

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chandler AZ
Vestry Meeting: December 17, 2025



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

1. Opening Devotions—Heather

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.

2. Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. Vestry Meeting – November 19, 2025
Motion to approve: Georgia Second: John Approved
- b. Annual Meeting* – January 26, 2025
Review/Approval TBD January 2026

3. Wardens' Items

- a. Status on reaching proposed candidates for 2026 Vestry Nominees.
It looks like there will be more candidates than openings.
- b. Mutual Ministry review in 2026. More to be explained in early 2026 with the new vestry.

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- c. Georgia met with the Swishers regarding coffee hour and will continue to discuss any suggestions for managing individuals' costs and concerns about the level of work that is perceived to be expected. Saints in Action set up the PH for a funeral; it's a lot of work for such a small team, and the team needs to be expanded. Ministry leader is Shafika Brown.

4. Rector's Report*

5. Committee / Ministry Reports

- a. Finance Committee (Joel)
 - i. November financials
Joel will still be on the finance committee.
November income was lowest it's been, so concerning.
 - ii. Draft budget for 2026 presented
 - iii. Joel's retirement as Treasurer at end of this term. Successor is identified.
- b. Creation Care- New recycle bin is here. It already has a garbage bag in it... neighbors? Maybe we need a lock. Signage TBD.
- c. Buildings & Grounds (John)
We have the Perea bid for the plumbing project.
AED for the PH was stolen; there isn't one in the sanctuary.
- d. Outreach (Sharon)*
- e. Security (Sharon) After first of year, plan for active shooter training.
- f. Beloved Community*
- g. Stewardship (Hillson)
- h. Inreach Focus Group. Our last scheduled tea was December 3. Suggestion to propose dates in 2026.

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6. New / Recurring Business

- a. Preparations for Annual Meeting Report, responsibilities, due dates, processing, printing, etc.
Susan to send clarification on which ministry leaders are responsible for which ministry.
- b. Christmas Eve Services at 4, 6, and 8. Christmas Day at 10 am. Vestry coverage is needed at all three services.
4:00 Barb
6:00 Susan (and Gary)
8:00 Hillson
Christmas Day: Heather
- c. New lockbox instructions (with new photos) are in revised Vestry of the Day document.
- d. Suggestion by Nick to include raising (and lowering?) of patio umbrellas as part of VoD procedure.

7. Up Next for Vestry:

Reminder to register for an anti-racism training cohort if you have not already taken the course.

Next Vestry meeting: Wednesday, January 21 (last meeting for retiring Vestry members)

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 25, 10 am. Will there be changes to service times?
8:30 traditional service, 9:30 meeting, 11:30 contemporary service.

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Vestry of the Day (November-December). Full /updated list is on the [Vestry - Google Drive](#).

12/21/2025	Nick Spence '26	nick.spence@wightware.com	(480) 882-8114
12/28/2025	John Wennes '25	wennes80@yahoo.com	(509) 280-1255
1/4/2026	Barb Michael '26	barbmichael49@gmail.com	(480) 549-8956
1/11/2026	Donnie Provost JW	dprovost@greystar.com	(480) 628-7608
1/18/2026	Hillson Thangasamy '27	hillson.t@indo-mim.com	(602) 856-0153
1/25/2026	Heather Stewart '27	attorneyhlstewart@gmail.com	(480) 772-2575
2/1/2026	Doug Marley '27	douglasjmarley@gmail.com	(480) 988-0250

Please note that on the following Sunday in 2025 the Youth Group is not meeting. Kadi requests that the VoD ensures that all doors are secured.

December 28 (John)

8. 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 with * are available to the St. Matthew's congregation upon request to the [clerk](#).
