

Vestry Meeting Highlights: August 17, 2025

To foster transparency about church business we are instituting a monthly column to highlight the decisions made at monthly Vestry meetings.

Additionally, any parishioner is welcome to attend our meetings (usually 11:45 a.m., the third Sunday of the month in the parish library) and minutes of meetings are available in the wall holder on the right as you enter the parlor.

Spotlight—Family Ministry: Periodically, the vestry invites church ministries to speak on their program/projects, identify resource needs, tell us more about their vision and goals, and exchange ideas for ministry success. This month we focused on Family Ministry. Family Ministry Coordinator Etienna Wright provided an outline for the coming year. **Wow**—the planning and innovative thought to meet the needs of families and youth and create intergenerational programs is **amazing!** Watch this newsletter for upcoming information. Areas of need are threefold: 1) Act as Doorkeepers or “Shepherds” for the Godly Play (Sunday School) program, 2) Help to publicize our youth events on Bainbridge Island, and 3) Help to set up intergenerational events during the year. We are very blessed to have Etienna lead this important ministry.

Gift Acceptance Policy: Our Chancellor Kathy Bolles collaborated with the Finance Committee to update our old gift acceptance policy to conform to state regulations and other community standards. Additionally, it is intentionally written for lay people to interpret (i.e., not in “legalese!”).

Review Letter of Agreement of our Interim: Among Dianne’s areas of responsibility are worship, education, and stewardship, plus supervision of all staff. The vestry acts as agents concerning property, relations of the parish to clergy, and must ensure standard business methods are observed. The title agreed upon for Rev. Dianne is: “Interim.”

Change in Service Time: Our Interim recommended that we change the 10 a.m. Sunday Service time to begin at 10:30 a.m. We discussed pros and cons and decided the change warrants a trial starting September 14 and will be

evaluated at the annual meeting on February 1, 2026. More information can be found about this in the Interim's letter.

Solar Panel project: We reviewed, modified, and accepted proposals to begin a project to install 127 solar panels on our campus roofs (all but the sanctuary). The state awarded us a grant to reimburse all related costs. Many **thanks** to George Robertson for helping us get the grant to reduce our carbon footprint and energy usage!

Buildings & Grounds: We are so fortunate to have the Campus Stewards group and the professionally skilled expertise of their leader, retired architect Mary Anne Smith. They have created a valuable roadmap of prioritized projects so we can anticipate acute needs, not overlook periodic maintenance, and plan financially for future needs as our campus ages. Only two top priority projects remain to be completed: graveling the lower parking lot and cleaning/repairing the brick and mortar of the sanctuary. Both have been authorized.

Annual Giving Campaign: Our **very** capable leader, Kathy Anderson, has assembled a team to coordinate the Annual Giving ("Stewardship") Appeal. The appeal will begin on Sunday, October 12, with final in-gathering on November 9.

Ministry Fair: Homecoming Sunday and the Ministry Fair will be Sunday, September 14, following the 10:30 a.m. service. Our Administrator Etienna is coordinating ministries that would like to participate. Vestry liaisons will contact their respective ministry leaders to encourage their participation.

There were other discussions and reports, which you can find in the published minutes. So much is happening at St. Barnabas!

—Phil Fergusson, People's Warden