

★ The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

# Starting Well for New Vestry and Bishop's Committee members

★ The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

# Vestry Basics



# For what shall we pray?

(poll here—first time, second etc; vestry or bc?)


## Isaiah 58. 9—12 (we will hear this is worship tomorrow)

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

# Definitions: Using the Same Language



Parish/Mission  
Vestry/Bishop's Committee  
Senior Warden/Bishop's Warden  
Junior Warden  
Rector/Vicar  
Head of Congregation

Church Plant/Fellowship/Missional Community

# A Brief History of the Church of England in the Colonies

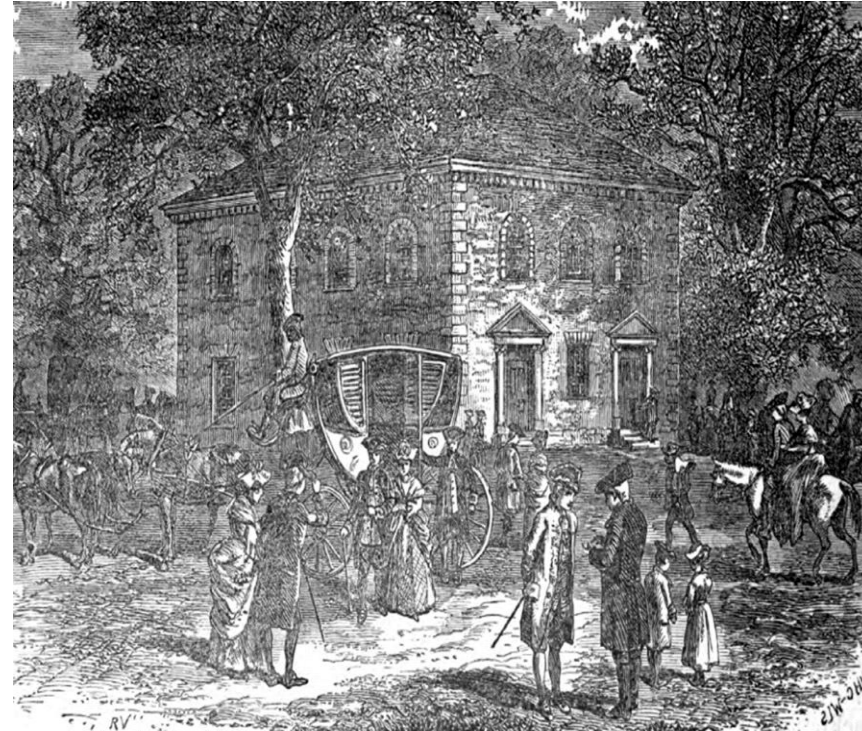




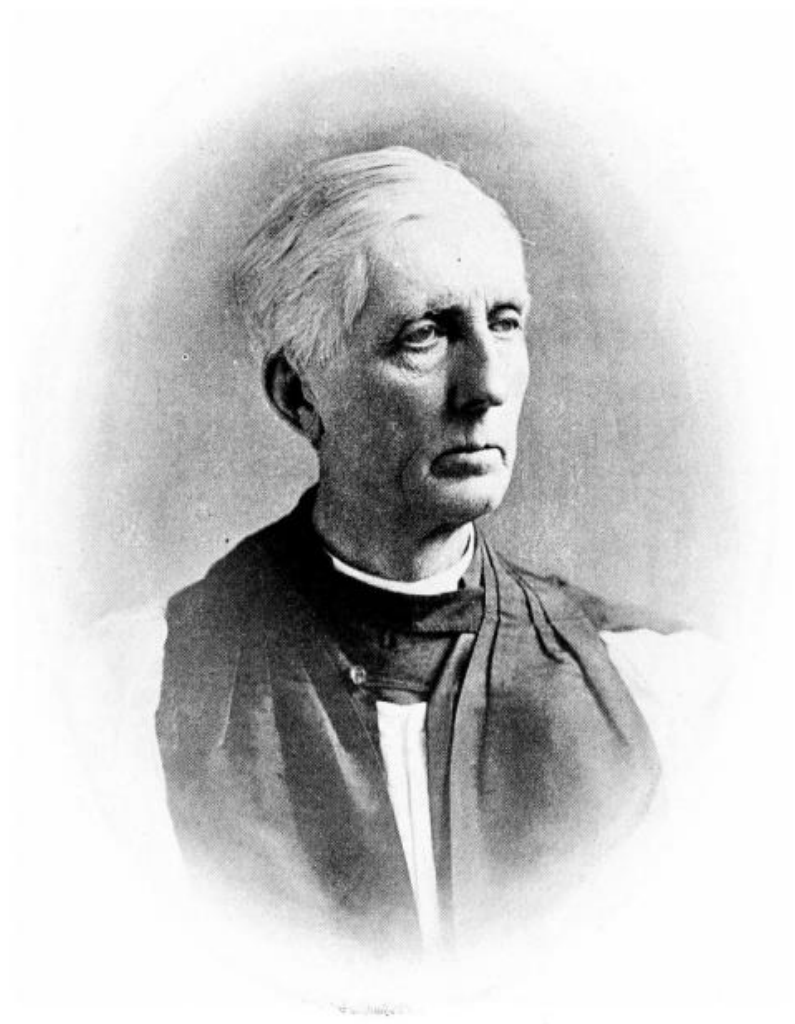
Conduct and support of the parish church

Supervision of morals

The care of the poor





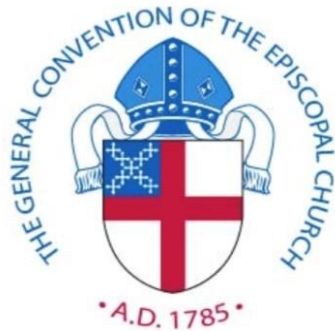


RIGHT REVEREND ALEXANDER GREGG, D.D.

And there's more.....



# Constitution and Canons



# CONSTITUTION & CANONS

OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IN THE DIOCESE OF TEXAS



EDITION OF SPRING  
2022

# JEOPARDY!

C and C of the EDOT

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Does not need to be a member of the Vestry but is elected by the Vestry and good at taking notes



Does not need to be a member of the Vestry but is elected by the Vestry and good at finances

This warden is elected  
by the Vestry

This warden is selected  
by the Rector/Vicar

3  
to  
18

This person chairs all  
Vestry and  
Congregational  
meetings.

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“I am persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ; and I accede to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church.”

Canon 2. Section 2.1b

No person shall serve as member of the Vestry until he or she shall have subscribed to the following declaration:

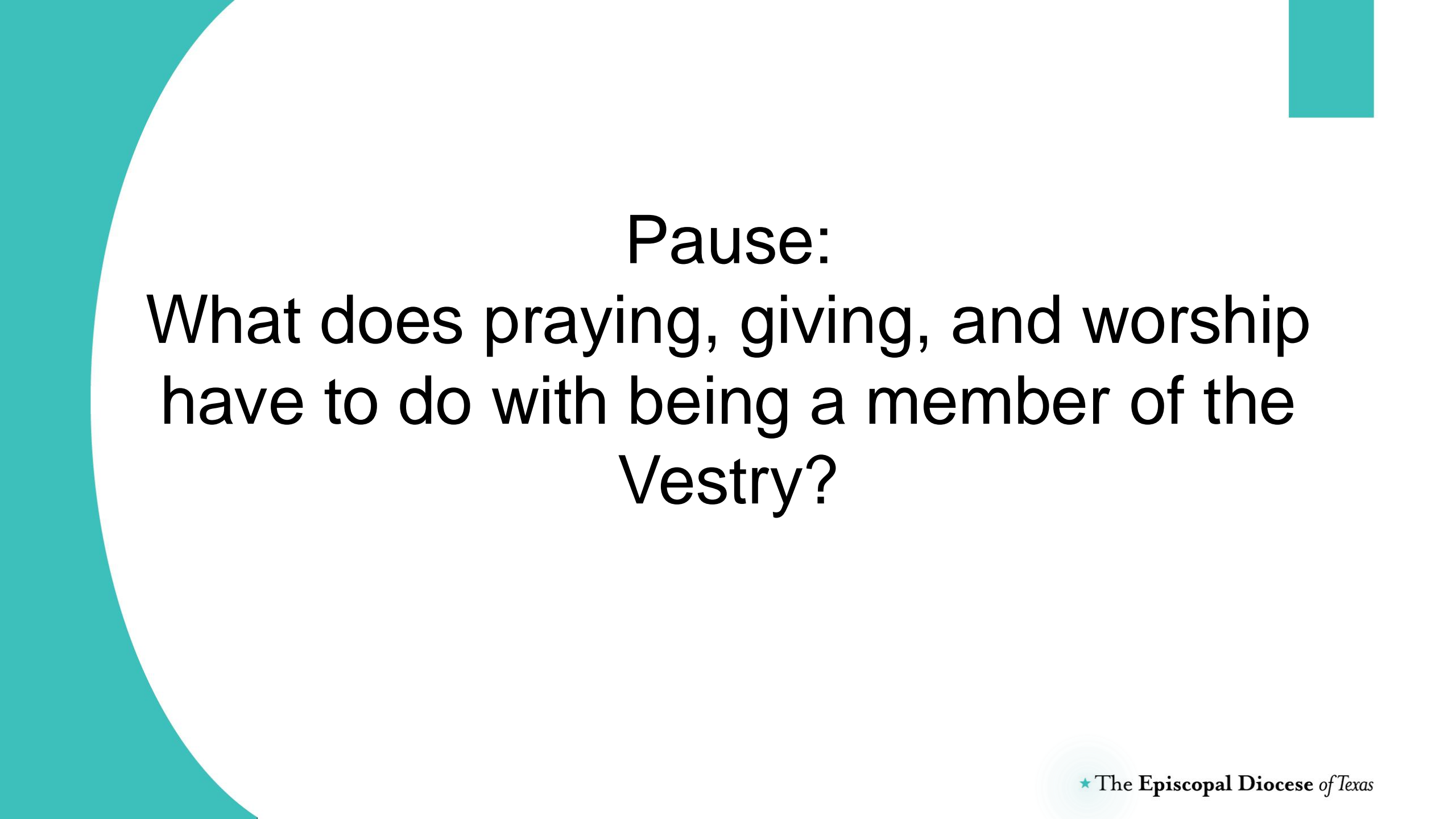
“I am persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ; and I accede to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church.”

Canon 2. Section 2.1b



18 years old, enrolled,  
confirmed communicant  
in good standing

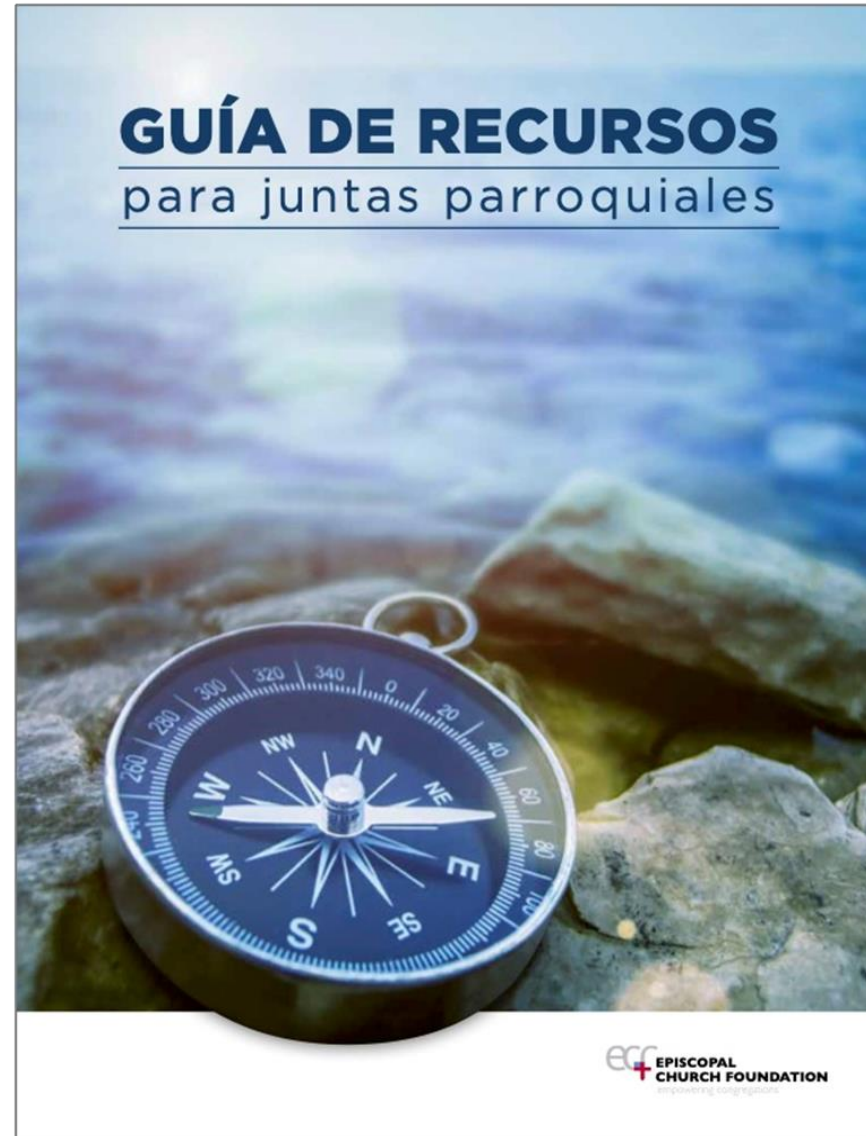
For the previous year has been  
faithful in corporate worship. . . .  
praying,  
and giving  
for the spread  
of the Kingdom of God.



Pause:

What does praying, giving, and worship  
have to do with being a member of the  
Vestry?

# Restart recording



# From The Vestry Resource Guide

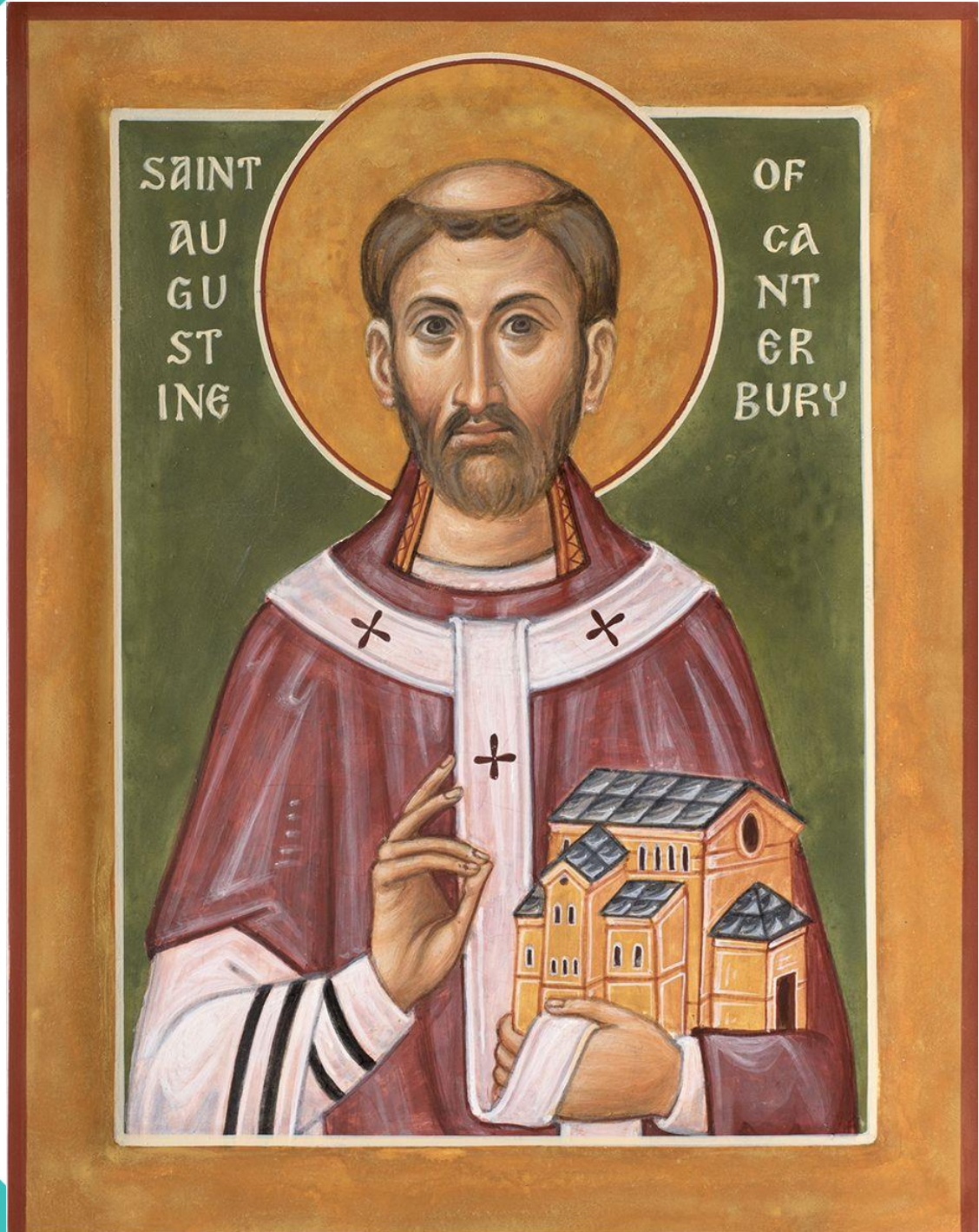
What does this have to do with Jesus?

How do our efforts help us grow  
as followers of Christ?

Vestry as practice-discipling

## **Section 3.1 Care and Use of Church Building**

The Wardens shall have a care that the Church building(s) be opened for all services, rites, ceremonies, or other purposes, either authorized or approved by the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and in this Diocese and be kept in good repair.



from

*The Rule of St. Benedict:*

*The Cellarer \**

(Vestry/Bishop's Committee\*)



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As cellarer of the monastery [Vestry/Bishop's Committee of the congregation], let there be chosen from the community one who is wise, of mature character, sober, not a great eater, not haughty, not excitable, not offensive, not slow, not wasteful, but a God-fearing person who may be like a parent [servant leader] to the whole community.

Let them regard all the utensils of the monastery and its whole property as if [the stuff and property] were the sacred vessels of the altar.

....Let them take the greatest care of the sick, of children, of guests and of the poor, knowing without doubt that they will have to render an account for all these on the Day of Judgment.

.....If any person happens to make some unreasonable demand of them, instead of vexing the brother or sister with a contemptuous refusal they should humbly give the reason for denying the improper request.

....Let them keep guard over their own soul, mindful always of the Apostle's saying that "those who have ministered well will acquire for themselves a good standing" (1 Tim. 3:13).

# Pause:

What do these words  
have to do with  
your ministry  
on the Vestry?

# Restart recording

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Next session  
February 18  
@at St. Cyprian's Lufkin  
and on your screen

# Vestry and Stewardship

# Disciplework:

Walk the grounds and the buildings.

Open doors and look in.

What would it be like to view these/care for these like “the vessels on the altar”?

# A closing blessing