

July 21, 2026 Vestry Meeting

The Vestry convened in person on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 7:30 p.m., Fr. Mark presiding. Members attending: Mr. Ruf, Senior Warden, Mr. Feagles, Junior Warden, Ms. Byam, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hunter, Ms. Hurdle, Mr. Tester, Mr. Todd, and Ms. Warren. Also attending: . Norma Young and Mr. Smith.

Invocation

Fr. Mark offered an invocation.

Devotion

Ms. Warren led the Bible Study focusing on “community – who we are together in God, and how God dwells among us as a people, not just as individuals.” She referenced Psalm 133, a biblical text often used to express unity and shared life among God’s people. This Psalm reminds the church that unity is not only beautiful, but it is also an occasion where God gives blessing. Unity in community is not just nice to have, but it also a place where God’s blessing is poured out.

She asked the Vestry to think of the last time someone in this church showed up for you – with a meal, a phone call, a ride, a quiet prayer. She posed two questions: Where has God’s presence been felt through this community recently? Is there someone in the parish or neighborhood to whom God may be sending care or welcome this week? She closed her devotion with a prayer.

Action Items

Fr. Mark said there were a couple of corrections to the version of the May 19th Vestry minutes that had been previously circulated.

2nd Quarter 2026 Attendance and Membership Report

Fr. Mark said the church’s membership has increased during this period, while in-person Sunday attendance has decreased in comparison to last year. He also noted that online attendance has been much stronger than in the past, and invited suggestions about reasons for these differences. Several Vestry members thought this may be due to the improved on-line option and that it was easier for older members to attend online than in person. Mr. Tester noted that the in-person attendance figures for this quarter may be skewed by several events in 2025 that had a larger attendance than usual. The Vestry expressed their concerns about and cited the number of activities like sports that compete with Sunday services. The Vestry said building the Sunday School program to attract older children may lead to an increase in Sunday attendance.

Property

Mr. Harper reported on the lead testing that was conducted in Glenolden House, the Church Undercroft, and the Rectory after one of the Tester children showed elevated lead levels in a routine checkup. No lead was found in the paint on the interior walls, but some is present on the outside windows and doors. The only area of significant concern is the exterior door frame in the Glenolden basement, which we plan to replace. Water testing is not yet complete.

Additionally, we have determined that in Glenolden House’s “Florida room,” a window and some siding needs to be replaced. An area of the roof near the entrance to St. Francis Hall from

the Columbarium Plaza also needs to be repaired, and we think that the repair cost may be rebated significantly because the shingles are still under warranty. We are also investigating some problems with the functioning of the HVAC on the East wing of the school, and hope to propose a solution. There is funding available in the property maintenance fund due to the rent Zion Church pays and which is allocated to maintenance expenses. Fr. Mark said any costs above \$3,000 will require Vestry approval, and that this may be circulated for digital approval if suitable estimates are received before the next vestry meeting.

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Mr. Ruf made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hurdle, to approve the items in the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Georgetown Hill Early School Outdoor Play Kitchen

The Vestry approved Georgetown Hill Early School (GHES) outdoor play kitchen on-line on July 1. This requires ratification by the vestry in a regular meeting, per the bylaws.

Motion to Approve Georgetown Hill Early School Outdoor Play Kitchen

Mr. Harper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tester, for formal approval of GHES's outdoor play kitchen, which the Vestry had previously ratified on-line. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report for May and June

Mr. Tester, church treasurer, provided the monthly financial reports for May and June. He said property-related expenses had increased over what was anticipated in the budget, but the church will receive reimbursement from GHES for part of these expenses and the monthly rental income from Zion Church. The income from these two rental agreements has provided St. Francis with \$8,700 operating surplus for this May-June period. The Vestry discussed what projects and operating expenses are considered shared expenses under the terms of GHES's lease agreement. The lease agreement provides for shared utility and maintenance expenses, which includes cleaning of the space that GHES rents, grounds maintenance, and some repair projects, but not capital expenses associated with the buildings.

Motion to Approve the Financial Report for May and June

Mr. Feagles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hunter, to approve the financial report for May and June. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Move to Executive Session

Mr. Ruf made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harper, to go into executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

The Vestry concluded their discussion during the Executive Session.

Motion to Leave the Executive Session

Ms. Hurdle made a motion, seconded by Ms. Warren, to close the executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Children and Youth

Dr. Schneider had told Fr. Mark that Ms. Sarah Tester would like to help with this fall's fellowship activities. Ms. Tester had also reported that the June joint summer vacation Bible school with Zion Church went well, with attendance up from last summer.

Mr. Harper asked Father Mark if he knew of parishes that have had success building strong youth programs in recent years, and he mentioned Pohick Church in Lorton, Virginia and All Saints' Church in Chevy Chase, Md. Fr. Mark and the Vestry discussed how the church should start planning for upcoming youth group activities, including budgeting for expenses like staffing, activities, and other considerations to make this a successful activity for the parish's youth.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Feagles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harper, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Fr. Mark led the Vestry in the closing prayer:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this day and night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

Les Smith
Clerk