

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chandler AZ
Vestry Meeting Minutes: July 15, 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
- ☒ Jennifer Salvatori
- ☒ Susan Wright

Opening Devotions– David

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* – May, 2026

Motion to approve: Eileen Second: Nick. Approved

b. Vestry Email Meeting* – June 2026

Motion to approve: Claude Second: Doug. Approved

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

2. Wardens' Items (from Kaytee)

- a. Organ Stop Pizza Night! I want to get this on the calendar and I'd like the vestry to prioritize being there, so let's look at calendars! (8/27 or 8/15 are possibilities.**

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Reservations for parties of 20 or more)

- b. Chapel/Kitchen/Plumbing/Memorial garden renovations: let's start talking about ideas here and how we'd want to structure a campaign. Vestry is great at coming up with ideas so we want your input!
- c. Do we have someone from the Vestry that would like to be part of the security team? Jennifer!
- 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?

3. Rector's Report*

- a. Two-way radio training tonight! Radios are located in Rev. Monica's office, Natalie's office, the kitchen, Nursery, and Narthex (2). Same channel (1). VoD should turn off the radios at the end of the day. VoD has ear piece with a cord, as well as Joey. Pushing the button on the cord will turn on the radio. Suggest wearing a garment with a pocket to store the radio. Wearing the ear piece does make it seem like you're in a tunnel.
- b. In addition to the radios, we are getting bollards for the patio as well as ballistic panels for the altar area. We're looking at signage that is not too offputting.
- c. Office Worker's Job Description and Recruitment
- d. Bishop Kumar is visiting July 19. Enhanced/ hosted coffee hour? Eileen is VoD.
- e. Traces of the Trade August 14, 6 pm in the Sanctuary.
- f. Natalie is purchasing a new TV for the Chapel using money from the sales of the pews.
- g. Dios de los Muertos celebration on a Saturday morning around Indigenous People's Day with altar of remembrance on All Saints.
- h. Diocesan Convention delegates, Justin and Susan W are alternates. Claude, Kaytee, Sylvia, Jennifer.

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4. Committee / Ministry Reports
 - a. Finance* (Sue / Claude)
 - b. Creation Care (Eileen) Movie "Hoppers" July 25 4:30 pm.
 - c. Buildings & Grounds (Nick)
 - i. AC filters have been replaced in the office. parish hall and C building
 - ii. A couple of light fittings need replacing - is there funding/interest to replace lights in the couch room / kitchen (approx \$85 per light fitting) with LED. Later.
 - iii. Rose garden irrigation was off for a few days resulting in damage to some of the rose bushes
 - iv. John Wennes will be away most of August and September. Tree trimming will be needed.
 - d. Outreach (Justin) More activities in the fall. New members from Ministry Faire.
 - e. Security (Rev. Monica – See also Rector's Report)
 - i. Security Team shifting from Vestry ad hoc committee to parishioner leadership
 - ii. 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.
<https://www.churchnext.tv/library/church-security-244392/758410/about/>
 - f. Beloved Community* (See Rector's Report). (Justin) About 400-600 hydration backpacks were packed. We could do it here.
 - g. Stewardship (Hillson)
 - h. Inreach Focus Group (Rev. Monica) Last scheduled tea was May 20.

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5. New / Recurring Business

- a. Continuing conversation on David Hale's proposed addition of a Saturday evening service.
- b. David proposes purchasing a new restaurant style coffee station. \$305. It makes 2 pots at a time. We still need a hot water kettle. Susan W will ask Natalie to put out a tip jar. Susan W will create a sign.
- c. Update on pew removal (See Rector's Report.) There is one left.
- d. New / Proposed ministries. (Susan W)
 - i. "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.
 - ii. Singles Event. Serena was contacted at the diocese, waiting for response.

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 are training cohorts in August and September.

Next Vestry meeting is **Wednesday, August 19**– Opening Devotions: Barb

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

Opening prayer/devotions:

Meeting Date	Opening Prayer / Devotions
August 19, 2026	Barb Michael
September 16, 2026	Justin Allen
October 21, 2026	Doug Marley
November 18, 2026	Susan Wright
December 16, 2026	Eileen Burmeister
January 20, 2027	Jennifer Salvatori
February 17, 2027	Susan Cyr

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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](#).
