

The Episcopal Church of St. John Baptist, Thomaston, Maine
Vestry Meeting, April 16, 2026, Minutes

Members present: Ruth Anne Hohfeld, Carlton Winslow, Jan Gaudio, Carolyn Garratt-Reed, Mark Ranney, Henry Hoecker, Mike Lindstrom, Judy Laidlaw
Count represents a quorum.

The meeting opened with a reading from Corinthians and prayer, both provided by Mark.

Motion was made to accept the minutes from the previous (March 26th) meeting.

Moved by: Carlton Winslow

Seconded by: Mark Ranney

Vote result: All in favor; motion carried

A thank you note to the Vestry from Gillian and Carlin Thompson for Camp Bishop scholarship money was shared. Both Gillian and daughter Carlin had included personal notes of appreciation in the thank you.

Ruth Anne requested the Vestry's thoughts and comments about this past Sunday's parish meeting. Reaction was positive, especially in regard to the relaxed and unified parishioner responses to Fr. Ambler's questions. Meeting notes taken by Kathryn Turansky were reviewed. Ruth Anne noted that Fr. Ambler had expressed seeing a renewed sense of positivity within the parish. Both Ruth Anne and Fr. Ambler will be sharing the meeting's outcome with the Bishop, who has requested to be told exactly what St. John's is now looking and hoping for.

Bishop Brown's question to Ruth Anne, "what do we now want?" led the Vestry to carefully and thoughtfully consider the different possibilities. We could continue indefinitely with supply priests, or request another interim Priest, or we could ask for a Priest in Charge. The Vestry ultimately determined that a Priest in Charge would best serve the wants and needs of St. John's, both now and as we eventually move forward with the Discernment process. Ruth Anne will take the Vestry's response to Bishop Brown. A meeting has been scheduled.

Mike Lindstrom was welcomed as our new Treasurer. His joining the Vestry as Treasurer completes the Vestry roster.

The following vote was required:

Motion: To add Mike Lindstrom as a check signer on the Church account at First National Bank

Moved by: Carlton Winslow

Seconded by: Carolyn Garratt-Reed

Vote result: All in favor; motion carried

Ruth Anne announced that she has confirmed supply Priests and music for all Sunday services through to the end of May.

Margaret D'anieri will be conducting Chalice Bearer training on Saturday morning, May 2nd, at 9:30. It was noted that most Priests prefer to be assisted by a Chalice Bearer.

Faithful Givers workshops will be held on May 29th in Bangor and on the 30th in Falmouth. All churches in the Diocese are required to send at least one parishioner. Possible names of those from St. John's to be asked were suggested.

Parishioner concern has been expressed to the Sr. Warden about a lack of kitchen cleanup following the 12 Step Programs that meet at St. John's, and also about placement of program materials in the parish hall. Both issues are being addressed. Clear directions for how to run the sanitizer have been posted, and cups, etc. are no longer being left out. Program materials and carts ideally need to be positioned outside of the parish hall, especially when church events are scheduled. Moving the carts (which are on wheels) into the Undercroft was suggested. Ruth Anne will discuss the possibility of other locations with Tim. She also plans to attend the next AA business meeting on May 16th.

It was noted that St. John's is proud to be a church that provides space to 12 Step Programs, and also noted that doing so provides financial benefit.

St. John's received a quarterly program donation of \$1,190 from just the first 3 months of this year.

Bulletin changes were agreed upon. Weekly church bulletins will again include in *Prayers of the People* names of those connected to St. John's who are currently serving in the military. Names of those who donate for flowers and/or a Pascal candle to memorialize a designated date will also be included. Henceforth the Doxology will again be included in the bulletins for both services.

Ruth Anne announced that the Camden National safe deposit box needs to be reviewed and inventoried. It is believed that its contents will be mainly of interest to the Historical Society. Carolyn and Judy will be taking on this project. The Vestry will determine if there is future need for the church to maintain a safe deposit box.

Nancy Baker has agreed to lead a committee to oversee updating of the church website. Venues for doing so, including GoDaddy and Squarespace, are being explored.

Needs for this year's Plant Sale, scheduled for Saturday, May 16th, were discussed. Carlton and Tim will oversee the parish hall setup. Gillian will be asked about obtaining an electronic credit card reader.

Carlton presented the Jr. Warden report. He just recently held a meeting with Sexton Tim Carson and former Jr. Warden Chris Rector. Together they reviewed items that need to be addressed. The list includes the following:

- The north side of the parish roof needs replacing. (This portion was not included with the earlier roof replacement.) Estimates will be requested from Horch Roofing and also from G&G Construction.
- 4 undercroft windows need replacing. Carlton will obtain an estimate from Pen-Bay Glass.

- Fire Safe is scheduled to conduct a free survey of the church. It is likely that smoke detectors, emergency lights, and fire extinguishers may all require upgrading or replacement.
- The wooden Green St entry has been temporarily repaired but will be replaced with a ramp that is being jointly built by Chris and Tim. This will allow for wheel chair access to the downstairs.
- Repair of the lock on the parish front door is being addressed.
- The tree to the right of the church bell tower is dying and will be removed. Replacing will be discussed at a later date.

A Spring Clean-up date is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th, with a back-up rain date of May 23rd.

Follow-up on placement of a lockbox containing keys which only fire department and police would have access to would cost between \$499 and \$875. Alternative security measures are being explored.

Mike, along with the assistance of Ruth Anne and bookkeeper Katrina Ames, has just started the process of organizing his responsibilities as Treasurer.

Formal Treasury reports will start again in May. Of interest is that in spite of the varied difficulties that St. John's has recently experienced, pledges have remained reasonably stable. In 2025 St. John's received 41 pledges, totaling \$137,840. Out of the 41, 5 required writing off. For 2026, 33 pledges were received, totaling \$129,110. Not counting the 5 in 2025 that had to be written off, for 2026 we are only down in pledges by 3.

The meeting closed in prayer led by Mark. It was adjourned at 4:50.
Jan volunteered to lead prayers at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Laidlaw, Clerk

Next meeting: Thursday, May 21st, 3:00 pm. *Parishioners are welcome to attend.*