

St. Thomas Vestry Meeting  
November 12, 2024  
6:30 pm Zoom

Present: Fr. Paul Briggs, interim rector; Elizabeth Moran, senior warden; Anne Rogers-Popejoy, clerk; Terry Mello, treasurer.

Gwen Prosser, Kendra Watkins, Cheryl Reif, Haunani Wallace, Sarah Groman, Benjy Lowry

Fr Paul Briggs opens the meeting in prayer at 6:30 pm.  
Review of Bible Study from last meeting.

1. What do I believe about God and money? WE BELIEVE...

*God provides all that we need, including money. It is important to consider God when spending money. Our money must go back to God, because it is given from God – it is not ours to begin with. We can choose where to spend our money, and to support those causes brought forward by our faith. (Some questions about the tithe). How is the distribution so unequal sometimes? And how do we reconcile that with the concept that God provides what we need? But if we “render to Caesar what is Caesar’s”, all money does not come from God.*

The group shares prayer requests, including for Br Donovan.

Items of Business:

1. Follow up on Bell Tower Conversations.

- No new updates on the bell tower.
- Appropriate funds for inspection/rewrap tower?
  - Waiting for an estimate from the architect.
  - There are two funds in the money market account that can be utilized for the cost.
- What questions do we need to answer?
  - This is still unclear.
  - This summer, historical architects took photographs for a report, which we paid for.
  - Anne recommends that we find out directly from Camden Historic Preservation what they need from us.
  - What do people in the parish who want the tower fully restored need to know/what information can we give them?
    - Re-present the information in a way that includes input from parish.
    - Frame the information in a new way: finance?
- Reinvigorate a new committee?

2. Nominating Committee: Review and comment on document of "Vestry Expectations"  
Positive feedback from the Vestry; next step is for the nominating committee to post a public announcement and then begin talking about these expectations with anyone interested in running for Vestry.

3. Stewardship Committee: Review of fall campaign to date.

Cheryl reports on behalf of Shelly Gallender, Cheryl Reif, Phil Groman as stewardship committee: pleased with the results. Notable transition from givers of record to formal pledges: positive, particularly in search for a new rector. More than 20 people increased pledges over last year. Zero pledges decreased. \$153,000 pledged, which exceeds budget goal.

3. Calendar Planning

December 1 - Cheryl will coordinate setting the creche

December 1 - Wreaths on church doors

December 5 (Thurs) - Potluck with Bishop Brown 5:30pm

December 22 - Greening on the church

December 24 - 4pm and 7pm

January 26 - Annual Parish Meeting

- Trial of one service at 9 a.m. from December 29 - March 2 (Will return to 2 services beginning the First Sunday of Lent, March 9)

- Rector away on 4th Sundays beginning in new year. Introduce Morning Prayer on the 4th Sunday and train at least two teams of two people each (one being the preacher and the other officiant)?

Discussion: Let's get input of the parish.

- Reminder that the December Meeting is focused on creating a budget for 2025 (include IRS allocation of parsonage allowance for rector).

**Motion to approve the consent agenda (October Minutes and Rector's Report): Haunani; second Cheryl. Motion carries.**

Reports to Parish:

10am: Sarah

8am: Elizabeth

-Nominating Committee

-Potluck with Bishop Brown

-Rector's request for a trial of a single service 12/29 - 3/2

-Morning prayer on 4th Sunday without rector beginning in February

Fr Paul Briggs closes the meeting in prayer at 8:20pm.