

Vestry Minutes, Trinity Episcopal Church, Apalachicola, Florida
From March 9, 2026, 5:00 PM, Parish Office Conference Room

Attending: Stephen Pecot (SP); Jason Carter (JC), Senior Warden; Kerry Petty (KP), Junior Warden; Mike Barber (MB); Dee Crusoe (DC); Karen Kessel (KK); Ellen Loyd (EL); and Alan Pierce (AP) were present. Susan Farmer (SF), clerk, was also present.

Call to Order, Prayer, and Recognition of Guests

- The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM with a prayer led by SP.
- Guests: None

Formation

- Study and Reflection – *Psalm 1:1-2*
- Prayer requests/notifications: Prayers are requested for Alice Levins, Teresa Kaczmarek, Kerry Petty's daughter Kyle who is having surgery soon, the Seymour family mourning Mary's death this week, and Aglaia Dolan's friend Kathy Williams whose son died his week. The Church will begin sending prayer notification cards again starting this week. Those receiving cards this round will be Kristin Anderson, Gill and Lane Autrey, Brant and Kristy Banks, Jo Branch, Karen Brown, Kathy Chesser, Tom and Rennie Edwards, Sabrina Fornes, Carol Harris, Brooks and Faye Jones, Bonnie Lewis, Bill and Patti McCartney, Sam Paschal, Bonnie Stewart, and Ralph and Susie Wagoner.

Reports

- KK moved to approve the February 2026 vestry meeting minutes, DC seconded the motion, and it carried.
- Treasurer/Finance Committee Report: DC is helping the finance committee identify an auditing firm. The finance committee will make a recommendation at the next meeting. BZ will give a report at the next meeting. Financial status has improved since January. The account balances appeared low in January because PW had not made any deposits, and we used funds to bring the balance of the transition/sabbatical account up to budget. Pledges/plate receipts have made up much of this. The chairs of all the individual committee will be invited to attend a vestry meeting once a quarter to present their finances; this will be a new process. JC motioned to accept this report, KK seconded the motion, and it carried.
- Junior Warden Report: KP and Kay Carson are going to the sign store in Eastpoint to work on materials for the new announcement board that will soon be installed. There is a pan to cover its edges in cypress wood rather than aluminum for esthetics. KP would like the vestry to look at the painting quotes (\$467). Vestry members agreed this was a reasonable cost. Quotations for painting the exterior of the church are not in yet. It was predicted that this will involve power washing, spot repairs, some scraping, and then painting. There are some sections inside Benedict Hall that also need painting. It was suggested that use of an outdoor paint would provide better protection over time. Changes in condition noted recently have led to a suggestion that we may want to invest in dehumidifiers next year. The identity of the orange substance noted in Benedict Hall is undetermined. A small area will be painted over as a test before more painting is attempted. AP was commended for his work at PW. DC motioned to accept the Jr. Warden's report, AP seconded the motion, and it carried.
- Liaison and Clergy Reports: Committee Reports were distributed as an inclusive list. The month has been quiet. Outreach: The Soul Mate Project is going forward. A registry has been created online with Amazon. Everything ordered will come to Trinity for distribution. Anything left over will be stored at the Franklin County School for future recipients. TOH: Live Oak Gallery will be having an exhibit featuring pictures of Trinity from 4 to 6 PM the Thursday night of the Tour, and church members are encouraged to attend. Next month, there will be an instructed eucharist on April 19th. MB motioned to approve these reports, DC seconded the motion, and it carried.

Information

- SP and SF gave a brief report on 55th annual diocesan convention, Pensacola, 2/27-2/28
- Update on Trinity Marketplace: An in-person sale for the 21st has been cancelled, and in lieu of that, an online auction will be held. Until the end of March, Trinity marketplace is using Ben's Room in BH. After then, they will use space upstairs in BH. TOH will be having a modified auction of curated-type items. They will use BH 205 for their storage and/or staging. This room will be kept unlocked to allow continued access to fire escape. A proposal is needed for the use of Ben's room in the future. Some suggested uses are as a chapel area, a bride prep area, and a family area for funerals.
- Online safeguard training for vestry members: This is required by the Diocese. Information on this was distributed to vestry members recently by email. This should be completed in next few months.
- Liturgical decisions regarding prayers and bulletins:
 - Prayers of the People:* A notebook will remain in place by the entrance into the church to allow attendees to record their prayer requests. During Lent, this list will be used to author a list for inclusion in the bulletin. Once a prayer request is made, it will be recognized for thirty days. Prayers will be ongoing for those serving in the military, undergoing medical treatments over time, or similar circumstances. SP will include a Collect in the service to honor those on the list. There is also an opportunity in the service for attendees to say aloud the names of those for whom prayers are requested.
 - Bulletins:* The previous attempt to refer attendees to the Book of Common Prayer for some parts of the services to reduce the content of the bulletin did not work well. Because of this, we will go back to printing all content in the bulletin. MB reported that Bonnie Stewart would like to organize all the pew racks so what is needed for the service is readily available. It was also noted that the ushers go through the pews after each service and pick up abandoned bulletins.
- Events of note before next vestry meeting:
 - o Cursillo #174, 3/12 – 3/15, Beckwith Camp & Conference Center, Fairhope (Stephen out of office 3/11-3/16). Brooks will lead this service, and Joy will lead the music.
 - o Palm Sunday, 3/29. Attendees will process around Gorrie Square.
 - o Maundy Thursday, 4/2: Agape Supper at 5pm (KP coordinating), service at 6 PM (with foot washing)
 - o Good Friday, 4/3: Service at noon, Stations of the Cross at 6 PM
 - o Holy Saturday, 4/4: Service at noon
 - o Easter Sunday, 4/5: Sunrise at Lafayette Park at 7:30 AM, Principal Service at 10:30 AM
 - o Next vestry meeting 4/13

Discussions

MB noted that Kay Carson is going to set up a table on the 22nd for editing of the directory

Decisions: None

Good of the Order: no further business

Closing Prayer

We give you thanks, Almighty Father, for all the benefits you have given us. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal: 5 PM

Respectfully submitted by SF, Clerk.