St. Andrew's Church

Vestry Minutes | 15 October 2026

Present: Paul Catsos, Jerry Coogan, David Crandall, Jim Dexter, Susan Feyrer, Jennifer Giles, Billy Kelly, Jay MacLeod, Jennifer McCracken, Mike Quinn, Nancy Rollins, Anne Watkins.
Absent: Kathleen Hunter, Kathy Mathias.

Opening Devotion

The meeting began at 5:05 pm with a brief devotion and discussion of the Beatitudes led by Jennifer McCracken.

September Minutes

The September 17 minutes were duly approved, with five abstentions.

Bishop Election

Delegates will vote for the next bishop at diocesan convention on October 24. Vestry members were encouraged to review the diocesan profile, candidate materials, and recorded forums. A parish discussion will take place Sunday, October 18, at 11:15 am, following the 10:00 am service. Nancy Rollins will facilitate a respectful discussion of the parish's hopes for the diocese and desired qualities in its next bishop, rather than campaigning for individual candidates. Delegates will vote individually.

Bishop Visitation

Bishop Rob's upcoming visit will include baptisms, confirmations, receptions, and reaffirmations of faith, with Deacon Jeff participating. The Bishop will join both coffee hours for informal conversation and questions. Donations toward his youth ministry project may be made by check to St. Andrew's, with "Bishop + Rob Youth" in the memo line. After the total is known, the Vestry executive and clergy will decide whether the parish should supplement or match individual gifts. The new altar has not arrived; if it is not in place for the visit, a separate consecration will be arranged.

Stewardship

Dave Crandall reported that the "A Home for Growth" campaign is off to a strong start. The mailing went out on schedule, and nearly three-quarters of early pledgers have increased their gifts, averaging about a 10% increase against the 6% campaign goal. Dave will monitor returns and consider additional outreach if pledges slow. He will deliver the stewardship minute on Sunday.

The Vestry discussed a campaign celebration about three weeks after the November 8 Ingathering. Originally proposed for St. Andrew's Day, November 30, the event will take place Tuesday, December 1, at midday, since Monday is difficult for some. A short service, with the format (Eucharist or midday prayer) to be determined by Jay MacLeod and Jennifer McCracken, will precede a social lunch. St. Andrew's will provide the main course, and parishioners will bring sides, salads, or dessert. If the new altar is not ready for the Bishop's visitation, Jay will ask whether Bishop Rob can consecrate it on December 1. Dave will draft communications under the working title "St. Andrew's Celebration," and room availability will be confirmed with Shelly Boucher.

STAND for Justice and Peace

Jennifer McCracken reported on STAND's participation in a Granite State Organizing Project prayer-flag project honoring people who died in ICE-related violence or detention. An optional liturgy and dedication will follow the October 18 bishop-election discussion, with flags displayed temporarily near the labyrinth. Discussion emphasized honoring those who died while remaining sensitive to differing congregational perspectives.

With election day coming up, the church will be open for private prayer from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, November 2–4. Volunteers are needed for morning and evening coverage.

Buildings and Grounds

Paul Catsos submitted a report in advance. He moved that the Vestry approve up to $8,000 for tree work, prioritizing removal of two dead ash trees threatening the Strawberry Blossoms fence and cabling the birch trees. A fourth estimate is pending, and work should be scheduled before winter storms. The Treasurer will determine the funding source. The motion passed unanimously.

Sanctuary Renewal and Entrance Vestibule

The project remains broadly on budget, with final costs estimated at approximately $580,000, pending remaining invoices. Contributions exceed project costs by an estimated $168,000, potentially supporting Phase II.

Following on from the September Vestry meeting, a diocesan energy-sustainability grant application was submitted on October 9 for a new entrance vestibule. A copy of the application was sent to Vestry members in advance of the meeting. The request was for $70,000, roughly a third of the estimated total cost of the project. Vestry members made some suggestions for improvement to the application. The application will be reviewed by a diocesan committee of experts that will likely advise the Standing Committee about what level of funding to award.

Possible Phase II work includes window replacement, ceiling insulation, and other improvements to the building envelope. Further cost estimates will be sought. Concerns were also raised about sanctuary acoustics following the painting of ceiling tiles and the visibility of the clear entrance doors.

Finance

Mike Quinn will circulate the detailed financial memorandum when complete. Revenue is below budget, partly because anticipated income has not yet been received and some budgeted sources remain unused. A $100,000, 13-week certificate of deposit earning 2.5% has been set up; additional CDs with staggered maturities may be considered. Work continues to track restricted gifts separately from funds available for general operations.

Annual Meeting and Elections

The Vestry agreed to plan the Annual Meeting for Sunday, January 24, 2027, between services, with a budget-review session on January 17. January 31 may serve as a weather backup. Jerry Coogan will not seek a second Vestry term. Kathy Mathias is willing to stand for re-election but wishes to step down as Clerk; Susan Feyrer's plans remain unconfirmed. A new Treasurer and Warden will be needed as Mike Quinn's term ends and Paul Catsos does not plan to continue as Warden. At least one additional Vestry position must be filled. The terms of diocesan delegates Jennifer Giles and Lynn Salo also expire in 2027 and require follow-up conversations.

Announcements

For announcements at morning services, vestry members discussed the need to improve the visibility of various parish ministries and groups. The Vestry agreed to highlight ministries more intentionally during announcements. It will be helpful for Vestry members to be notified in advance which ministries should be highlighted.

Other Business

The missing St. Andrew icon has been found and will be installed in its new location. Future Vestry meetings will begin at 5:00 pm and conclude no later than 7:00 pm to accommodate the group using the space afterward. The meeting concluded with the Grace at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, David Crandall

The next Vestry meeting is Thursday, November 19, at 5:00 pm.