

St. Thomas Vestry Meeting  
December 9, 2025

Present: Fr Paul Briggs, Interim Rector; Elizabeth Moran, senior warden; Br Donovan Bowley, junior warden; Anne Rogers-Popejoy, clerk; Terry Mello, treasurer.

Haunani Wallace, Kelli McGuire, Bill Freeman, Gwen Prosser, Benjy Lowry, Jacqueline Recht.

*The meeting opens with a series of devotions from SSJE.*

Elizabeth makes a motion to approve the minutes of the October and November minutes, with a note to double check the spelling of all members' names. Kelli seconds.

The group recaps the last Holy Cow CAT survey work and discusses strengths and weaknesses in the process.

The survey period will run January 4-28:

-Haunani, Donovan, Kelli will make sure that announcements are made and work with the congregation. Terry will update the website.

-Work to begin includes: working with the office to create paper copies, a notice on the website, emails out to the realm directory.

-Listening sessions follow the survey work: in person on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We will include an online session geared toward summer residents.

-Vestry will receive a thorough report on the results first, then a written report will be shared with the parish. A session led by the vestry or consultant may follow.

Bell tower update:

High risk areas have been covered, roof is in good shape. Building and Grounds need to determine if it needs to be fully rewrapped. The roofing is a large issue in the decision of how to move forward with the project: the committee has gathered more information about cost estimates and scope of work for the roof. The committee has also visited the church in Gardiner, met with a contractor from Ellsworth in our church, and would like to meet with at least one more contractor to discuss the project. They are also exploring the concept of breaking the project into phases: these likely include a roof phase and a tower phase. Information will be presented to the Vestry for consideration.

Pledge Updates: Terry

41 pledges making up more than \$160,000. 9 new pledges. This works out to a budget similar to 2025.

Outreach Update: Gwen

Stockings have been delivered to the middle school. George Johns has been in touch with Bill Freeman, and the pantry is ready to be installed – as long as the ground is not too hard. Collection for the holiday meal vouchers raised \$430 on Sunday. Vouchers went out to the kids on 12/9/2025. French & Brawn will cover 50% of the holiday project.

Organ update: no news. Substitutes secured through February.

Nominations for Vestry and Convention:

*Vestry:* Sam Cotton and Becca Berry.

Benjy Lowry nominated as junior warden.

1 year term open: names mentioned and vestry member assigned to ask.

*Diocesan Convention:*

Anne, Br Donovan,

Check with: Derek, Jan Lyle (both attended in 2025)

Meeting fellowship continues with dinner.