

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chandler AZ
Vestry Meeting Agenda/Minutes: August 26, 2026



BUSINESS MEETING: 6:30 – 8:00PM – in the Parish Hall & on Zoom

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
- ☒ Nick Spence

Class of 2027

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

Class of 2028

- ☒ Eileen Burmeister
- ☒ David Hale
- ☒ Susan Wright

Opening Devotions– Barb

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* – July, 2026

Motion to approve: Justin

Second: Barb Approved.

- b. Annual meeting minutes will be reviewed/approved by the congregation in January 2027.

2. Wardens’ Items (from last month)

- a. Organ Stop Pizza Night! Thursday, August 27, 5:30 pm. 60+ people!

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- b. Capital Campaign(s) for Renovations: Chapel/Kitchen/Plumbing/Memorial Garden. Next steps. Three teams, would like vestry rep, as well as B&G and Staff, on each. Open membership to congregation on St. Matthew's Sunday.
 - i. Kitchen / PH: Sue Duke, Barb Michael, and David Hale (also Jennifer Salvatori)
 - ii. Chapel and Office: Susan & Gary Cyr, Justin Hale (with Darlene, Pat Needham)
 - iii. Memorial Garden: Susan Wright. Sue Ellen Eyre
 - c. Do we have someone from the Vestry that would like to be part of the security team? Jennifer volunteered, but we would like to have a different person since she is no longer part of our vestry. Barb has volunteered.
 - d. Start brainstorming before the fall scheduling rush: who do you think would make a great fit for vestry and should be encouraged to run next year? Bring names starting in the September meeting.
3. Rector's Report*
- a. Presentation by Deacon Mike and Larry Dumka. Community Engagement gathering of 60 people. As a dues-paying member, approval by the vestry to participate and spend \$6,000 for July 2026-June 2027 is required. Three of the four new council members have been engaged. Surveying the congregation showed that there is a need for grief counseling. Motion to approve: Justin. Approved.
 - b. Abby Warnick has been hired as our new part time administrative assistant. Because she is related to Jennifer Salvatori, Jennifer has resigned from the vestry in accordance with St. Matthew's bylaws.
 - c. Mutual Ministry Review. Saturday, September 26, 8:30-11:30
 - d. Parish Discernment Committee recommendation regarding Doug Marley's candidacy for Holy Orders. Barb is chair of the committee. They met 5 times with Doug, each sharing spiritual journey. Committee strongly recommends Doug move forward towards the diaconate. Vestry signed the approval form.
 - e. Children, Youth, and Family Formation (See also Kadi Strong's Youth Group report*.)

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4. Committee / Ministry Reports

- a. Finance* (Sue / Claude) Approve for audit: Justin Second: Eileen Approved
- b. Creation Care (Eileen) Upcycling event this Saturday, 1:30 – 3:30.
- c. Buildings & Grounds* (Nick)
 - i. John Wennes will be away most of August and September.
 - ii. Tree trimming will be needed. From storm damage.
 - iii. \$40-50k of projects if we have the money.
- d. Outreach (Justin) Meeting in July, ~20 people. Visit from Shirley Duffy making sure we are supporting our parish members going through grief. This is part of the inreach ministry. Val Sweig is a trained facilitator for Walking the Mourner's Path.
- e. Security (Rev. Monica – See also Rector's Report)
 - i. New online class from Church Next - Church Security: Balancing Welcome & Safety (45 minutes). Please watch the video between now and the August meeting; discussion at August meeting.
- f. Beloved Community* (See Rector's Report).
- g. Stewardship (Hillson)*
- h. Inreach Focus Group (Rev. Monica)
More intergenerational events.

5. New / Recurring Business

- a. Continuing conversation on David Hale's proposed addition of a Saturday evening service.
- b. Status? New machine was returned; not working with our electrical system.
- c. New / Proposed ministries. (Susan W)
 - i. Status? "Messy Middle" She has reached out to moms to have a game night. Still need to figure out childcare. Maybe a movie in the chapel for kids. Need supervision; must have Safe Church training. Other ideas: yoga, painting, snacks.

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- ii. Status? Singles Event. Maybe in coordination with football event.

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/> There is a zoom cohort September 12.

Next Vestry meeting is **Wednesday, September 16**– Opening Devotions: Justin

Vestry of the Day: Full /updated list is on the Vestry - Google Drive.

With Jennifer's departure from Vestry, we need someone on November 8, December 27, and February 7.

John Wennes offered to open the campus on Sunday mornings; just ask him!
wennes80@yahoo.com

Opening prayer/devotions:

Meeting Date	Opening Prayer / Devotions
September 16, 2026	Justin Allen
October 21, 2026	Doug Marley
November 18, 2026	Susan Wright
December 16, 2026	Eileen Burmeister
January 20, 2027	
February 17, 2027	Susan Cyr

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](#).
