

VESTRY MEETING December 4, 2025

Present: Rev. Cn Melinda Artman, Alice Bennett, Margaret Cole, Linda Murrelle, Mitzi Mohn, Diane Siebecker

Absent: Bruce Carpenter, Glenn Murrelle, Doreen Marshall (arrived before end of meeting)

Treasurer: Bruce Carpenter

Chairperson: Rev. Cn Melinda Artman

Opening Prayer

Agenda: Motion to accept the agenda made by Alice, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.

Minutes: Motion to accept the November 11, 2025 meeting minutes made by Alice, seconded by Mitzi. Motion carries.

Old Business:

- Electric outlets installed in the church for the new A/V system. Installation of the new system starts this week.
- We have been invited to a potluck at St. John's immediately following our worship service on December 14th. The Organ/Harp Concert is also scheduled for December 14th at 3:00 pm (Redeemer). We will pay Mr. Davenport \$200.00 for presenting the concert. Margaret & Alice will host.
- 2026 Budget:
 - *Our Housekeeper has requested two days of paid personal leave per year. Motion to approve this request made by Alice, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.*
 - *We request to add \$16,000 to Capital expenses; \$8,000 for the LED light project & \$8,000 for the parlor flooring. Motion to approve this change made by Pastor Melinda, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.*
 - *Proposal to approve the 2026 Budget made by Alice, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.*
- Adoption of new By-Laws – reviewed by Vestry. *Motion to approve made by Alice, seconded by Mitzi. Motion carries.* The By-Laws will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.
- Update on refinishing exterior doors – no new information at this time.

New Business:

- Adoption of the Rector's Housing Allowance – reviewed & approved by Vestry.
- Authorization to purchase Holiday Gift Cards for Jerry, Maria, and Marcella approved by Vestry.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the November Treasurer's Report made by Alice, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.

Senior Warden's Report:

- Pastor Melinda, Margaret, & members of Youth Group attended the Sleep-Out event sponsored by The Bridge.
- Our Youth Group and the Owego Youth Group joined together for a dinner/get-together and it went very well.
- The Angel Tree this holiday will be the "Tree of Stars". Contributions will be given to the Athens Nursing Home/Rehabilitation Center.
- The "Blue Christmas" Tree will be outside for people to place a note of remembrance on this tree.

Junior Warden/Building & Grounds Chair Report:

- We will have a Community Supper Tuesday, December 30th from 4-5:30 PM sponsored by First Citizens Bank. However, we need Vestry members to serve for this community event. If you have extra dessert items, we could use them! Also, Feed My Sheep Food Pantry has donated extra items towards our community meal.
- The Fall Fair was a successful event.

Rector's Report:

- A Spaghetti Supper Fund Raiser will be held in our Parish Hall Saturday, December 6th. This is to benefit Betsy Schumacher & Bonnie Garrity's nieces' family. Their niece recently passed away leaving behind a husband and 3 children.
- Our Christmas Eve Service is "late" this year – 7:30 PM. St. John's will have a 4:00 PM service for those that want to attend earlier.
- Our Annual Meeting to be held Sunday, January 18, 2026. Snow date is Sunday, January 25, 2026.
- Vestry Terms: Margaret & Bruce (through Jan 2026), Alice, Glenn & Mitzi (through Jan 2027), Diane, Linda & Doreen (through Jan 2028). Need up to three candidates for elections.
- Thanksgiving Eve Service was excellent.
- Vacation Bible School scheduled for the week of July 12, 2026 with adult participation.

Other Reports:

- St. Mary's Guild – Our next Rummage Sale will be March 6 & 7, 2026. Our annual Christmas Dinner will be held December 16th at Yanuzzi's. All women of the church are invited.
- Wednesday noon services will resume January 7th, 2026.
- The 2026 Parish Assessment for The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna provided for the records.

Adjourn with saying of The Lord's Prayer – 7:27 PM

Motion to adjourn made by Alice, seconded by Margaret. Motion carries.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Siebecker
Clerk of Vestry