

Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
28 January 2026
Saratoga Springs

Attending: Sara Manny, Senior Warden
Rick Wissler, Junior Warden
Marge Verrigni
Timothy Holmes, Clerk

Also attending: Assistant Treasurer Peter Brooks

Regrets: Fr. Charles Wallace, K Finkbeiner Treasurer, David Harper, Marcia MacDonald,
Holly Sofarelli, David MacVane

A meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called at the church office 7 PM on 28 January 2026. Senior Warden S Manny prayed the opening prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us, the fire of your love. Amen

A quorum was not present.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Brooks worked with Karen Finkbeiner on the yearend report and budget preparation. He noted:

2025. We had an exceptionally high level of Pledge and Plate giving in December, and finished the year very strong. The key items behind net income were:

Our lower total Expenses, Pledge and Plate giving coming in on plan plus \$5K toward 2026, and our Dividends and Interest being over plan.

December Pledge and Plate was much higher than a typical month, but is in line with December giving in recent years.

Overall, a very strong end to the year.

Budget 2026

On behalf of Treasurer K Finkbeiner, Peter Brooks described the approach to the budget and reviewed the proposed Budget for 2026. Mr Brooks emphasized the importance of planning and that with increased property management concerns no time should be lost in forming a long term capital plan.

For the Annual Meeting, proposed 2026 Budget:

2025 Budget: Review

<u>Expenses</u>	Actual	+ More or - Less than budget
Rector & Rectory	\$ 133,235	\$ -7,255
Programs & Church	\$ 57,205	\$ -498
Diocese	\$ 54,044	\$ -82
Office / Labor / Fees	\$ 52,951	\$ -43
Total Expense	\$ 297,435	\$ -7,878
<u>Income</u>		
Pledge & Plate	\$ 310,521	\$ +5,341
Dividends & Interest	\$ 27,054	\$ +4,695
Other, miscellaneous	\$ 1,598	\$ +1,598
Total Income	\$ 339,173	\$ +11,634
Net	\$ 41,738	\$ +19,512

2026 Budget: Proposal

<u>Expenses</u>		
Rector & Rectory	\$ 140,309	
Programs & Church	\$ 59,565	
Diocese	\$ 68,525	
Office / Labor / Fees	\$ 55,500	
Total Expense	\$ 323,899	
<u>Income</u>		
Pledge & Plate	\$ 325,521	
Dividends & Interest	\$ 20,577	
Other, miscellaneous	\$ 1,500	
Total Income	\$ 347,598	
Net	\$ 23,699	

It was proposed to approve printing of a brochure as prepared by Field Horne. 4 votes present in favor. The other Vestry members to be polled by mail.

Support for completion of municipal approvals for the old rectory move was similarly approved.

Annual Meeting

Plans for the Annual Meeting were discussed.

There was no New Business.

Senior Warden S Manny prayed the closing prayer:

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Next meeting: February 2026.

Meeting adjourned 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Holmes, Clerk