

St. Peters Episcopal Church  
Vestry Agenda  
Approved September 23, 2025

Fr. Tom Mousin, Anita Chandler, Bob Simmons, Kathleen McCormick, Tom Ainsworth, Lorna Blackmer, Thora Easton, Linda Foster, Christopher Hickey, Emily Keniston, Patty Lamb, , Lenita Richard, Allison Schroth, Anne Whitman

Absentee: Wayne Franklin, Steve Koskinen

**Opening Prayer**

**Caring/Sharing**

Minutes from July 22, 2025 were approved.

**REPORTS:**

1. Treasurer's Operations Reports (Bob Simmons):
2. Fidelity Investments Report (Bob Simmons):
3. Diocesan Report (Bob Simmons): Tom Ainsworth would like us to encourage the Diocesan Funds to be invested more aggressively. There has been some concern at Diocesan level.

**MISSION and MINISTRY REPORTS**

1. Prayer Ministry (Allison Schroth and Emma Bond):
2. Creation Care (Janene Gorham): Clynk account labels and bags are available again. We have enjoyed the Creation Care team sharing so many things during this season.
3. St. Elizabeth's Partnership (Anita Chandler): We will make the donation sign more visible, they are collecting pots and pans; and things for the winter.
4. Aging With Grace (Fr. Tom): 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs, 10/9, 11/13, and 12/11
5. Project Feed (Bob Simmons):
6. Merry Hearts (Anita Chandler): 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds: 10/15, 11/19 and 12/17. There were 4 people there at the last one.
7. Hope Squad (Janene Gorham):
8. Sunday Liturgy Review (Fr Tom): Blessing of the animals on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> around 5 pm. We may need chairs moved outside.
  - a. Minister Rota (Wayne Franklin):
  - b. Acolytes/Torch bearers (Fr. Tom): Will be looking to use them for Harvest Home and Advent.
  - c. Readers (Anita):
  - d. Altar Guild/Flowers (Anne): They will prepare something for the Holiday fair.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Capital Campaign: (Tom A. & Lenita): \$253, 184 is the current pledge for the capital campaign. There is a letter to the vestry to encourage that all of the vestry has made a commitment.

2. Signage: The new sign in front of Bethany House has been installed and a Bethany House sign will be added. The other signs were added to the front.
3. Safe Church Training for Vestry Members:
4. Planning and Implementing Parish Safe Church Policy: Kathleen and Anne will schedule this.
5. Outside Cameras: Test camera is working. We need to install the others. We had a few instances of folks trying to set up living on the property. We have been told to call the police to remove anything left behind as there is a possibility of exposure to fentanyl.
6. Scholarship Fund: To be scheduled.
7. Flower Font from diocesan storage: We will consider locations in the spring.
8. Robe Room: Thanks to Wayne for his hard work getting this in order, although it was certainly a team effort to get things out and put back.
9. Fair: **Each vestry member sell 5 books...**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Coffee hour – monthly congregation offering – Anita. Due to the numbers we now have, there was a proposal to do a communal coffee hour as we did in the summer. We will do on an as needed basis and ask for clean-up volunteers.
2. October 5<sup>th</sup>: Volunteer(s) needed for evacuation for Maine Marathon. Anita and Lorna volunteered to be on call. Chris Hickey will put a new lock box on that works a bit easier.
3. Stewardship Campaign Dates for 2025. Fr. Tom is looking for a few volunteers to share during stewardship season.
4. Support for Youth Service Corps in 2026 - there is a request for \$900. We are asking for documentation, and will vote next month.
5. Creation care committee proposal: A proposal for Arbor Day 2026 is attached. Motion to table until November. There was one opposed.
6. Mary Sullivan, our resident, will be here Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate her serving as our resident soloist. Anita will arrange coffee hour that Sunday. There is a print of St. Peter's that will be framed for her.
7. Nominating committee: Anita and Lorna volunteered.

#### **REPORTS**

1. Junior Warden (Wayne Franklin): Windows will be closed this weekend. Many thanks to the persons who donated to the renovation of the robe room. There will be a November fall cleanup. Tenants are happy and are purchasing a new washer/dryer.
2. Senior Warden (Anita Chandler): Suggesting we would like Anika to represent the youth on the vestry. Youth member has seat and voice; at 16 can be full member and it does not need to be in parish by laws. This will be taken up by nominations committee.
3. Postulant's Report (Emily Keniston): Has been so fortunate to work with Fr. Tom; and will squeeze every ounce of learning with Fr. Tom. Eucharistic ministry training will come. St. Peters/Standing commission will be a joint compline.

4. **Rector's Report** (Fr. Tom Mousin): Fr. Tom will retire in early 2026. There are several factors that contributed to this decision. They include his turning 70, his spouse's upcoming sabbatical and that this feels like the right time for Fr. Tom and St. Peter's. He loves us and this is hard to do, but it is right. Wardens and Fr. Tom meet with Rev. Suzanne Roberts, the transition canon, to discuss the process. The Diocese and Rev. Roberts will say that the length of time for a search, does not need to be so long. The traditional model is announcing an end date, forming a search committee and begin the search. Bs. Brown is interested in seeing a new model. Traditionally, new curates would be called to a large parish where they will train the new priest. The bishop is thinking of a new model of a co-adjutor where a newly ordained priest can share some, this means Fr. Tom could be staying through Easter at the latest. One concern is when to announce to the parish. Fr. Tom is asking vestry to hold this in confidence until Harvest Home.

## **PASTORAL CONCERNS:**

### **CALENDAR DATES:**

#### **WEEKLY:**

Sunday 9 am Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 7 pm Compline

#### **MONTHLY:**

Third Thursday: Merry Hearts: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, begin September 17

Fourth Tuesday: Vestry

Aging with Grace: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, begin October 9

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Sunday September 21: Home Eucharistic Visitors Training?

Tuesday September 23 : Vestry

October 5: No in person liturgy

October 9: Aging with Grace

October 18 & 19: Harvest Home

October 25: Diocesan Convention in Bangor

November 8: Holiday Fair

November 16: Mary Sullivan, soloist, farewell

December 7: Bishops Thomas Brown and Rob Hirschfeld

**Fr. Tom's Schedule:** 10/12 and 11/2 away

**Closing Prayer**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Kathleen McCormick**