Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Vestry Minutes
October 18, 2026

In Attendance:
Vestry – Jordan Moody, Kay Lee, Jacob Geiger, Kathy Corcoran, Beth Floyd, Paul Hinson, & Kelli Gantt
Via Zoom – Cody Chaffins
Clergy - Amy Dills-Wright via Zoom
Ex officio - Sally Walker, Randy Shearin, & Sherry Wallace
Absent - Nick Theyerl, Cristin Davis, & Tracey Laird

Meditation:
Kathy led a meditation on prayers for traveling through the storms of life, focusing on Winfred Ernest Garrison's poem "The Prayer of the Breton Fisherman," based on a prayer by Breton fishermen.

Consent Agenda:
One correction to the August Vestry Retreat minutes was proposed. Sally Walker's name was added to the list of attendees. Approval of the corrected August Vestry Retreat minutes and the September 27, 2026, Vestry minutes was included as part of the consent agenda. There were no gifts over $100 to include. All voted to approve.

Rector's Report:
Amy reported that we need more youth volunteers. She will have Tristen Webb make an announcement to request more volunteers. Kelli suggested that we also promote the Safeguarding God's Children training for parents in order to expand the group of qualified volunteers.

Amy and Julie Ryder are working on presenting the Lessons and Carols service as a parish-wide event. It is a beautiful service, and calling it a parish-wide Christmas or holiday event may encourage more people to attend.

Amy will meet with Carmie McDonald to discuss planning for the next few months.

New Business:
Audit Report: The auditor should be sending the 2025 audit report to the Finance Committee soon. They will forward it to the Vestry. We do not have to vote on it.

Sally reported that Gateway Center is having its Live Love event on November 7. A group from Epiphany will attend to show support for Gateway and its mission. We have a bin in the gallery to collect winter clothing for the residents.

DeKalb County has changed their recycling processes over the years. Jordan will work with John Yntema to make new signs to let parishioners know what can be recycled.

Old Business:
Annual Council Delegates: Epiphany's delegates to Annual Council will be Jacob Barber, Beth Floyd, Jordan Moody, and Randy Shearin. David Draper will be an alternate. Jordan motioned and Kay seconded that we affirm our nominees. All voted to approve.

Little Forest Preschool Update: The school has let us know that the payment for their share of the plumbing repair will be coming soon.

Beth said that the tee shirt sale is continuing. We have sold out of some sizes.

Stewardship update: Jacob said the campaign is going well. We should be around the halfway point for number of pledges and slightly higher for dollars pledged.

Liaison Area Updates:
Endowment — Jacob gave an update on the endowment committee's activities.

The meeting ended with Midday Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Wallace
Clerk of the Vestry

MISSION STATEMENT

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany is an inclusive community called to seek and follow Jesus Christ. We welcome all people in the Eucharistic fellowship of Christ's Body. We receive strength and encouragement at the common table to carry out Christ's work of reconciliation in our broken world. Nourished by worship and witness, learning and teaching, fellowship and service, we strive to live out the Gospel's radical values with gladness of heart.

PARISH CORE VALUES

Faith in God. Our belief in a loving God is foundational to our faith. Faith brings us together for worship and sends us out in the world. We recognize everyone's faith journey as unique – wherever you are on your journey, there is a place for you here.

Love in Action. We are called to engage with the wider community through the life and teachings of Jesus. Together, we work toward environmental, racial, gender, LGBTQ+ and economic justice and equity.

Transformative Relationships. Through God's grace, we seek to embody God's love in our care for each other.

Intentional Welcome. We are an inclusive community that strives to seek and serve Christ in all people. We believe God loves you – no exceptions.

PARISH PRIORITIES

1) Offer and adapt compelling opportunities for children, youth, and families to experience belonging — just as they are — in every aspect of our faith community.
2) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
3) Work toward environmental, racial, gender, LGBTQ+ and economic justice and equity.
4) Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances and those living on the margins of society.
5) Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.).

Vestry Reports

Adult Formation – Paul Hinson

We had a successful showing at the ministry fair and received names of two new folks who have an interest in formation and will be attending Sunday formation and who were also informed of the Thursday morning book group. I was able to lead that group this morning (Thursday October 15) and it continues to be a blessing to me and those who are a part of it.

During the formation hour Sunday, October 18, I will lead a discussion on Eucharist following a short video on that topic produced by the national church (the third in a three-part series). In-gathering Sunday is October 25 and there's no formation that Sunday.

On November 1, Bishop Wright joins us for a forum. Then on Sunday November 8, we begin another formation offering from the Foundry with Dr. Elizabeth Arnold presenting on "The Women of Advent."

Building and Grounds – Beth Floyd

No updates at this time.

Children + Youth – Kelli Gantt

Fall programming is in full swing. Here are some highlights from Edie and Tristen:

- Family Eucharist and dinner will be starting again this month on October 20th.
- Youth events include another Friday night hangout on October 16th and 30th, a hiking trip on October 18th, and dinner with Holy Trinity and St. Barts at the end of the month.
- Twelve youth attended the pumpkin carving and painting event!

I would like to make a plug for volunteering with the youth – it's fun and with Tristen's lead, pretty easy to help out. It seems a few more volunteers with Safeguarding training could make a difference in executing all the wonderful things that are planned.

Community Engagement Partnerships – Kathy Corcoran and Tracey Laird

Harvey Fund
The applications for the Harvey Grant cycle have closed, and 14 applications were received from community organizations:

- Emmaus House (Supports for Success)
- Emmaus House (different program)
- Gateway
- Jumpstart
- Georgia Welcome Cooperative
- Village Vibes

- Project Live Love
- Georgia Works
- Nicholas House
- Church of the Common Ground
- DEAM
- Rebecca's Tent
- TIP (Truancy Intervention Program) Georgia
- Home For Everyone

The committee, led by Laura Keys, is finding a time to meet in November to review these proposals and determine allocations.

Holy Comforter
Holy Comforter last week. The space was "quite spruced up," with round tables covered with tablecloths and a new mural. The next dinner will be served at the end of January.

Gateway
The Meal Ministry continues its monthly meal serving 100+ on the second Friday at the Gateway Center.

On Saturday November 7th there will be a special event held at the Gateway Center called Live Love. All Epiphany parishioners, 9 and older, are invited to participate as a volunteer helping with various projects. Cost is $29 and this covers your lunch and a t-shirt. More information available from Sally Walker 404-308-9292, in Epiphany's eNews and on the website: projectlivelove.com

Newcomers Membership Committee
We will try a new spin on our fall newcomer's welcome on November 15th by serving a light lunch just after adult formation. We will be sending out invitations to 10 visitors who have filled out pew cards since June. We welcomed Carol Barlett to the committee from the Ministry Fair.

Art Ministry
We will be showing the work of painter Sarah Culpepper from Oct 31 through December 3. "I work in a variety of mediums and styles to capture the beauty of nature, the interplay of light and shadow and find humor, laughter, and joy in everything I create."

There will not be a show in December to make way for the creche display. We welcomed Barbara Belcore to the ministry, also from the Ministry Fair.

Core Values and Parish Priorities – Kay Lee

No updates at this time.

Endowment – Jacob Geiger

As we look ahead to the winter 2027 grant endowment cycle, I am working to develop criteria that help the committee evaluate the merits of applications when the categories the endowment supports are so different from each other. For example, how does one weigh a parish ministry request against an individual's scholarship request against a diocesan or national ministry need? I'd be interested in gathering feedback from the Vestry when we discuss the Endowment in our ministry update series this fall. These guidelines I am working on would not change the bylaws or be binding on future committees, but I'm hopeful they would be helpful.

Finance – Cody Chaffins

Randy says he is expecting the audit report from the Diocese this week and hopefully will have the findings to show the vestry this week.

September MTD deficit was $9,109, bringing the YTD deficit to $8,455. 2025 September YD operating results = surplus $9,078. September 2026 Available Operating Cash declined to $213,092, a low for the year.

Once again, the problem is a shortfall in Pledge giving. YTD = $525,521 vs budget of $565,333. 2025 YTD pledge giving = $535,266. On a positive note, last week, we received a 2026 pledge payment check for $30,000.

Membership + Newcomers – Cristin Davis

Membership and Newcomers will be hosting a newcomers luncheon on 11/15 right after church. There were a few people who signed up as interested in being a part of the committee at the membership fair.

Parish Life – Nick Theyerl

- Parish life committee was very sad about Oktoberfest. Maybe we can plan contingencies for next year? Like automatically delay by one week if weather is looking iffy?
- Parish life is good to rename the L&C reception the Epiphany Christmas Party.
- Parish life would like to request an increase in our budget for 2027 from $6k to $7k. This would cover additional expenses like the men's supper club, Epiphany Christmas Party, and more regular "Chez Epiphany" events.

Pastoral Care – Paul Hinson

No updates at this time.

Stewardship – Jacob Geiger

I continue to be inspired by the Stewardship team, led so wonderfully by Pam Tipton. Leona Weirwhille and Jeremy Davis, in addition to Pam, have given wonderful messages about stewardship the past few Sundays. If you see any of these folks around church, please thank them: Marion Curry, Edward Bauer, Carol and Zander Brietzke, Brittany Cole (our seminarian, who has jumped right in!), Brent Henderson, and Laura Keys.

If you are able and willing to help on Saturday, Oct. 24 with setup for the Pledge Ingathering Celebration, or to help with cleanup on Sunday, Oct. 25 immediately after church and the celebration, please let me or Pam know.

This will have changed by the time of our Vestry Meeting, but as of Thursday, October 15, we have received 62 pledges totaling $421,000. This puts us at the halfway point of our dollar goal with about 40% of expected pledges received (we have 160 pledges for 2026 and have been in the 150-160 range for several years). Bookkeeper Susie Boyko did a comparative analysis for me on the first $250,000 in pledges received, with the names of the pledgers removed. All of those pledges were from folks who have pledged in past years, and we saw a collective 12% increase in dollars from those households. Early pledgers tend to be some of our most consistent and loyal supporters of the church, but that is an encouraging start.