

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chandler AZ
Vestry Meeting: January 21, 2026



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

Attendance:

Officers:

- Rector, Rev. Monica Whitaker
- Sr. Warden, Georgia Merz
- Jr. Warden, Donnie Provost
- Treasurer, Joel Van Over (class of 2025)
- Clerk, Susan Cyr (class of 2027)

Class of 2025

- Chris Cordes
- John Wennes
- Sharon Werner

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

- Susan Cyr
- Douglas Marley
- Heather Stewart
- Hillson Thangasamy

Opening Devotions– Rev. Monica

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: Hillson. Second: Sandy. Approved
- b. Annual Meeting* – January 26, 2025
Review/Approval TBD January 2027

2. Wardens’ Items

- a. Status on reaching proposed candidates for 2026 Vestry Nominees.
There are 7 candidates for 5 openings.

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chandler AZ
Vestry Meeting: January 21, 2026



b. Mutual Ministry review in 2026. More to be explained in early 2026 with the new vestry.

3. Rector's Report*

a. We have applied for a grant over \$29,000 for security improvements, but there is still work to do to get it.

4. Committee / Ministry Reports

a. Finance Committee (Joel)

i. December financials

ii. 2026 Budget approval. Sandy will be the vestry representative on the Finance Committee.

Motion to approve 2026 budget by Joel, Seconded by Sandy. Approved.

iii. Joel's retirement as Treasurer at end of this term. Successor Sue Duke was introduced.

b. Creation Care. We now have a lock on the recycle bin.

c. Buildings & Grounds (John) John will continue on the committee, and Nick will be the vestry representative.

d. Outreach (Sharon)*

e. Security. (Sharon) After first of year, plan for active shooter training.

f. Beloved Community*

There is a lot of engagement with our city council.

g. Stewardship (Hillson) There will be planning for the spring Ministry Faire in February

h. Inreach Focus Group. Our last scheduled tea was December 3. Suggestion to propose dates in 2026.

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chandler AZ
Vestry Meeting: January 21, 2026



5. New / Recurring Business

- a. Preparations for Annual Meeting

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 meeting: Wednesday, February 25
Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 25, 9:30 AM

Vestry of the Day (January-March).

1/25/2026	Heather Stewart '27
2/1/2026	Doug Marley '27
2/8/2026	Hillson Thangasamy
2/15/2026	Sandy Williams
2/22/2026	Nick Spence
3/1/2026	Barb Michael

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

Opening Prayer for February 25: 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](#).
