

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2023

PARTICIPANTS:

Rector

Father Christopher Thomas

Clergy, Staff/Guest

Deacon Jennifer Smith

Father Andy McCarthy

Vestry Members

John Van Buskirk, Senior Warden

Ruth Woodward, Junior Warden

Alyssa Abadinsky

Janet Elsea

Dan Hall

Randy Hering

Stephen Toon

Officers

Joe DeuPree, Treasurer

Richard Elsea, Clerk

Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

1. **September Vestry Minutes were approved.**
2. **Vestry approved an additional resolution: 1) authorizing the Sr. Warden to sign documents necessary to facilitate receipt of the Parish's share as a beneficiary of the Estate of Bill Leazer, Deceased.**
3. **The preliminary Invite-Welcome-Connect schedule includes a date TBD site visit by Molly Wills Carnes in late November or early December, and a February, 2024, weekend (Friday evening, and perhaps another 6 hours on Saturday) event open to the Parish.**

NARRATIVE:

1. Call to Order

Rector

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Fr. Christopher Thomas with a prayer. Fr. Thomas introduced our guest, Father Andy McCarthy.

2. Resource Person

Elsa

Resource Person for the meeting is Janet Elsa.

3. Reflection/Formation

Deacon Jennifer

Deacon Jennifer Smith opened the meeting with the poem entitled *White Night* by Mary Oliver, and then facilitated the group contemplation and discussion.

4. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Senior Warden

Upon **motion by Stephen Toon**, and **seconded by Ruth Woodward**, the Vestry **unanimously approved the September 19, 2023, meeting minutes.**

5. Budget & Finance Committee

Treasurer

Joe DeuPree presented the Budget and Finance Committee Report, and the attached Balance Sheet as of 09/30/23, and Current Month vs. YTD Budget as of 09/30/23, with explanatory 10/06/23 email from Laura Griffin

6. Report from Chancellor (additional authorizations for Leazer Estate distribution)

Rippamonti

Rusty Rippamonti prepared and presented a resolution to allow the Senior Warden to execute additional documents in connection with the Estate of Bill Leazer, Deceased, as may be necessary to effect receipt of the Parish's distribution(s) as a beneficiary of the Estate. Upon **motion by Stephen Toon**, and **seconded by Alyssa Abadinsky**, the Vestry **unanimously approved "authoriz[ing] the Sr. Warden to execute additional documents as needed to probate the Estate of William Leazer and receive the Parish's share of William Leazer's Estate."**

7. Stewardship Committee Update

Senior Warden

Joe DeuPree presented the Campaign Progress for 2024 Pledge report, per the work of Stewardship Committee members Kathy Carson, Joe DeuPree, Randy Hering, Rusty Rippamonti, Linda Van Buskirk and John Van Buskirk. Pledge cards will be brought to the altar for blessing during the October 22nd services.

8. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Junior Warden

Ruth Woodward presented the report. Rusty Rippamonti addressed the billing issue from a now-repaired water leak and our appeal to the City being potentially problematic due to late discovery of the leak. Billing records were attached for reference. Ruth addressed safety and

security issues, including the uniformed police officer presence on Sunday mornings from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm, and the need for training for Greeters and Ushers.

9. Mission & Ministry Committee

Toon

Stephen Toon presented the report in the form of his detailed Mission & Ministry Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023. Highlights are Ewing House personal hygiene items collection, yearly outreach grants, Christmas toy drive, Thanksgiving potluck (Vestry provides entrée), and \$50 gift cards for Christmas for Ewing House residents. Randy Hering praised Ruth Woodward and Rusty Rippamonti for their invaluable work on the Vestry Elections.

10. Guild Liaison Reports

- a. Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers – Stephen Toon (No Report)
- b. Eucharistic Visitors – Lisa Pearson (No Report)
- c. Altar Guild – Jerry Knight (No Report)
- d. Greeters/Ushers – Alyssa Abadinsky (No Report)
- e. Kitchen/Social – Randy Hering (No Report)
- f. Lectors (Readers) – Ruth Woodward (Brief Report)

11. Rector's Report

Rector

Fr. Christopher presented his report, including his initial meeting with Molly Wills Carnes regarding *Invite Welcome Connect*, and her meeting with two couples, Jack Sartin and Linda Stock-Nelson, and Ethan Pinney and Ken Lee, as well as program chaplain, Father Stephen Waller. The Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections are October 29; Dr. Henry's organ recital is postponed to a date TBD due to technical/software issues; Dr. Stephen Sprinkle will teach four (4) classes, beginning Dec. 3rd and continuing each Wednesday in Advent; All Saints Day is November 2; and, the Christmas schedule is – **Sunday, December 24th** services are **at 10:30 am and 7:30 pm**, and the sole **Christmas Day service is Monday, December 25, at 10:00 am.**

12. Dismissal/Closing Prayer

Rector

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:35 p.m. by Fr. Christopher.

Next Vestry Meeting is November 21, 2023, and the Resource Person will be Ruth Woodward.

Richard Elsea, Clerk