

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY – TEMPE
Vestry Meeting, March 15, 2026, 12:22 p.m.

Present: Fr. Hunter Ruffin, Rector; Jan Wagner, Senior Warden; Jerry Adwell, Junior Warden; Pat Blackman; Beth Hunt; Alex Mather-Charles; Barbara Peterson; Johnny Sullivan; Heidi Thomas; Aaron VanBriesen; Ann Neal, Treasurer; Andrea Stewart, Clerk.

Absent: Kathy Carney; Floyce Chavez

Gathering:

Fr. Hunter opened the meeting asking the Vestry to share what they reflected on from the February Vestry Retreat.

Consent Agenda:

The Rector's, Senior Warden's, and Junior Warden's Reports were approved by consensus.

Discipleship and Mission:

- Three vendors submitted bids to remove the three dead/dying trees on campus: the pine adjacent to the Nursery playground, the pine east of the Courtyard, and the pecan at the southeast corner of the Farmhouse. Quotes range from \$11,029 to \$16,961. The Junior Warden recommended accepting the bid submitted by Greenfield Land Services for \$12,250. This company has done work for the church in the past, including removal of a large pine in the center of the Nursery playground, and provided wonderful service. Pat Blackman motioned to approve the hiring of Greenfield to remove the trees identified. Aaron VanBriesen seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- In June 2025 the Vestry voted to expand the South Columbarium wall with 30 additional niches made possible by an anonymous donation of \$30,000 specified for that purpose. A resolution was presented to expand the West Columbarium wall and to establish a Memorial Garden Pricing Schedule. Aaron VanBriesen motioned to authorize the expansion of the West Columbarium at a cost not to exceed \$29,250, with funds to be drawn from the Memorial Garden Fund or other designated account as determined by the Treasurer in consultation with the Rector and to establish a Memorial Garden Pricing Schedule. Pat Blackman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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- Spring Clean is scheduled for Saturday, March 21. The day begins at 8:30 and concludes at 11:30. Lunch will be provided for those interested in staying for food and fellowship.
- The Farmhouse roofing project is expected to be completed by Wednesday, March 18. A plumber was hired to get on the roof while the tile was removed and “scope” the restroom vent stack. This was done in hopes of discovering the cause of the declining water level in the toilet bowls and led to the discovery that the main drain line for the building is compromised resulting in raw sewage being discharged into the crawlspace beneath the Farmhouse. The Farmhouse, including both restrooms and the kitchen, is not safe to use until the plumbing issue can be mediated. Epiphany’s insurance will cover the remediation of the contaminated soil in the crawlspace. A quote of \$7,000 was provided for that work. Epiphany’s deductible is \$5,000, so the insurance would cover \$2,000. Heidi Thomas motioned to have a vendor proceed with the remediation as soon as possible as this is considered an urgent issue and there is unlikely to be a lower bid for the work. Jan Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried. Separately, the plumber provided a quote of \$12,356 for the needed repairs to both restrooms. A discussion was held on the practicality of having both restrooms repaired, having only one restroom repaired and, therefore, one not usable, or completing a remodel so there is only one larger restroom. The Vestry agreed to obtain more bids so a more knowledgeable decision can be made.
- It has been several years since our website was developed, and the general opinion is that it is not drawing people to Epiphany. Fr. Hunter and Christian obtained pricing information from several companies. The Church Company can build and maintain our website for \$1,600. Other companies would charge \$2,500 and more for design only. Jan Wagner motioned to move forward and engage The Church Company to create a new website and fund the entire amount from the Marketing Fund. Jerry Adwell seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Fr. Hunter and Christian spoke with a marketing professional about the best ways to attract younger people to Epiphany. It was suggested that we use a Google search engine which would incorporate advertising from other organizations. A bid was obtained from Missional Marketing. Other bids were sought but have been difficult to obtain. As service would be on a month-to-month basis, it was suggested we try Missional Marketing for a period of six months to see what results are for Epiphany. The Vestry will discuss this again at the April meeting as an effort is made to obtain additional bids.

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- The Vestry discussed the option of applying for a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., which was founded in 1937 for the “promotion and support of religious, educational or charitable purposes.” Should Epiphany be the beneficiary of such a grant, it would be used to help form small communities and train leaders. In keeping with the requirements of the Endowment, a Letter of Interest will be submitted before the end of the month.

Financial Report:

- Ann Neal, Parish Treasurer, emailed the financial reports to the Vestry. The Vestry briefly discussed the reports. Pat Blackman motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Heidi Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Other Items Requiring Vestry Action:

- Jan Wagner brought to the Vestry’s attention two important events that will require Vestry participation and support: the annual Stewardship Ministry and the Parish Retreat. She asked for volunteers the help lead these ministries. Pat Blackman volunteered to be part of the Stewardship Ministry. Beth Hunt and Heidi Thomas volunteered to be part of the Parish Retreat committee. Jan also requested that the Vestry members recruit other members of the parish to assist in building the committees.
- The Annual Parochial Report to be submitted to the Diocese before March 1 was distributed to the Vestry via email. Kathy Carney motioned to accept the report. Aaron VanBriesen seconded the motion. The motion carried. The report was submitted to the Diocese. A pro-forma vote was required in person to affirm the approval of the report. Pat Blackman motioned to accept the report. Heidi Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business/Future Agenda Items:

There were no new business or future agenda items.

Closing Prayer and Sending:

Fr. Hunter closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Stewart, Clerk