

Vestry Minutes
The Church of St. Michael and St. George
6345 Wydown Blvd., Clayton MO 63105

Thursday 5/15/25

Vestry Members in Attendance: Joe Sheehan, Bill Jenkins, Rachel Martens, Matt Aplington, Rachel Hebisen, Frankie Eichenberger, David Ott, Gale Patterson, Lindsey Stokes, Rixey Ruffin, Ashley Chapman, Selby Graepel, Christine Johnson, Cathy Sanders

Clergy: The Rev. Andrew Archie, The Rev. Peter Speropulos, The Rev. Tom Albinson

Staff & Guests: Alexis Posnanski, Laurie Brown, Joseph Arndt

PROCEEDINGS

Fr. Tom led the group in an opening prayer to remind us to see Christ in our lives.

All assembled gave thanks for the blessings in their personal lives.

Organ Report (Joseph Arndt)

- Chancel organ was removed the week after Holy Week, and that process is nearly complete.
- The organ will be installed beginning August 1, 2026. But the old organ was failing and was impacting liturgy.
- With the organ removed, the extent of legacy water damage is on display.
- The new organ will be noticeably smaller in size and number of stops, but will be more appropriately sized to our space.
- Joseph distributed renderings of the new pipe organ, which will blend well with the existing Gothic architecture.
- The speakers for the electric organ are now above the choir, rather than at floor level
- New plaster repair work will follow exterior tuckpointing.
- The new organ should be playing by All Saints Day 2026, or earlier.
- We have already raised approximately 40% of the funds for the new organ project

Stewardship Report

- The total fundraising goal for the organ is \$3.8M, of which we have raised 40% of the funds. A special mailing will go out to the congregation shortly to solicit additional contributions for the organ capital campaign
- The annual stewardship campaign continues to outperform in terms of both number of pledges and total amount pledged, including 12 new pledges in the past two weeks alone

Parish Life Report (Laurie Brown)

- The annual ministry fundraiser (Evening in the Tropics) is coming up May 18
- Fr. Tom officiated over a wedding last week; there is also graduation, a funeral and reception, and confirmation coming up in the next several weeks
- The annual parish picnic will occur on May 25
- First week of June is middle school mission week
- We received a thank you note from Trinity thanking us for our outreach ministry work
- We are decommissioning the Nicaragua Ministry, which began in 2000. We helped build a hospital and school there over the years, but we are no longer able to safely travel or send funds to the program in-country
- Funds dedicated to that ministry have been reallocated to other active ministries

Treasurer's Report (David Ott)

- We received income statements for the first three months of the year
- Because we had borrowed money on our line of credit, in February we decided to accelerate our annual net asset release income from the general endowment (normally paid in four quarterly installments throughout the year) in order to save on interest expense.
- Incremental revenue improvement to date is driven by increased pledge activity
- We are on budget for the year from an operating income standpoint
- The large contract payments for the organ are due in August and October
- The report was moved for acceptance, seconded and approved unanimously

Junior Warden's Report (Frankie Eichenberger)

- An update was given on the window project in the front of the church
- The project has been slowed by special needs of the leaded glass and wood rot in each window
- Additional projects for the year include organ-related and restroom improvements, and new hearing loops in the Great Hall and elsewhere

Senior Warden's Report (Joe Sheehan)

- The Senior Warden noted that the financial situation of the Church has improved significantly over the past six years, some of which is attributable to the intentional development efforts of the Development Director
- The Nicaragua mission has been incredibly impactful across the congregation over the past 25 years. Joe Sheehan expressed hope of identifying a similar outreach ministry in the future that would have the full support of the Church community. We must continue to address the great needs around us using this congregation's unique skills and resources.
- The Head of School for TSMSOC continues to perform well. The first draft of the school budget was recently reviewed with the Finance Committee, and is being revised based

on input from the Finance Committee and senior leadership. The school year has been very successful, and the school remains an important ministry of the Church.

Rector's Report (the Rev. Andrew Archie)

- The Rector reflected on the wonderful success of the school year, including numerous baptisms, a wedding, and confirmation. The summer typically brings a slower pace, and some clergy will be absent for vacation at various times throughout the summer.
- Attendance in April was well ahead of prior periods, a positive sign for the life of the parish.

Approval of April Vestry Minutes

- The minutes of the prior meeting were taken by Steven Eisle in the absence of the Clerk
- The minutes were reviewed, moved, approved and accepted unanimously

New Business

- There was no new business raised

The Vestry adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Reviewed and respectfully submitted,

Matt Aplington, Clerk of the Vestry