

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chandler AZ
Vestry Meeting Minutes: February 25, 2026



Attendance:

Officers:

- Rector, Rev. Monica Whitaker
- Sr. Warden, Kaytee Cobb
- Jr. Warden, Claude Haynes
- Treasurer, Sue Duke
- Clerk, Susan Cyr (class of 2027)

Class of 2026

- Gloria Adams
- Barb Michael
- Sandy Williams
- Nick Spence

Class of 2027

- Justin Allen
- Susan Cyr
- Doug Marley
- Hillson Thangasamy

Class of 2028

- Eileen Burmeister
- David Hale
- Jennifer Salvatori
- Susan Wright

Opening Devotions– Susan Cyr

Land Acknowledgment (All)

We acknowledge the people of the land, the Akimel O’odham, Piipaash, and other indigenous peoples as original stewards of this land given to them by our one and only Creator God. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person.

1. Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. Vestry Meeting* – January 21, 2026
Motion to approve: Barb
Second: Doug
Approved
- b. Annual Meeting* – January 26, 2025
Motion to approve: Gloria Adams
Second: Larry Dumka
Approved by the congregation.

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2. Wardens' Items

a. Introductions

Kaytee: baptized at St. Matthew's. Four Children 7-15. Book podcaster.

Claude: originally a Southern Baptist, Tennessee State, theater production.

Daughter Molly, amateur astronomer

Jennifer: 3 daughters, Psych and education background

David: 4 adopted children, 2 years at St. Matthew's, podcaster, recovering Catholic

Justin Allen: 11 years at St. Matthew's, 2 sons, works in advertising

Gloria: At St. Matthew's for 12 years, retired, 4 daughters, stepdaughter

Susan Wright: 10 years at St. Matthew's, 3 daughters, pediatric speech language pathologist, lemonade truck

Nick: 5 years at St. Matthew's, electronic engineer, two kids, he and Audrey about to become grandparents

Eileen: Since 2019, two grown children, Works at APS in HR in succession planning

Sue: 4 children, 7 grandchildren,

Joel: At St. Matthew's 12 years, one son, one daughter, retiring treasurer

Hillson: From India, father was Anglican priest, son, daughter, mechanical engineer,

Doug: 19 years at St. Matthew's, horseman, paralegal, teacher for 18 years, 2 grown children

Barb: At St. Matthew's for 18 years, retired elementary teacher, two grown children,

Rev Monica, 2 years at St. Matthew's, one daughter, grandson,

Susan Cyr: 8 years at St. Matthew's, retired chemical engineer, tech writer, author of two novels, currently in choir with husband Gary, bell choir, Comfort Ministry (knitting), Wedding Coordinator

b. Vestry Responsibilities

Need to get most current version of bylaws. (Rev. Monica)

c. Vestry of the Day process and signup

d. Opening devotions introduction and signup

Claude relayed encouragement from the Bishop for the vestry to engage in group prayer and Bible study.

e. March meeting planning

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- f. Vestry dinner invite and planning
Friday, March 27, 6:00. Early (5:00) arrivals welcome to have a head start with a beverage. This gathering is just the vestry. (Note: start time was later changed to 5:30.)
- g. Holy Week heads-up. Claude and Kaytee want participation from our youth.

3. Rector's Report*

- a. Parochial Report* Motion to approve: Hillson, Second: Susan Cyr. Approved. Attendance tracked in the parish register. Financials completed by Janet.
- b. Need someone to manage Easter Brunch. Kaytee, Jennifer, and David.
- c. Bishop here March 15. She likes to have an "Ask the Bishop" town hall in the Parish Hall during coffee hour. Rev Monica will follow up with Caren and Bob. Vestry lunch with the bishop, Pita Jungle.
- d. Complete Safe Church Training.

4. Committee / Ministry Reports

- a. Finance Committee (Sue)
 - i. January financials from Joel are posted on the google drive.*
January had a large influx of cash. Net \$37K. But we ended 2025 Net \$23K.
 - ii. Joel motion to approve January financials; David seconded. Approved.
 - iii. Motion to approve releasing Joel and appointing Sue by Gloria, seconded by Eileen. Approved.
- b. Creation Care. Kaytee is our vestry rep.
- c. Video support: Ruth is retiring / moving. Micah Cobb is joining the team.
- d. Buildings & Grounds* (Nick) Work day Feb 28, working on irrigation issues, fire protection, sewer issues, probably should not use garbage disposal.
- e. Outreach. Jen Downey retiring as leader. Justin will be the vestry rep.
- f. Security. Getting bids in for grant from Homeland Security. 5 more cameras, ballistic paneling in pulpit, removable bollards. Anything we get needs to be approved by the vestry.

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- g. Beloved Community*
- h. Stewardship (Hillson) Ministry Faire May 3. One session, 10 am. Ministry Faire leaders are meeting April 12.
- i. Inreach Focus Group. Our last scheduled tea was December 3. Kaytee and Susan Cyr will be supporting the events.

5. New / Recurring Business

6. Up Next for Vestry:

Reminder to register for an anti-racism training cohort if you have not already taken the course. <https://azdiocese.org/anti-racism/>

Next Vestry meetings:
Wednesday, March 18
Thursday, April 30

Vestry of the Day.

3/1/2026	Nick Spence
3/8/2026	Doug Marley
3/15/2026	Hillson Thangasamy
3/22/2026	Jennifer Salvatori
3/29/2026	Barb Michael

John Wennes offered to open the campus on Sunday mornings; just ask him!

Opening Prayer for March 18: Kaytee

7. Closing Prayer/Adjourn

Vestry minutes are reviewed and approved in next vestry meeting, after which they are posted on the St. Matthew's website. Reports* referenced in the minutes are available to the St. Matthew's congregation upon request to the [clerk](#).
