



The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle

Monthly Vestry Meeting - Minutes October 21, 2025

IN ATTENDANCE

Rector

Father Christopher Thomas

Ex-Officio Officers

Bob Stutz, Clerk
Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor
Joe DeuPree, Treasurer

Clergy Staff/Guests

Sandra Avalos
Mario Avalos

Vestry Members

John Billingsley
Hampton Burwick
Daniel Hall
Jami Mifflin
Steve Sale
Jack Sartin
John Van Buskirk

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- September Vestry Minutes were approved as amended
- Update in Interfaith Migration Alliance
- Update from Invite-Welcome-Connect
- Financial Reports
- Mission Outreach
- Building and Grounds
- Guild Liaisons Reports
- Rector's Report

NARRATIVE

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Fr. Christopher Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Fr. Christopher Thomas, and began with an opening prayer led by Fr. Christopher.

II. Resource Person for Meeting

Jami Mifflin

III. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Fr. Christopher Thomas

The meeting continued with a review of the previous month's minutes. John Van Buskirk moved, and Jami Mifflin seconded, a motion to approve as amended the September 2025 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

IV. Update on Interfaith Migration Alliance

Sandra Avalos

Training for close to 50 Volunteers. Volunteers will accompany individuals from parking lot to count room and back as well as serve as witnesses for ICE Agent activities. DPD is not actively supporting ICE Agents but will work to enforce any warrants on individuals. ICE Agents are also going to apartment complexes and IMA will work with residents of the Complexes to train residents how to react.

V. Update from Invite-Welcome-Connect

Fr. Christopher Thomas

Linda Stack-Nelson will send and will email outlining the upcoming events.

VI. Finance Committee

Joe DeuPree

The September 2025 Income Statement and Balance Sheet were presented. There was a discussion of the 2025 Pledges There have been 6 discontinued pledges due to death or individuals moving which would most likely impact the 2026 pledges.

VII. Mission – Outreach Committee

Janet Elsea

The October Blessings Bags had a great turn out. Also, a great turn out for the No Kings March. Upcoming ... need to work on the Christmas Gift Program.

VIII. Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee

Dan Hall

The water usage/bill was discussed and charts presented on page 18 of the agenda. Fr. Christopher presented the information for Texas Pro Signs to repair/upgrade the monument sign at the corner of the church property. The sign proposal is on page 16 and 17 of the agenda. Hampton Burwick moved, and Jami Mifflin seconded, a motion to the requested \$2,200 for the sign. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

IX. Guild Liaisons Reports

- **Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers** (John VanBuskirk) – There are two new acolytes.
- **Eucharistic Visitors** (John Billingsley) – Amy Raines is a new Eucharistic Visitor.
- **Altar Guild** (Rene Aguirre) A new director is needed.
- **Greeters/Ushers** (Hampton Burwick) – Need additional Ushers and Greeters.
- **Kitchen/Social:** (Jami Mifflin) – The Ice Cream Social was very successful! Thanksgiving Homecoming will be on Sunday November 23rd in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 service. The Vestry will provide the turkey and there will be a sign up sheet for the sides.
- **Lectors (Readers)** (Jack Sartin) – Need to reach out to individuals to serve as readers
- **Music** (Dan Hall) – The Advent season will be exciting with the new organ software.

VIII. Rector's Report

Fr. Christopher Thomas

- Sharing Faith Dinner: Michael Legacy will be sharing the information with those who are involved.
- Visitor/Newcomer Report and Process Update: The report will be quarterly and will start recognizing individuals who invite visitors successfully.
- Vestry Nominations Committee Update: An email will be sent to members of the parish with the nominees and their bios.
- Bishop Sumner Farewell Picnic will be Saturday November 22nd from 12-2 and members of St Thomas are encouraged to attend.
- Christ The King Sunday: The new organ will be debuted if the organ acoustics have been worked out.
- Advent 2 December 7th will be a celebration honoring Bishop Sumner, Fr. Christopher Thomas' birthday and the 75th anniversary of St Thomas. The event will be catered by Chef Rhonda.

IX. Resource Person for September 16, 2025 Meeting

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X. Compline & Dismissal

Fr. Christopher Thomas

- The meeting was closed with Compline by Fr. Christopher at 9:10 pm.

APPENDIX

- Vestry Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2025
- Balance Sheet – August 31 2025
- Income Statement – August 1 to August 31, 2025
- Finance Committee Report
- Mission Outreach Report
- Saint Thomas the Apostle Attendance Report
- Church Visitor Tracking Guide
- St. Thomas the Apostle – Rector's Ministry Fund Report
- Interfaith Migration Alliance
- The Baptismal Covenant
- Vestry, Ex-Officio Officers, Clergy & Staff, Endowment Fund Committee

Meeting Minutes prepared by Bob Stutz, Clerk

VESTRY

Rene Aguirre

John Billingsley

Hampton Burwick

Janet Elsea

Dan Hall

Jami Mifflin

Steve Sale

Jack Sartin

John Van Buskirk

EX-OFFICIO OFFICERS

Joe DeuPree

Rusty Rippamonti

Bob Stutz

CLERGY & STAFF

Laura Giffin

Virginia Holleman

Jerry Knight

Andy McCarthy

Jennifer Smith

Steve Sprinkle

Lee Swift

Christopher Thomas

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Keith Carney

Ken Lee

Wynne Voorhees

The Baptismal Covenant

A Prayer for Daily Use

Holy and gracious, life-giving God,
Creator, sustainer, and redeemer of all:

- Help me today to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers;
- Help me today to persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to you;
- Help me today to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ;
- Help me today to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself;
- Help me today to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every single human being;

For it is in doing these things that I become more and more like your Son Jesus Christ, transforming myself, and the very world around me.

Amen.