

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

Vestry Minutes

October 19, 2025

In Attendance:

Vestry - Sally Walker, Matthew May, Carol Bartlett, Jordan Moody, Kay Lee, Cody Chaffins, Jacob Geiger, & Tracey Laird

Clergy - Amy Dills-Wright

Ex officio - Kaylie Gibbs, Randy Shearin, & Sherry Wallace

Absent: Judy Jarady, Andrea Strahan, Cristin Davis, & Kathy Corcoran

Meditation:

Sally led a meditation from Howard Thurman's *Meditation of the Heart*.

Consent Agenda:

The September 28, 2025, Vestry minutes were submitted for approval as part of the consent agenda. There were no gifts over \$100 to include. Carol proposed a change in wording to clarify a point in the minutes. She made a motion to accept the minutes with the proposed change. Tracey seconded. All voted to approve.

Rector's Report:

Amy said that she is excited about the energy in the upcoming adult formation offerings. The Stewardship campaign is ongoing. It is set to officially end on November 2.

Tracey said that the new social action group had a meeting.

New Business:

Approving the Audit

Randy stated that the 2024 financial audit is done. There were no material weaknesses. As in any audit, there are suggestions for change. Randy will send the audit report to the vestry this week. Matthew has offered to answer any questions, as he is a CPA with significant audit experience. After everyone has had a chance to review the audit, the vestry will vote on its acceptance via email.

Old Business:

Solar Update

The permitting is done. We've signed all necessary documents with GA Power and are awaiting installation. Then Giraffe Financial will file the tax credit application for us. This needs to be done by the end of the year.

Flooring and Hot Water Heater

The floor tile for the parish hall has been chosen. A sample was passed around. The time line for installation remains to be determined.

We have obtained two quotes for the hot water heater. The larger is \$7500. A decision between the two hasn't been made. Matthew motioned to approve up to \$7,500 for the purchase and installation of a tankless hot water heater with removal of the old unit. Jacob seconded and all voted to approve.

Food Charity Donation Update

Tracey reported that gifts from the Floyd Parker bequest were mailed this week to the Atlanta Community Food Bank, DEAM, and PORCH in the previously approved amounts.

Ministry Reports

Children and Youth, Building and Grounds, and Adult Formation shared their interim ministry reports. They focused on what is going well, what may no longer be needed, where there are growth opportunities, and what resources and support may be needed to continue their work.

The meeting ended with Midday Prayer.

On October 6, Tracey motioned via email that the vestry approve David Draper, Randy Shearin, Sally Walker, and Loren Williams as lay delegates to Annual Council in November. Cristin seconded the motion. Eleven members voted in favor with none opposed and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Wallace
Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry Reports – October 2025

Adult Formation — Carol Bartlett

In recent months, our Adult Formation program has centered on *The Power of Nonviolence*, a course led by Donnell Williams of the Candler Foundry. Together, participants have explored the foundational principles that have guided justice movements throughout history, including the Civil Rights Movement. Drawing on the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—and the biblical vision that inspired him—we have reflected on how nonviolence challenges injustice, transforms adversaries into neighbors, and helps build the Beloved Community.

Following a brief pause on November 2 for the Stewardship Ingathering, Epiphanite Jacob Barber will lead a new three-session series examining how Christian faith shapes our commitment to immigrant justice. Using Karen González's *Beyond Welcome* as a guiding text, this series will connect familiar biblical narratives with the lived experiences of immigrants today. Participants will consider how God calls us to live out the values of hospitality, solidarity, and empowerment in our communities.

During Advent, Amy and Carmie will continue their ongoing series, *Staying Centered Through Spiritual Practice*, offering two additional sessions that invite reflection and renewal in the midst of the season's busyness. Also in Advent, Ann Fowler will lead a special formation session on artistic representations of the Black Magi, exploring how these images expand our understanding of the Nativity and its meaning for the global church.

Building and Grounds — Matthew May

These are actively in progress:

- 1) **Solar Roof** - Project ongoing
- 2) **Water Heater and Repairs** The water heater in the Tables and Chairs room has a little condensate drain. It was never run all the way to the floor drain. We need to cut a path along the copper pipe to the floor drain and extend the plastic drain tube to it. When replacing in future tankless appears to be most cost effective.
- 3) **Flooring** - Kitchen, Parish Hall, and Utility room reflooring project

These are not actively in progress or are waiting on a volunteer:

Washer and Dryer This may be an ask for the congregation. The current washer and dryer is 20+ years old - maybe it is time to ask for new hand me downs?

Kitchen Sink Issue There appears to be an occasional leak when draining multiple sinks likely associated with a drain clogged somewhere. Need to redesign the drainage – potential plumber issue.

New Outdoor Building New outdoor building needed for tools - assessing locations.

Hide the Garbage Assessing structures to hide the dumpster.

Labyrinth Proposal - Varying interest in having a labyrinth on property, waiting on proposal

Courtyard Lighting One of the light strands fell. Waiting on a plan and prioritization.

Parking Spaces Expand gravel pad, as possible by mailbox on in back corner of parking lot

Known issues waiting on prioritization or budget (probably not a volunteer job):

AC Off 1 of 4 HVAC systems for the Parish Hall is currently not running. Waiting on a gas valve.

Another Door Issue Door to the Parish Hall from the courtyard is in disrepair - still functions and locks - tbd on next steps.

Yet Another Door Issue Door to the playground is in disrepair - sign posted with instructions - tbd on next steps.

Children + Youth Formation — Jordan Moody & Cody Chaffins

October has been an exciting month for our children and youth! We kicked off the month on October 5th with youth group dinner. Thirteen youth from Epiphany and HTP filled the big booth at Fazzoli's in downtown Decatur and shared photos of their pets from the St Francis service.

Our youth also had a fantastic time at this weekend's lock-in. The theme, "Why We Worship," focused on key practices of our faith (prayer, service, Eucharist, and Scripture) and explored the meaning behind why we do these things. As part of our service project, the group created tissue paper "stained glass windows" to decorate the freeze shelter at St. John's. We also had a special Instructed Eucharist with Rev. Carmie, where students walked through each part of the Eucharist, learning what it's called and why we do it.

Our lock in was made possible by the support of 9 volunteers including a huge showing from our young adult ministry!

Our children's ministries were also busy this month. During our October Family Eucharist on October 7, children made pet toys for Lifeline Pet Shelter in honor of St. Francis Day. They also participated in our stewardship campaign by creating quilt squares that depicted what "Seeking Shalom" means to them.

Sunday attendance in our youngest Godly Play room and children's chapel continues to be strong, while our older elementary group remains small but consistent with 1–2 children each week.

Looking ahead, we're already beginning conversations around Spring 2026 curriculum and Summer 2026 programming for children and youth. We anticipate announcing the Save the Dates for Vacation Bible School by the start of Advent.

We're excited for the months ahead and look forward to all that God is doing in the lives of our children and youth

Community Engagement Partnerships — Kathy Corcoran & Tracey Laird

Floyd Parker Bequest Distributions

Gifts from the Floyd Parker bequest were mailed this week to the Atlanta Community Food Bank, DEAM, and PORCH in the previously approved amounts.

Social Justice Action Group

Earlier this month, our Social Justice Action Group participated in its first public event as a newly formed ministry. Approximately 25 parishioners and community members gathered along Ponce de Leon Avenue on the evening of October 4 for the *Unite in Light* demonstration.

Creation Care and the Earth Guild

We are grateful to Brenda Lloyd for volunteering to provide leadership for our Earth Guild and for keeping creation care and environmental justice at the forefront of our parish life. For this season, the Earth Guild will “meet” by attending Georgia Interfaith Power and Light's (GIPL) regularly scheduled Green Team Roundtables together online. These roundtables are designed to equip faith communities with tools to educate congregations, implement practical solutions to combat climate change, and challenge unjust systems that cause harm to creation and our neighbors. Following these sessions, participants will discern which ideas and initiatives might be brought back to Epiphany for further discussion or action.

Harvey Fund

This year, the Harvey Fund received grant proposals from seven community organizations:

- Emmaus House
- Our House
- A Home for Everyone
- Gateway Center
- Nicholas House
- Jumpstart Automotive Training Center
- Hagar House

The committee will convene in November to review these proposals and determine allocations.

Budget and Partnerships

The Community Engagement Committee—Carmie, Kathy, and Tracey—submitted a proposed budget to the Finance Committee for consideration. The proposed budget reallocates funds previously designated for the Interfaith Children’s Movement and our Haiti Ministry to support new community partnerships with St. John’s Lutheran Church Freeze Shelter and Episcopal Relief & Development. Additionally, the new budget provides greater flexibility to respond to emerging programs and partnership opportunities throughout the fiscal year.

Core Values – Kay Lee

No updates at this time.

Endowment — Jacob Geiger

Disbursements have been made on the grants approved earlier this year for the Grant Endowment Fund. As a reminder, we funded a small scholarship to a parishioner and a grant to support the capital campaign at Camp Mikkel.

The Enduring Light Operating Endowment funds have been invested and started generating returns, with the value of that endowment standing just shy of \$200,000 at September 30. We will take our first draw from the Enduring Light Operating Endowment in the 2026 budget; that amount will be between \$2,800 and \$3,000, pending the fund's value at the end of the year.

Finance — Andrea Strahan

September 2025	Budget	Actual
Income	\$68,323.16	\$40,347.90
Expenses	\$68,235.64	\$62,414.77
Net	\$87.52	(\$22,066.87)

The September 2025 had month-to-date (MTD) operating results of a \$22,067 deficit, bringing the year-to-date (YTD) surplus to \$8,790. For comparison, the 2024 YTD surplus was \$21,737.

The shortfall in revenue for September 2025 was in Pledge giving, \$27,092 below budget. Pledge giving YTD in 2025 is \$535,266 (over budget \$18,180). 2024 YTD pledge giving was \$515,990. 2025 YTD total revenues are \$613,753, slightly over budget. For comparison, 2024 YTD total revenues were \$583,239.

Total MTD expenses for September 2025 were \$68,236, under budget by \$5,821. YTD expenses were \$604,963, under budget by \$9,158. For comparison, 2024 YTD expenses were \$561,892. The increases in 2025 to 2024 were mostly salary and benefits, which was planned and budgeted. There was an issue with invoicing for outside sexton services in September, Shea is working with the contractor to fix the issue and we anticipate owing approximately \$3,600.

Designated donations: None in September.

Membership + Newcomers — Cristin Davis

No updates at this time.

Parish Life & Pastoral Care — Judy Jarady

Past Events:

Welcome Back Lunch August 24

This event went well with over 110 people served.

Parish Retreat September 19-21

The retreat was a success with approximately 60 people attending.

Oktoberfest October 4

This was a lively event with music, games, and lots of German food. Attendance was 70 people.

Upcoming Events:

Nativities Collection goes on Display December 7.

Lessons and Carols Reception December 7.

Stewardship — Jacob Geiger

As you've likely heard during services or seen in the newsletter, the stewardship campaign is live! Pledge cards should have arrived in mailboxes late last week or early this week, and the

online pledge option is available as a newsletter link. We will continue to have stewardship moments during the service and additional materials in the newsletter. The campaign continues through October, and we plan to have the final ingathering and celebration of gifts on Sunday, November 2.

If you see Pam Tipton around church this month, please thank her for all of the work she has put into this stewardship campaign!

And as Sally mentioned in her recent email, please submit your pledge as soon as possible so we have fewer pledges outstanding when we get to ingathering Sunday.