

**The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2024**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Rector**

Father Christopher Thomas

**Vestry Member Elect**

Jack Sartin

**Vestry Members**

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:**

- **October Vestry Minutes were approved.**

**NARRATIVE:**

**1. Call to Order**

**Rector**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Fr. Christopher Thomas with a prayer.

**2. Resource Person**

**Janet Elsea**

**3. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval**

**Senior Warden**

Upon **motion by Hampton Burwick, and second by Jerry Knight**, the Vestry **unanimously approved the October 15, 2024 meeting minutes.**

#### **4. Budget & Finance Committee**

**Treasurer**

Joe DeuPree presented the Budget and Finance Report, and the attached Balance Sheet as of October 31st, 2024, Income Statement for October 1st to October 31st, 2024, and Special Funds Statement for the same October period. He noted that pledge payments received to date have reduced the deficit by \$1000. Expenses are below budget expectations by about \$11,000. Expenditures were for smart thermostats and for improved rain water drainage. Stewardship Update: Joe reported that there have been 5 new pledges for 2025. 19 parishioners have increased their pledges. John Van Buskirk added that as of today the 2025 pledge total is only \$400 less than pledges for 2024.

#### **5. Mission and Outreach**

**Senior Warden**

Janet reported that the Angel Tree went up last Sunday and almost all the angel cards were taken. Fr. Christopher brought in the last cards remaining and they were selected by members of the vestry.

Although not technically “Mission and Outreach,” Janet reminded the group that turkey and dressing for the upcoming Friends-Giving celebration is traditionally provided by the vestry. Celebration will cater our part of the feast for a \$90 contribution from each vestry member and officer.

#### **6. Buildings & Grounds Committee**

**Joe DeuPree for Junior Warden**

Joe reported that collapsed rainwater drains have been cleaned out/repaired. Seven of eight thermostats have been replaced with smart units, including two done yesterday, and the Wi-Fi has been upgraded. The long-awaited courtyard sound system has now been installed.

#### **8. Guild Liaison Reports**

- a. Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers – Jerry Knight (No Report)
- b. Eucharistic Visitors – John Billingsley (Brief Report - still a need for more participants)
- c. Altar Guild – Rene Aguirre (Brief Report – there is a need for an air conditioned/heated space to keep flowers fresh after delivery)

- d. Greeters/Ushers – Hampton Burwick (Brief Report – Hampton working on gift bags for Variety Show and Friends-Giving- Fr. Christopher stressed the importance of QR codes.)
- e. Kitchen/Social – Jami Mifflin (Brief Report - Chili Cook Off in January)
- f. Lectors (Readers) – Alyssa Abadinsky (Brief Report – lectors needed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)
- g. Music: Janet Elsea (Brief Report - Variety Show 11/20/24 at 6:30, Joe Henry’s Advent class December 4,11,18 at 6:00)

**9. Rector’s Report**

**Rector**

- a. Vestry Retreat March 7 and 8: Retreat leader Bp. Wayne Smith
- b. 2nd Variety Show on November 20th at 6:30 pm
- c. Friends-Giving Celebration featuring Marvin Matthews on November 24<sup>th</sup>
- d. Advent formation class with Dr. Joe Henry – Don’t miss it!
- e. Christmas Eve service is once again at 7:30 pm. Invite everyone you know!
- f. 75th Anniversary Celebration (Joe Deupree had no update)
- g. Advent Lessons and Carols December 8 at 5:00 pm – a combined program with participants from St. Thomas, Ascension, and Transfiguration
- h. Budget deficit for 2025 of \$75,000 – 62 rather than 71 pledging units so far – we must stop being so comfortable with only 50 people in the pews on a Sunday

**10. Resource Person for December 17, 2024 Meeting**

**Alyssa Abadinsky**

**11. Dismissal/Closing Prayer**

**Rector**

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

**Richard Elsea, Clerk**