

Minutes – Annual Parish Meeting – Sunday, February 1, 2026

Call to Order and Opening Prayer – Fr. Joe Gibbes

Rector's Address – Fr. Joe Gibbes

2025 was a great year for Church of Our Saviour

Thanked the staff

Cheryl Fields retired

Ashton Holt brought on

Jason Flack will be here in June

Thanked the Vestry

Recognized and presented Bible to the outgoing members

Lester Huffingham

Steven Kelley

Travis Butts

Howard Montello

Working toward reimagining the admin building – making great progress

Sr. Warden and Jr. Warden will have more information

Selection of new Vestry Members

Three year terms:

Pat Hubbard

Ali Pressel

Tom Atkins

Two year term:

Bill Bland

Selection of new Diocesan Convention Delegates

Two positions available

Two individuals put their names in for selection.

Angela Boyd

Jackie Lunsford

Since they were the only candidates, they were accepted by acclamation.

Two alternates will be selected at a later date.

Highlights from the last year:

Sunday attendance increased by 6% from 259 to 274. 6% may not sound like much but it represents sustainable growth and is somewhere in the neighborhood of 15% better than the average Episcopal church.

Recognized several successes:

Isaiah 117 House (hosted 10+ training sessions, participated in their two largest fund raisers, dozens of volunteers and tons (probably literally) of clothing.

Created for A Purpose – brought back after a year off.

Changed the morning worship schedule to open more seating at the services. Seems to be successful but will evaluate toward the end of the summer. Parishioners made the transition very easy!

Alpha Program – first session started in fall, learned a lot, and started another session in the last few weeks.

Stewardship Campaign – Set a stretch goal this year and the congregation surpassed it! Average pledge increased by \$550!

Easter, Confirmation Sunday, Girls Night Out, Vacation Bible School, Youth Mission Trip, Jazz Vespers, Live Nativity, Christmas Eve – all wonderful, joyful, and glorious.

This year focus and energy will be on the building project, not many new programs or initiatives.

I want to encourage you to become an invitational church. We are definitely a welcoming church...we need to become an invitational church. You are worth sharing!!

We are not a big box church and never will be...but, everybody needs Jesus!

Sr. Warden's Address – John Cooksey

Years of conversation about improvements needed for this campus. We have formed two teams to address this:

Architectural Review Committee – Lester Huffingham – focused on design

Capital Campaign Committee – Frank and Lynn Loosbrock – focused on fundraising and financing - awaiting final report on feasibility study from consultant

No final “price tag” yet on these improvements – but we know it will be in the \$7-10 million price range.

Reasons for doing this: We need to plan for the future, to open

Our doors even wider, welcome new families, reflect the warmth and vitality of this parish. These plans are not about changing who we are, they are about making sure we can support the growing ministries within us.

It's our turn to invest in the future. Ancillary facilities were built for a different era – how many opportunities are we missing because our facilities are not welcoming or functional for those seeking connection? We're not pursuing renovations to simply improve buildings, we're pursuing renovations to expand hospitality.

We want to honor the past, embrace the present, and invest boldly in what God is preparing for us. Vestry is unanimous in supporting this project.

Jr. Warden's Address – Lester Huffingham

Established an Architectural Review Board including Tom Atkins, Judy Drake, Selby Kaiser, Sheryl Parramore, Ken Smith and myself.

We were tasked to choose an architect to meet our current and future needs. We chose Dean Scott who was mentored by Lamar Drake, architect of the church. Dean and his team met with staff, vestry, and lay ministry to obtain thoughts and ideas to get us through the current needs and future needs. Including having all ministries on this side of the road, Great Hall overlooking the river, better bathroom access, covered walkway to the church and a welcoming front door to our campus.

Questions:

Plans for property on the other side of Mandarin Road?

All plans are in play. Ideal would be to obtain enough pledge money to keep that property and utilize it for any number of new items. Sale of property is also in play.

Size comparison of new property vs. current property?

Approximately 54% larger.

Design concept – how much space is not needed today but will be available for the future?

Almost all will be used immediately but there are a few spaces for future office space. Great Hall space will be much larger – accommodate 200 people.

Will any of this property be renovated?

Goal is to replace the entire facility. In order to do that, it would have to be done in stages.

Watershed – will parking lot be paved or still be gravel?

Water levels are a concern and are a topic of discussion but no decisions as of yet.

Outdoor space availability for outside events?

There will still be outdoor space and courtyard space available. Adjustments will be made to accommodate the new space.

How long to complete?

“Two more weeks.”

Moses Meide addressed the issues surrounding the kids and youth across the street – safety and disconnection from the parish. Space for the youth on the church side of the street will address the safety issues plus provide spaces for youth activities which will promote community.

Lester Huffingham circled back to address the time line for the completion of the project. Not there yet, but the goal is to keep the entire project as seamless and quick as possible.

Lynn Loosbrock – Capital Campaign Program.

In October, a small group of congregants began meeting about the fundraising for this project. We're fortunate in that two members of the congregation who are professional fundraisers and are a part of this committee. First step was to look for a professional consultant with church fundraising for a capital campaign. We interviewed several groups, selected a group based out of Orlando and the consultant with that group has been working with us since. We have developed a Case for Support and the consultant is now conducting a feasibility study. Interviews were conducted last week with a small group of congregants and we're waiting for his report and will then be able to roll the project out in more detail to the entire congregation. Best action for each of the parishioners to take is to prayerfully consider how you may best support this opportunity.

Lester displayed each of the renderings available and described what each one represented.

Treasurer's Report – Cynde Covington, Interim Treasurer while Bob White is acting as the church finance manager.

Church is blessed – the church is in very good shape financially.
We are very good stewards of our funds.
Financial details are in the annual report.

Brief update on Our Saviour Foundation – balance in account has grown. Some leadership structure will be made over the next year.

Fr. Joe invited everyone to stay and look at the architectural renderings in detail and ask questions of John, Lester, Cynde, Frank, and Lynn.

Closing Prayer

Meeting Adjourned

** The recording of the meeting provides considerably more detail in each speaker's address.