

TRINITY PARISH

February 19, 2026

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Don Ghostlaw, Rose Riley, Melissa Pavick, Ray Colburn, Aversa Shelton, Sarah Butters, Rob Heath, Greg Joseph, Rebecca Scruton, Melanie Hepburn.

6:33pm Meeting called to order.

- I. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer/Dwelling in the Word.** Rebecca Scruton. Psalm 20.

- II. **Monthly Reports**
 - a. Approval of minutes from January 15, 2026. Corrections noted. Motion to accept made by Joseph, seconded by Colburn. No discussion. Vote to approve unanimous. Minutes approved with noted corrections.
 - b. Financial Report for January 2026. Rob Heath. Expenses over budget by \$290, mainly due to supply clergy and utilities/maintenance. Motion to accept the report made by Shelton, seconded by Butters. Vote to accept unanimous. Report accepted.

- III. **Additional Agenda Items, if any**
 - a. How to acknowledge Dan's last Sunday.

- IV. **New Business**
 - a. Spiritual aspect of vestry leadership. Ghostlaw. Meetings will be kept to 2 hours. Scruton and Butters will serve as Vestry Chaplains to keep the spiritual aspect of our mission at the forefront.
 - b. Parochial Report review and approval. Ghostlaw. The Parochial Report is an annual activity. Thanks to Heath and Riley for their work on assembling this year's report. Motion to accept Parochial Report made by Colburn, seconded by Joseph. No discussion. Vote to accept Parochial Report unanimous. Motion carried.

- c. Shelton's 2/17 email suggestions (attached below). Shelton. How best to move forward sharing our gifts with the community at St. James. Men's dinner and meeting of the wardens from the 2 parishes. There are activities already planned. We are 2 separate and distinct parishes. There are other churches that we could also reach out to, such as St. Andrew's and St. Paul's, communities that we have worked with in the past. Promotion of various parish activities among our neighbor churches. Shelton will serve as the point person to connect with St. James. Ghostlaw and Riley will meet with the new warden at St. James first. Potential joint vestry meeting in April.
- d. Safe church coordinator. Joseph. Reminder to members to make sure compliance with Safe Church rules for certification or recertification.
- e. Brief update on warden change at St. James.

V. Old Business

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Family engagement committee. Pavick. A baby shower for Aversa is planned for Sunday, March 8th. Saturday, April 4th is the Easter Egg Hunt at 11am. Photo op ideas were discussed.
- b. Formation. Scruton. The Team has been generating a lot of good ideas to offer programming once a month. Shane would like to have something for his children once or twice a month. Please think about how to advertise/manage the Big Blue sign – or are there other ways to get the word out.

VII. Closing

- a. Action Items
- b. Closing prayer. Butters.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melanie Hepburn 2/19/2026

FROM AVERSA ON 2/17/26, FOR VESTRY DISCUSSION:

Hi Vestry Team-- and welcome to new Vestry Members,

I'm not sure how to put forth a proposal, but I'd like for us to consider moving forward with blending our activities and offered services with St. James ASAP-- as it's almost Lent and Easter, two eventful liturgical seasons-- even before we have a common priest-in-charge. This pre-emptive approach may benefit Trinity and St. James both now and later by bringing people from St. James to our activities, getting to know each other better, sharing faith and knowledge with each other, as well as smoothing the way for working together more closely should/whenever we get a direct spiritual leader in common.

What that would mean for right now:

- I. Give St. James a list of our activities and invite them to:
 - 1) All of the Faith Formation events, including our Lenten studies but also the mystery morning prayers and studies on zoom that are not advertised weekly to our whole congregation, (N.B.: These really should be advertised weekly to our whole congregation.)
 - 2) Our next charitable drive
 - 3) Our Ash Wednesday and Holy Week Schedule (in case we have slightly different times. It can be phrased as "We know that St. James' has its own services and traditions, but are there times where your services may be more convenient for our parishioners, or vice versa? It could be useful to cross-advertise the pre-Easter services. Here is our schedule.")
 - 4) Our Easter Egg Hunt/ next social activity
- II. Ask St. James for a list of their activities:
 - 1) Put the activities (Men's dinner, prayer groups, etc.) on the E-Blast
-> For instance, this Saturday they are having their Carol's Closet.
- III. See if there is interest in having similar committees between the two churches meet together to see how the programming is different at each church, and if it can be made more complementary.
 - 1) Committees might include: Family, Faith Formation. We could learn from them on the former, and they might be interested in what we do for the latter.

If we're to take this common priest-in-charge approach seriously, it might be helpful to think of ourselves like Wearmouth-Jarrow, the famous monastery in Britain which was "one monastery in two places." (Its most famous personage was the Venerable Bede, author of the "Ecclesiastical History of the English People" in 731AD, one of the first English histories, and author of the first English translation of the Gospel of St. John as well as many famous sermons, exegeses, and treatises). Though Wearmouth was on the River Wear near the North Sea, and Jarrow on the River Tyne a bit further down, they shared one abbot, wrote each other heavily and kept up correspondences, and sent resources, both physical and intellectual, back and forth to each other. Just as Trinity and St. James do church services separately, so did they; there was some reduplication in activities (manuscript making), but each had their own strengths, just as we and St. James do. But maybe thinking of ourselves as cooperative, symbiotic, already two arms (or a set of arms and a set of legs-- choose your metaphor--) under one head as one body would help us to expand ourselves spiritually and communally with St. James and pave the way for being two aspects of one unit under a head priest.

Opinions? Under what auspices should something like this be submitted?

Very best and warmest wishes,
Sincerely,
Aversa