

**The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
October 15, 2024**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Rector**

Father Christopher Thomas

**Clergy, Staff/Guest**

Father Andy McCarthy, Linda Stack Nelson

**Vestry Members**

Dan Hall, Junior Warden

Alyssa Abadinsky

Janet Elsea, Senior Warden

Jerry Knight

Rene Aguirre

John Billingsly

Hampton Burwick

Jami Mifflin

John Van Buskirk

**Officers**

Joe DeuPree, Treasurer

Richard Elsea, Clerk

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:**

**Amended September Vestry Minutes were approved.**

**Vestry approved a resolution authorizing the moving of \$60,000 from the non-interest-accruing Operating Account at Inwood Bank to the Money Market Account (also at Inwood Bank).**

**NARRATIVE:**

**1. Call to Order**

**Rector**

**Rector**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Fr. Christopher Thomas with a prayer.

**2. Resource Person**

**Jami Mifflin**

### 3. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Senior Warden

Upon **motion by John Van Buskirk**, and **second by Dan Hall**, the Vestry **unanimously approved the September 17, 2024 meeting minutes with a small amendment to the Music Guild report.** (Bell Choir rehearses at noon on Wednesdays and Choir rehearses at 1:00 pm.)

### 4. Budget & Finance Committee

Treasurer

Joe DeuPree presented the Budget and Finance Committee Report, and the attached Balance Sheet as of September 30th, 2024, Income Statement for September 1st to September 30th, 2024, and Special Funds Statement for the same September period. He noted that revenues for the first nine months of 2024 are on target. Expenses are below budget expectations by about \$15,800. HVAC replacements have been completed with the funds allocated by unanimous vote at the August meeting of the vestry.

Joe DeuPree and Jerry Knight suggested that we could be better stewards of the bequest so generously made by the late Bill Leazer by moving some of those funds to an interest-bearing account. **Janet Elsea moved and John Van Buskirk seconded a resolution authorizing the moving of \$60,000 from the non-interest-accruing Operating Account at Inwood Bank to the Money Market Account (also at Inwood Bank). The vestry unanimously approved.**

### 5. Stewardship Committee/Legacy Planning Update

John Van Buskirk

John reported that the 2024 Stewardship Campaign is well underway, and now we wait. The committee is at work on a legacy planning workshop to come.

### 6. Vestry Retreat Query

John Van Buskirk

John polled the vestry members on their preferences for a possible vestry retreat in 2025. Members responded that they would like a retreat, but opinions about the length and scope of the retreat were mixed. Janet Elsea suggested a Christmas or Epiphany party with a very brief business portion of the evening. No decision was made.

### 7. Mission and Outreach

Senior Warden

Janet reported that two champions have stepped forward to spearhead the Angel Tree project, Rene Aguirre and Mtr. Virginia. It was suggested that St. Thomas also sponsor an Advent Diaper Drive to benefit immigrant and refugee children at Gateway of Grace.

## **8.. Buildings & Grounds Committee**

**Junior Warden**

Dan reported that our water issue is solved. The plumber repaired all drainage problems. Phill Scheldt and Dan are still working on the AV system improvements Dan is also continuing to work on improving the wifi. Fr. Christopher mentioned that the new Parish Hall doors still need adjustments, and the boxwood trees need insecticide. The water fountain in the parish hall will not be repaired until next year, due to the cost.

## **8. Guild Liaison Reports**

- a. Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers – Jerry Knight (No Report)
- b. Eucharistic Visitors – John Billingsley (Brief Report – pressing need for more participants)
- c. Altar Guild – Rene Aguirre (No Report)
- d. Greeters/Ushers – Hampton Burwick (Brief Report - some parishioners’ reluctance to use QR codes - Fr. Christopher stressed the importance of sharing our presence.)  
**Linda Stack Nelson** reported here on **Invite Welcome Connect** update
- e. Kitchen/Social – Jami Mifflin (Possible Chili Cook off competition in December, Celebration order needs to be made for Friends-Giving event)
- f. Lectors (Readers) – Alyssa Abadinsky (Brief Report – Two more lectors needed)
- g. Music: Janet Elsea (Brief Report - Variety Show 11/20/24)

## **9. Rector’s Report**

**Rector**

- a. Annual Meeting part one will be October 27
- b. Fall Formation update: we had 20 to 25 people at each session of Dr. Sprinkle’s excellent offering
- c. Rabbi Andrew Paley of Temple Shalom will be our guest at the All Saints Celebration November 3rd.
- d. Ofrenda November 2nd
- e. Another wonderful Variety Show on November 20th at 7 pm
- f. Friends-Giving Celebration featuring Marvin Matthews on November 24th
- g. Last year’s Christmas Eve at 7:30 pm was spectacular, so we are planning to do it again.
- h. 75th Anniversary Celebration planning is underway with Joe DeuPree at the helm.

## **10. Resource Person for November 19, 2024 Meeting**

**Janet Elsea**

## **11. Dismissal/Closing Prayer**

**Rector**

The meeting was closed with Compline at 8:15 p.m. by Fr. Christopher.

**Richard Elsea, Clerk**