

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING
MINUTES
April 23, 2026

Present: Senior Warden-Richard Updegrove, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Jerry Culver, Jeff Dugan, Jason DeFalco, David Burke, Murry Edwards, and the Rector, Jennifer Pedrick.

Attending virtually: David Burke and Nancy Kimble

Absent: Junior Warden-John Corbishley, Treasurer-David Brierley, Sarah Barker, Sheila Collins, Elizabeth Ripley and the Rev. Dr. John Gregory Prior

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. She played the *Twenty-Third Psalm* by Bobby McFerrin, and then said a brief prayer.

Reconnecting with one another in the presence of God – Jennifer

Jennifer asked vestry members to think about the song she had just played, and share thoughts about what “spoke to our hearts.”

Rector's Report – Jennifer

- Jennifer reflected on the general tenor of the people in the community and our members. Many seem to be tired and stressed.
- Our “new” Christian education programs for children and teens have been going very well, and will carry on until the last weekend in May.
- Lots of planning will be going on during the summer months, including the switch to Realm as our new communications and financial reporting platform.
- We had a lengthy discussion on the previous month's Holy Week services, etc. It was decided that additional planning is needed to make these services run more smoothly. It is hoped this advance work will alleviate some of the stress and exhaustion felt by many after Easter.

Quarterly Financial Report – David Burke

David Burke began by explaining the format and meaning of the monthly Treasurer's Report. He then presented the quarterly financial report for January through March.

Investment Committee Report – David Burke

The committee is now moving into the logistics of implementing the changes that were voted on at the last Vestry meeting.

- The Diocese has officially approved our change of investment agent.

- We have terminated our association with the Van Liew firm.
- An investment policy needs to be drafted, as the strategies and goals included in this policy will inform the new firm's actions.
- Funds need to be transferred from Van Liew to Merrill Lynch.

Realm Transition – Jeff D.

Jeff held an initial meeting with several folks involved in implementing Realm. The information shared at this meeting helped him acquire some background and helped those who attended understand a bit more what might be involved in this transition. Our data has already been uploaded into Realm.

Questions and issues explored include:

- What, exactly, does Realm do?
- Are we totally done with Church Windows. If so, we must make sure our contract does not automatically renew again.
- The current data has some hygiene issues which will take some work to eliminate.

People's first impression with a new software platform is often a lasting one, so we need to make their first interaction with Realm a good one.

We need to make sure the database is clean and accurate, and then start layering on additional features gradually.

Jennifer thanked Jeff for agreeing to take on this project.

Christian Formation – Jason D.

Our new programs are going well. The Teens and Tweens group often has between 5 and 10 participants. Sunday *Godly Play* attracts between 2 and 5. Everyone seems to be enjoying working with the kids, and the kids attending are also enthusiastic, so both programs will continue through the end of May.

Jennifer said there is a grant available to get some outdoor equipment, and the program that St. Mary's used to offer older youth, *Journey to Adulthood*, has kept current and might be worked into our program next fall.

Jennifer thanked Jason and his committee for their hard work.

Miscellaneous

By-Laws – Rick U.

A By-Laws committee has been formed to begin the process of updating our current By-Laws. This committee includes Rick U., David Ferkinhoff, and Jon Edwards.

Sara Gibbs Trust

There is a meeting scheduled of all the trustees, including the bishop, in May.

Consent Agenda

Rick U. made a motion, seconded by Murry E, that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Quarterly Financial report, and Minutes for March 2026. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk