

**The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle
Vestry Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2024**

PARTICIPANTS:

Rector

Father Christopher Thomas

Vestry Members Elect

Steve Sale

Jack Sartin

Guest

Michael Legacy (Budget Presentation)

Vestry Members

Alyssa Abadinsky

Janet Elsea, Senior Warden

Dan Hall, Junior Warden

Jerry Knight

John Billingsley

Hampton Burwick

Jami Mifflin

John Van Buskirk

Officers

Joe DeuPree, Treasurer

Richard Elsea, Clerk

Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

- **Budget for 2025 was approved.**
- **November Vestry Minutes were approved**
- **Outgoing Vestry members were recognized**

NARRATIVE:

1. Call to Order

Rector

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Fr. Christopher Thomas with a prayer.

2. Resource Person

Alyssa Abadinsky

3. Budget & Finance Committee

Michael Legacy and Treasurer

Budget and Finance went first on the schedule to allow guest presenter Michael Legacy to make his other evening commitment. He presented the Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2024, the Income Statement for November 1st through November 30th, 2024, the Special Funds Statement for the same November period (copies attached), and submitted the Committee's proposed budget for 2025. He noted the deficit has been reduced, and is down to \$57K from \$75K a few weeks ago. Pledge receipts have increased. Projected interest revenue is expected to rise from about \$2K this year to approximately \$6K in 2025 due to moving funds to a higher interest-bearing account. Also, copy expenses should decrease in 2025 due primarily to substantially limiting production of color copies. The other large expense increase was our property and liability insurance increased by \$11,100. Our diocesan assessment has increased as well.

Upon motion by Alyssa Abadinsky, and a second by Hampton Burwick, the Vestry unanimously approved the 2025 Budget as presented.

4. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Senior Warden

Upon motion by John VanBuskirk, and second by Jami Mifflin, the Vestry unanimously approved the November 19, 2024 meeting minutes.

5. Mission and Outreach

Senior Warden

Janet Elsea reported that of the \$280 made at the Friends-Giving Celebration selling Stephen Toon's hand-made suncatchers, \$199 will be spent by the committee on a food-service cart for Ewing House. The committee will use the remaining funds to purchase much-needed diapers for Gateway of Grace.

6. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Junior Warden

Dan Hall reported that internet and WIFI are now up and running for the entire property. Smart thermostats are now online except for one in the kitchen.

8. Guild Liaison Reports

- a. Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers – Jerry Knight (Brief Report – Fernando Balderas is now a licensed Eucharistic Minister)
- b. Eucharistic Visitors – John Billingsley (Brief Report – one more is still needed)
- c. Altar Guild – No Report
- d. Greeters/Ushers – Hampton Burwick (Brief Report – Hampton working on more thoughtful gifts for visitor welcome bags – no more coffee mugs)

- e. Kitchen/Social – Jami Mifflin (Brief Report - Chili Cook Off in February)
- f. Lectors (Readers) – Alyssa Abadinsky (Brief Report – lectors for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services are all set)
- g. Music: Janet Elsea (Last Advent music class tomorrow at 6:00 pm)

9. Rector’s Report

Rector

- a. Annual Meeting will be February 9th after the 10:30 service
- b. Christmas Eve service is once again at 7:30 pm. Invite your friends!
- c. Dan and Tim are continuing their annual Christmas Eve party event.
- d. Fr. Christopher will be directing MCA spiritual retreat January 6-9
- e. Fr. Christopher will be on vacation January 17-31
- f. Vestry Retreat will be March 7 and 8: Retreat leader Bp. Wayne Smith, location TBD
- g. 75th Anniversary Celebration (Joe Deupree is forming a committee)
- h. Richard Elsea was recognized for filling in as Vestry Clerk for 4Q 2024, and tonight is his last meeting to serve as Clerk.
- i. Father Christopher called for Executive Session at 8:00 pm which ended at 8:15 pm

10. Upon motion by Janet Elsea, and second by Hampton Burwick, the Vestry unanimously recognized retiring members of the Vestry, Jerry Knight and Alyssa Abadinsky for their 3 years of faithful service.

11. Resource Person for December 17, 2024 Meeting

Jami Mifflin

12. Dismissal/Closing Prayer

Rector

The meeting was closed after Compline at 8:30 pm by Fr. Christopher.

Richard Elsea, Clerk