgical sink)
- A/C system for choir loft
- Carillon bells for the bell tower

Vestry members were encouraged to submit further suggestions to John Wallace and Tom Van Arsdel. Once a final list has been determined, a cost assessment will be made.

The campaign will seek funding both from parishioners and private foundations.

A professional will need to be hired to carry out this campaign.

An internal leadership team from within the Palmer community, will also need to be identified.

The goal will be to complete the campaign and a significant portion of the planned work in time for Palmer's 100th anniversary celebration in 2029.

4. Centennial Celebration (John Wallace)

Co-chairs and a core team need to be identified from within the parish to begin planning for this celebration.

The timeline and scope of the events will need to be determined by this planning team.

One option may be to have monthly celebratory events in the year leading up to the anniversary – each highlighting a different theme or aspect of parish life – music, dance, children etc.

4. Endowment (John Wallace)

- Palmer's endowment was created to support its buildings and grounds maintenance costs.
- The Endowment Board plans to increase the visibility of the Daphne Neville Palmer Society (Endowment), to encourage more contributions and legacy gifts.

5. Closing Prayer (Rev. Allen Junek)

Allen closed the meeting with prayer.