

Vestry Meeting Minutes

St. Mary's Stone Harbor

August 17, 2025

In attendance: Mother Allison, Lillian, Allyn, Cheryl, Kate, Kathy. Dina was excused.

The meeting began with a prayer at approximately 11:30 am.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July meeting, and they were approved.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial statements for July, and they were approved.

Mother Allison reported that by the end of September she will have performed six baptisms including:

- Rory Carr-Jones: 6/29/2025- Completed
- Harper Jo Baumen 7/13/2025 at 4:30 Beach- Completed
- Tate Matthew Wycoff 8/24/2025
- September:
 - Loukas Gabriel Paras 9/21/25
 - Julie's Granddaughter (Beach Service)

She also noted the many activities coming up in the next few months, including:

- Merchant's Side Walk Sale – August 23, 2025 (**ST. MARY'S BAKE SALE**)
- Savour September 9/20/2025
- Annika and Franz Wedding 9/26/25
- St Francis (Blessing of the Pets) October 5th
- Clergy Conference October 6th-8th
- Meg and Casey Wedding October 18th
- Vacation October 25-November 2nd
- Convocation Gathering Nov. 13th All Saints Galloway
- Diocesan Convention Nov. 22nd
- Thanksgiving Day Service Nov. 23rd at 2:00pm – Mother Allison will preside.

We were reminded that St. Mary's has become known as a hub of hospitality in Stone Harbor and that Lisa and Mother Allison have personally done a wonderful job of building relationships with members of the business community. Kate mentioned that the "leap of

faith” we took in hiring a full-time priest in 2020 has reaped benefits that could not have been realized with a part-time priest.

The November Convocation meeting will be Mother Allison’s first time leading the gathering. We discussed the landscape of the Episcopal churches in the convocation and in Cape May in particular. She sought input from the Vestry on how best to engage the Diocese at large in discussions of the future of the Episcopal Church in our region, and how to approach the topic at the Convocation meeting. A good discussion followed and it was suggested that Rev. Canon Caroline Carson, Canon for Congregational Vitality and Engagement, be invited to lead a discussion at the convocation meeting.

Lillian’s Warden’s report included a discussion of the upcoming Bake Sale. Everyone was encouraged to drop off baked goods even if they can’t attend the sale.

We also discussed the need to make the minutes of the Vestry meeting available to the congregation, as they often are unaware of the church’s activities and financial needs. Lillian will follow up with Julie about where they could be placed on the website, after they have been approved by the Vestry.

Lillian also continued the discussion of holding Bingo Nights in the parish hall during the winter months. A lively discussion ensued with lots of fun ideas. At this point, we are considering holding a Bingo Night weekly for only the months of January and February; perhaps ending right before Lent. Which weeknight is still TBD, but maybe Wednesdays, and perhaps we can offer a light dinner (Franks and beans?) from 5 pm to 6 pm, for a small fee or donation, and then bingo from 6 pm to 8 pm. Details of how to run the game are still being researched.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at approximately 12:25 pm.

Minutes prepared by Lillian Armstrong, Senior Warden