

St. Thomas Vestry Meeting  
June 10, 2025

Present: Fr Paul Briggs, interim rector; Elizabeth Moran, senior warden; Br. Donovan Bowley, junior warden; Anne Rogers-Popejoy, clerk.

Benjy Lowry; Cheryl Reif; Kelli McGuire; Gwen Prosser; Jacqueline Recht; Ron Zdjoreski

Fr Briggs opens the meeting in prayer at 5pm

**Motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting: Elizabeth, second Benjy. Motion carries.**

The group reflects on Sunday's Formation Workshop with Emily Keniston, Diocese of Maine. Next steps likely involve creating a committee.

Discussion of all parish summer cookout: tentative date of July 20. The group agrees that it's a good idea, but there is disagreement about a time. All agree that it is important to have a social gathering separate from church services. Anne will head up the committee.

Cheryl gives a report from the Stewardship Committee. The theme for the year is "Tell Out My Soul." The fall campaign will run for approximately 6 weeks in September and October. Vestry discusses the importance of year round stewardship and proposes a narrative budget check in over the summer to keep momentum and engagement. Fr Paul and Ron will host on August 16: a Legacy meal: open invitation to anyone who would like to remember St. Thomas in their estate plans.

Outreach update: request from George Johns to place a tiny food pantry box at St. Thomas. Vestry is in support and refers back to Outreach, who will work with Building & Grounds for placement.

Liturgy and Music: farewell to Clarissa this coming Sunday. James Higdon will be the supply organist through August 17. Next steps include reworking and then posting the job description.

Review of the draft of the St. Thomas' Purchasing Procedure Policy (created by the rector, treasurer, and representatives from the finance committee).

- Request for clarification on the term "established account."
- The Vestry refers the policy to the full finance committee for final review.

Update on the bell tower: Carmen will coordinate with Bill Freeman to have a contractor drill a few inconspicuous holes in the Chapel plaster wall. There is a question of how the load path works from the Bell tower down to grade that Carmen needs answered. Engineering results are expected to be available next month. The Tower Committee will convene on June 25 at 4 p.m.

to meet with 2-3 clergy who have had tower issues. The intention is to glean learnings and surprises that each encountered in their respective projects.

Building & Grounds update: Bill Freeman

- Corner path stones have been installed
- New gardens will be installed at the front of the church
- Camden Garden Club will prepare All Souls Garden
- Will organize an outdoor work day

**Motion to accept a gift of \$5000 from the estate of Jan Dolcater (received in May) to be held in Allen Financial Brokerage account in the Special Donations fund. Motion: Ron, second Kelli. Motion carries.**

Reports to Parish:

8am: Donovan

10am: Anne

- Beginning to discuss stewardship, which will kick off mid-September.

-Summer parish picnic July 20 4pm

- We're looking forward to exterior painting and new landscaping along the East elevation of the church.

Meeting concludes in prayer at 6:35pm.