

St. Thomas Vestry Meeting
July 8, 2025
5:00pm

Present: Fr Paul Briggs, interim rector; Elizabeth Moran, senior warden; Terry Mello, treasurer;
Kelli McGuire, Haunani Wallace, Cheryl Reif, Bill Freeman, Jacqueline Recht, Ron Zdrojeski,
Benjy Lowry

Meeting opens in prayer at 5:05pm, followed by the recitation of the Vestry covenant.

Minutes from prior meeting not available - will approve next meeting

Play time with Benjy on Realm Connect - Benjy led orientation to Realm - explored different aspects - will continue at next Vestry Meeting

Deep dive into the budget - Terry discussed the first six months' financials. While St. Thomas' financial accounts are healthy, there is a concern about the Operating Income and Expenses. It is important to understand that the 2025 budget is not sustainable going forward as it is based on our current situation - a half-time rector with no pension or insurance expense budgeted.

Terry shared the information from the Annual Report regarding the three different Rector scenarios (including insurance and pension expenses) - Half-Time (3,300 deficit), Three-Quarter -Time (\$32,800 deficit), and Full-Time (\$62,800 deficit).

Paul suggested the possibility of a get together with the Vestries of Rockland and Thomaston at Camp Bishopwood to explore possibility of 3 churches sharing 2 rectors

Bill Freeman shared the proposal from George Johns for a Little Food Pantry -
Haunani made a motion to accept the proposal from George Johns to build a "little Food Pantry" that will be located on the Wood Street side of the church. Kelli McGuire seconded - vote unanimous.

Paul updated on search for Organist, has asked Dr. James Higdon to perform a concert before he leaves us

Reminder - Church outdoor cleanup 9 am July 19; Picnic July 20 - 4pm

Terry shared counting schedule for offering
Paul thanked vestry members for wearing nametags and reminded us to greet outside on Sundays before service.

There will be a Bell tower full report of findings anticipated mid-July - Vestry are encouraged to attend.

Paul and Ron shared the date of the St. Thomas Legacy Society dinner - August 23 at 4:30 - Audrey Klein Leach from CNB will be speaker - opportunity to build awareness and mindfulness about including the church in estate planning

There will be a free will offering for the flood victims in Texas - folks can use the QR code in bulleting or aisle.

The next meeting will be at the Mellos home.

The meeting concludes in prayer at 6:55pm.

Report out to Parish:

8:00 Terry Mello

10:00 Cheryl Rief

- 1) Vestry explored "Realm Connect" a powerful communication and scheduling tool that we are learning to use
- 2) Church outside cleanup July 19 - bring gardening tools, rakes, loppers, hedge trimmers.... Church Picnic July 20, 4 pm Anne Rogers-Popejoy is coordinating - bring a salad or dessert and a lawn chair and lawn game if you have one
- 3) Legacy Dinner August 23 - Paul will talk more about this - an opportunity to learn more about legacy giving and being mindful about including the church in your estate planning..

Respectfully taken by Haunani Wallace