

**The Episcopal Church of St. John Baptist, Thomaston, Maine**  
**Vestry Meeting, March 26, 2026, Minutes**

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

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Ruth Anne.

Minutes from the prior (February 19<sup>th</sup>) regular meeting were reviewed, as were those from an additional meeting held on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Treasurer's report for February, submitted by former Treasurer Sandra Hoekstra, was reviewed and discussed.

Motion: To accept the February Treasurer's report as received, as well as the February 19<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes.

Moved by: Carolyn Garratt-Reed

Seconded by: Carlton Winslow

Vote result: All in favor; motion carried

Parishioners are now welcome to attend all regular Vestry meetings. Minutes from those Vestry meetings are available to parishioners at the [stjohnsinthomaston.org/leadership](http://stjohnsinthomaston.org/leadership) website. The following motion was made to eliminate a month's wait for vote approval before current minutes are posted:

Motion: To approve Vestry meeting minutes as ready for posting once reviewed, any needed corrections made, and approval finalized by Vestry members within one (1) week of being received from the Clerk via email.

Moved by: Carolyn Garratt-Reed

Seconded by: Jan Gaudio

Vote result: All in favor; motion carried

Sr. Warden Ruth Anne announced that supply Priests have been obtained for all upcoming services through May 31<sup>st</sup>. Marsha Hoecker will serve at all Holy Week services. Chris Rector will assist as Chalice Bearer on Palm Sunday; Judith Carpenter on Easter. Music will be provided on Palm Sunday and Easter by Beverly Pacheco; on Maundy Thursday by April Reed-Cox.

Supply Priests are scheduled as follows:

James Nutter: April 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>

David Bruce: April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Margaret D'anieri: May 10<sup>th</sup>

Ruth Anne has also been successful in scheduling music for the 10:00am mass on most Sundays following Easter through May 31<sup>st</sup>. Paul Mueller will provide music on April 26<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>, and May 31<sup>st</sup>. Jane Schroeder will play the organ on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

It was noted that most Priests prefer to have a Chalice Bearer assisting them. Priest Margaret D'anieri has offered to provide training to any St. John's parishioners interested. At this point we have only Chris Rector, Shirley Ferrero, and Henry Hoecker who are trained.

The Bishop will join us on Maundy Thursday for its potluck supper at 5:30, and also at the service which follows. He will be available to speak with parishioners following supper and before the church service.

The Vestry will hold a Parish Meeting on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, following the 10:00 mass. Fr. Ambler will join us and will be available to speak with parishioners, both individually and as a whole. The goal of his visit is to help guide St. John's as we move forward toward final readiness for a new priest.

Vestry discussion centered on the separation of opinions that we recognize currently exist between parishioners, and the role that we, as a united Vestry, can play in helping parishioners feel heard while, at the same time, assist in healing and overcoming the divide. It was agreed that the Vestry would like to meet separately with Fr. Ambler, possibly on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Ruth Anne will be in contact with him in hopes of arranging this.

Kathryn Turansky is continuing to ready for an opening of a St. John's Sunday morning nursery. Ruth Anne is in the process of determining Diocesan requirements for all volunteers working with children in terms of Safe Church Training and/or the possible need for background checks.

Nancy Baker has agreed to form and lead a committee to update St. John's website. The overall goal is for the site to reflect how much we as a church have to offer, as well as how actively involved St. John's is within our local communities.

Ruth Anne announced that there has so far been only one application for the scholarship money available from St. John's for tuition to attend Camp Bishopwood this coming summer. The cost for two weeks of overnight camp is \$2,250. The one applicant is the daughter of our St. John's Administrative Assistant Gillian Thompson. Judy suggested, in view of the many added responsibilities resulting from current changes taking place at St. John's, that providing a full 2-week scholarship to Gillian's daughter would be one way for St. John's to show appreciation to Gillian for all she has, and continues, to take on. This led to the following vote:

Motion: To approve providing a full scholarship, in the amount of \$2,250. for two weeks of Camp Bishopwood 2026 summer camp to Gillian Thompson's daughter.

Moved by: Judy Laidlaw

Seconded by: Mark Ranney

Vote result: All in favor with one abstention; motion carried.

Jr. Warden Carlton is arranging to meet with Tim, our new Sexton. Discussed will be expectations in terms of Tim's regular weekly duties so that he may be provided with a formal contract. To note, a notice will be included in an upcoming St. John's newsletter explaining that

Tim cannot take requests directly from parishioners, that Tim should not be personally emailed. Requests for set-up, etc. should instead be first made to the Junior Warden.

Church security was discussed. It was decided that Chris Rector, previous Jr. Warden, should keep his key to the church due to how close he lives in proximity to the church should there ever be an emergency. Understood is that former Sr. Warden Brian Perkins has the latest actual Church Security Plan document. A copy of this will be requested from Brian. Also, it was just recently learned that the Thomaston Fire Dept. can place a small lockbox on church premises which only they can access in case of fire. A lockbox is being requested.

St. John's continues to be in need of a Treasurer, Vestry Member at large, and a permanent musician. Parishioners will be asked for suggestions.

Further discussion included the possibility of holding an event before summer's end to fully honor Tony Antolini in appreciation for all the years he personally provided such incredible music to St. John's. This will be pursued.

The meeting adjourned with Ruth Anne providing a closing prayer at 5:00pm. To note, moving forward, Vestry members will take turns with both Opening and Closing Prayers at Vestry meetings. Mark volunteered for the next (April) meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Laidlaw, Clerk

Next scheduled meeting: April 16, 2026, 3:00 pm