



# The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle

## Monthly Vestry Meeting - Minutes March 18, 2025

### IN ATTENDANCE

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**Rector**

Father Christopher Thomas

**Clergy, Staff/Guest**

Sandra Avalos with ImmSchools

**Ex-Officio Officers**

Joe DeuPree, Treasurer

Bob Stutz, Clerk

Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor

**Vestry Members**

Rene Aguirre

John Billingsley

Hampton Burwick

Janet Elsea - Senior Warden

Jami Mifflin

Jack Sartin

John Van Buskirk

**Parishioners**

### SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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- February 2025 Vestry Minutes were approved
- Special Guest Sandra Avalos from ImmSchools presented
- Vestry Committee Reports
- Rector Report

### NARRATIVE

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**I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

**Fr. Christopher Thomas**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Fr. Christopher Thomas, and the meeting began with an opening prayer led by Fr. Christopher.

**II. Resource Person for Meeting**

**John Billingsley**

**III. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval**

**Janet Elsea**

The meeting continued with a review of the previous month's minutes. John VanBuskirk moved, and Hampton Burwick seconded, a motion for approval of the February 18, 2025 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

**IV. Special Guest**

Sandra Avalos discussed the mission of ImmSchools to educate Undocumented Immigrants on their rights. It is a challenge spreading the word due to the nature of Undocumented Immigrants and not wanting to draw the authorities attention to the meetings in order to Protect the individuals. One program is to encourage each immigrant to a library card which has their photograph on the card. If more individuals get a card, it would normalize the acceptance of the card as a form of identification.

## **V. Finance Committee**

**Joe DeuPree**

Legacy Planning Update by John Billingsley followed by review of the Financial Reports by Joe DeuPree who pointed out on the balance sheet the line representing the number of individuals who have prepaid their annual pledge.

The Rector discussed the change in handling the Sunday Collection with the envelope to be deposited in the safe and counted Monday.

Rusty Rippamonti inquired of the annual audit. Hampton Burwick offered to take the lead on the audit.

## **VI. Mission – Outreach Committee**

**Janet Elsea**

Last Sunday the assembly of Blessing Bags for the Cathedral of Hope went well and everyone who participated thought it was a fun and easy task.

Upcoming will be the fundraiser to provide scholarships for the summer camp. It was suggested using Mission Funds to supplement the fundraising.

## **VII. Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee**

**Dan Hall**

No Report

## **VIII. Guild Liaisons Reports**

- **Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers** No Report
- **Eucharistic Visitors** (John Billingsley) – Need assistance with the committee.
- **Altar Guild** (Rene Aguirre)
- **Greeters/Ushers** (Hampton Burwick) – Need new members to serve beginning in April. Encourage everyone to serve as unofficial greeters in order to make visitors feel welcome. Usher training will take place in April.
- **Kitchen/Social:** (Jami Mifflin) – Activities have been going well with good attendance. Asked if any interest in a Bingo Night.
- **Lectors (Readers)** Janet Elsea – Jack Sartin reported he is developing a training guide for Lectors and is working on the reader schedule. Jack is also working on the technical side with Phil Scheldt on modulating the individual users microphones and cross training for the AV staff.
- **Music** (Janet Elsea) – St Thomas has two individuals being interviewed for the Organist/Music Director and continues to search for a new Organist/Music Director

## **IX. Rector's Report**

**Fr. Christopher Thomas**

Fr. Christopher discussed the success of the Vestry Retreat and the personal impact the retreat had with him.

One item is the number of people abandoning the Christian world and what we as a group can do to enact change. In particular we need an outreach to share the good news of

St Thomas and what make St Thomas a special place. One thing that makes St Thomas special is LOVE. Our mission in 2025 is to be a sanctuary and healing place.

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Planning was discussed. Joe DeuPree submitted a report (copy attached). It has been a challenge with few parishioners participating in the planning. There have been some items such as the Cooking Class and the production of the Parish Cookbook and a class in May on Estate Planning after Sunday Service. Jami Mufflin offered to assist Joe.

**IX. Resource Person for April 15, 2025 Meeting**

**John VanBuskirk**

**X. Compline & Dismissal**

**Fr. Christopher Thomas**

The meeting was closed with Compline by Fr. Christopher at 8:50 PM.

**APPENDIX**

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- Vestry Meeting Agenda
- Vestry Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2025
- Balance Sheet – February 28, 2025
- Income Statement – February 1<sup>st</sup> – February 28, 2025
- Special Funds – February 1<sup>st</sup> – February 28, 2025
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Report
- The Baptismal Covenant
- Vestry, Ex-Officio Officers, Clergy & Staff, Endowment Fund Committee

**Meeting Minutes prepared by Bob Stutz, Clerk**