

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, STONE HARBOR
VESTRY MEETING
April 14, 2026
MINUTES

Present: The Rev. Mo. Allison Burns-LaGreca; Dina Ziemba, Lillian Armstrong, Lawrence Schmidt (via phone), Pat Saunders, Jack Othius, Kate Rodriguez, Susan Destefano, Cathy Johnson

The meeting opened with prayer at 6:30pm

A motion was made to approve the financial reports from March. The motion was seconded and report approved.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March meeting. The motion was seconded and report approved.

The vestry had open dialogue regarding the following discernment questions.

Participation and engagement - who is actively participating in the life of the parish:

- The current consistent parishioners are the ones who participate. 90% of the work is done by 10% of the people.
- We need more greeters, ushers, eucharistic ministers, and people to do altar guild.
- Cathy agreed to join the altar guild.
- Susan agreed to join the altar guild as well.
- Discussion ensued about time of service- most expressed interest in going back to a 9 am service. Mother Allison agreed to get congregational feedback via the weekly newsletter.

Leadership Capacity - Do we have enough active leadership?

- Yes, we have leadership but we need more active participants.
- Leaders are stretched.
- We need people to rally around the leaders doing the work.

Worship Vitality - Is worship spiritually nourishing and welcoming?

- Yes

Outreach and Visibility - Is the church visible and known in the community?

-We get a lot of summer people who do return

-Our Saturday service has grown each year.

-We need to be more present at things that happen in the community.

Suggestions - a table at Savour September, a table at the Farmer's Market on Sundays.

Congregational Energy - Do people feel hopeful about the parish?

- People do not feel hopeful, our congregation is getting older.

Pastoral Care and Community - Are we caring well for one another?

-yes

Financial Health - Is the parish financially stable?

- Yes because we have investments. In the short term we are OK.
- At some point we have to ask ourselves, are we being financially responsible using up all of our money?

We are a resurrection people.

We have to present ourselves as hopeful people. We are the cornerstone of the community. We have to present ourselves that way.

***Action points**

- Investigate changing the time of the service
- Investigate how we can make ourselves visible in the Stone Harbor community.
- Strawberry Fest and Bake Sale help our visibility and are the events coming up again.

- Explore the idea of the open house - in July - maybe on Thursday night when we used to do Thursdays on the Lawn? Our space is utilized a great deal in July. We need to look at when the church is available. Maybe a Sunday night?
- At the May Vestry meeting we will select a date and come up with a title for the Open House.
- Continue with the discernment process after the summer
- Commit to engaging ourselves with our summer guests.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm.