

**St. Thomas' Vestry Meeting
January 9, 2024**

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

Benjy Lowry, Gwen Prosser, Jacqueline Recht, Jan Lyle, Sarah Groman, Kendra Watkins.

Fr. Paul Briggs opens the meeting in prayer at 6:00pm.

Senior Warden moves to approve the November minutes; second Benjy. Motion carries. Junior Warden moves to approve the December budget meeting minutes; second Gwen. Motion carries.

Review of Advent & Christmas:

Members of the vestry note feelings of joy, family, and enthusiasm, particularly at the Epiphany celebration.

Stewardship: Jan and Terry

Terry reviewed the Analysis of 2024 Donations.

This year's campaign utilized The Episcopal Network for Stewardship with prepared materials that were then adapted for our parish. First letters went out in October; picked up 3 new pledges, 11 increased pledges.

Efforts included two pancake breakfasts – the first very successful, the second less so. This year's effort did not include recruiting/educating the parish about ministry opportunities, but Jan hopes that it will in the future, perhaps even this spring. Overall, Terry reports that pledges are up \$15,100 over last year.

Communications/Administration

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held January 28 at 10:15am, following one joint 9am service. Carlos Mello will livestream and monitor the chat.

The nominations slate for open vestry seats was discussed.

Discussion included revising the process for nominations to include bringing the slate back to the vestry prior to approaching individual candidates.

Donovan moves to accept the slate as presented by the nominating committee, second Benjy. Motion carries. (8 yeas, 1 nay).

Fr. Paul seeks Diocesan Convention delegates: Donovan, Anne, Kendra are interested; Fr. Paul will check with Grayce Sivigny and Kelli McGuire.

Vestry retreat is scheduled for March 23: a full day at Limina Renewal Center in Searsport.

Kayla Clay has started as administrator 15hrs per week; Terry has committed many hours to preparing for her and training her. She is doing well and is a quick learner.

Terry will hold a Realm database demo for the Vestry on January 14 at 11:15am.

The Memorial Garden Committee met at 11am today (1/9/24), and will meet again next month. Junior Warden will be an ex officio member of the committee.

Community Events:

Centennial Celebrations

Please send ideas and interest to Anne at vestryclerk@stthomascamdenme.org

Outreach: Gwen Prosser

Thank you notes from recipients have come in and are wonderful to see; more money will be directed to the Global South, Episcopal Relief & Development, and adopting a child through El Hogar.

Property: Junior Warden

Bill & Susan Freeman would like to finance the repair of areas of damaged plaster in the church including under the large window in the back of the church and in the chapel. **Donovan motions to accept this gift, second Gwen. Motion carries.**

Edmund Hartt will repair the floor in the flower room.

We will move to new programmable thermostats, in response to high oil usage in the building this winter. **Donovan moves to approve up to \$2500 for new thermostats, second Benjy. Motion carries.**

Sergeant lock has completed the rekeying of three interior doors, with plans to rekey the exterior doors of the building. **Jan moves to approve up to \$2000 to rekey the exterior doors of the church, second Elizabeth, Motion carries.**

Hedstrom Electric submitted a \$5500 proposal to replace the connection to the electric sign. Money will come from the Allen Financial money market account. **Donovan moves to accept the proposal, second Benjy. Motion carries.**

Hedstrom Electric submitted a proposal to install/repair emergency lighting for \$2800. **Donovan moves to accept the proposal, Gwen second. Motion carries.**

Additional property maintenance concerns without votes at this meeting can be found in the attached junior warden's report.

Senior Warden's Report: Elizabeth

Holy Housework event was very successful, more than 20 people attended. Hopes to hold another event before Easter. Altar guild has also been revitalized in a meaningful way. Elizabeth also provided a report on Holy Cow! assessment tool and is in communication with Suzanne Roberts at the Diocese regarding the search for a new rector. The senior warden recommends that we move forward with Holy Cow, as budgeted for 2024.

Interim Rector Updates: Fr. Paul

Christian formation for all ages Sundays during Lent, with Godly Play instruction for young children and scripture study and discussion for adults.

Shrove Tuesday dinner with pancakes and games.

Ash Wednesday services at 9:30am and 5:30pm.

This group will work with Clarissa to explore bringing back Friday 12noon music and lunches during Lent.

Treasurer's Report: Terry

Optimistic, please direct question to treasurer@stthomascamdenme.org

Group wants to make sure that Clarissa knows that she has adequate funds and support for music expenses.

Elizabeth moves to accept the gift of \$3000 for a portion of building expenses outlined in the junior warden's report, second Gwen. Motion carries.

The gift from Karen Foxwell will be combined with her family's prior gifts in the Joan Foxwell fund, a special donation fund. **Elizabeth moves to allocate the funds in this manner, second Benjy. Motion carries.**

Clerk moves to accept the housing allowance for the interim rector, second Jan. Motion carries. Clerk signs resolution.

Next meeting February 13, 2024 at 6:30, following the Shrove Tuesday pancake event.

Meeting adjourns at 8:00pm.