Vestry Meeting Agenda & Notes, St. Christoper By-the-River July 19, 2026 (Rev 0)

Attendance. *Present:* Rev. Gabriel Lawrence, Charlene Currutt, James Gallagher, Hayley Kosmatka, Aud.D., Ron Lee, Linda Sylor, Kitty Thomas *Absent*: Rick Hamilton, Dr. John Irwin, Brian Wright

Openings

Prayer and Welcome. The Vestry meeting began at approximately 11:50 p.m. Fr. Gabriel led us in a collect.

Minutes, Jun 21, 2026. ***Moved: Approve the June minutes with updates discussed, James; Second, Kitty > Carried***

Reports, Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Gabriel Lawrence

July Fourth Parade Outreach. Our lawn hospitality event was very successful, with strong community turnout. We distributed free cotton candy and water, provided temporary tattoos for children — and offered church tours for around 100 visitors. Fr. Gabriel paraded in an open 1941 Cadillac. He thanked those from Vestry and other parishioners who volunteered. The event reinforced our expectation of this holiday as a strategic day for connecting with community, especially in this centennial year.

Centennial Committee. Fr. Gabriel is working with the team. He recently spoke with Marsha Anselmo, Historical Society President about creating a shelf display about our parish. James expressed interesting in helping with this effort. Also, Marsha has agreed to provide a speaker for an event next year. We could also consider holding a service that replicates the original first service from 100 years ago, though the exact date and the hymns will require research. A committee report to Vestry is expected in August.

Service Numbers. Average weekly attendance is up, from the low 50s to now around 70. We've seen notable growth at the 8:00 service [about 14 to 25] and at the 10:15 service. The quantity of wafers is being increased.

Bulletin, Expanded and Printed. With help from Becky Everett, a new bulletin was launched for the 10:15 service. Minor issues such as the placement of a hymn in context are being addressed. Overall, positive feedback has been received from visiting clergy and others, finding it user-friendly. With increased service attendance, we will be printing more bulletins. Ongoing feedback regarding iterative improvements is welcomed.

Rites. There was a baptism last month. Fr. Gabriel facilitated three wedding consultation sessions last month.

Decedents. Parishioners Dale Gnandt and Marilyn Fisher passed away recently. May their memories be a blessing.

DOK. One woman is discerning joining the group. Her induction could occur during the Celebration of New Ministry.

Centering Prayer. Attendance was strong at our recent initial session, suggesting that we are addressing an important need.

Chaplain, Summer Camp. Fr. Gabriel served at Bellwether recently, ministering to around 30 children. His service counted as one week of continuing education, and also supports our parish efforts to welcome young families and children.

"Getting to Know You Time". He continues meeting with parishioners to become better acquainted.

Vacation, Update. After two vacation days last week, Fr. Gabriel will be at work through the autumn.

Report, Junior Warden, Charlene Currutt

A/C Issues. On July 11, there were problems with the air conditioning system. Humidity caused condensation and ice formation in the furnace room, and there was ice in the A/C compressor outside. Checking the situation on July 15, Char found ice and other damage outside. Burton Sheet Metal came Friday and made repairs. Apparently, when Gates Mills lost power, the breaker tripped, taking down the A/C unit. Also, the second furnace wasn't working — and the first was working incessantly. Per Burton,

both breakers are now working fine. *Action Item: Char will note in the Junior Warden's book that we have two breakers.*

Steeple. Contributions continue, including a $5,000 donation and a donated box of coins, worth as much as $15,000—$20,000. We can still receive donations for some weeks. Fr. Gabriel and Char will follow-up on these efforts. Haley reported that Diocesan grant funds are exhausted. We must fund a portion of the total cost, and we can still apply for a loan if needed. James noted that $63,000 has been earmarked. We've raised $37,000 as of last week, not including the silver and a recent $1,000 donation. The start date for the steeple work is pending; once set, we'll receive a two-week notice prior to the date. The project should take six weeks. ***Moved: Accept funding plans as described, Haley; Second, Char > Carried***

Report, Event Planning, Ron Lee

Rally Sunday, 9/13/26. A church Ron attended had booths to promote events — and members recruited to help. He proposed describing our different programming opportunities and creating handouts to encourage participation. He suggests that a simple picnic would be appropriate, given that he'll be away that weekend. Also, we'll need to know who would be doing what specific tasks. Group discussion points:

—Would a nice coffee hour be a simpler but appropriate option? To keep things simple, downstairs on September 13, we could serve sandwiches and chips [from Costco] along with iced tea and dessert.

—Holding this later in September may be better since we have the Celebration of New Ministry on the eighth.

Fr. Gabriel said, however that he prefers to see the event happen on the 13th as a kickoff for the year's programming, especially since he will start holding adult forums on September 20. Also, plans for a nursery are still under discussion. Kitty remarked that Rally Sunday has been about kids, programming — and the start of the year's activities, such as "Godly Play".

Clambake, Date TBD. Ron noted that over the past two years, there's been strong interest in having a Clambake in September or October. He said that perhaps Blue Ribbon Meats & Seafood, former member Rich Radis's company could provide chicken, clams, slaw, possibly other sides and pots for the clambake as they have in the past. Given the October timing, we would have to set a date soon. It could be held downstairs, possibly on Saturday October 17 or 24. Char and Laura Cotton could partner to support this event.

It was also suggested that the clambake could be paired with the October Blessing of the Hounds, especially since more people may be in town by then. Discussion about the Clambake will be added to the August 16 Vestry agenda. *Action Item: Ron will contact Rich regarding open dates, possibly October 17.*

Discussion/New Business/Follow Up

—The St. Christopher service date for this year has been moved from Saturday July 25 to Sunday, July 26.

—On August 9th, Russ Tripi, Diocesan Canon for Leadership Development will join us, facilitating an adult forum — and attending both services.

Upcoming Dates, Rev. Gabriel Lawrence

—Celebration of New Ministry, September 8, 6:00 p.m.

Closings

Closing Prayer. Fr. Gabriel led us in prayer.

Moved: Adjourn the meeting, Fr. Gabriel; Second, Hayley > Carried

The meeting ended at approximately 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Sylor, Vestry Clerk