

Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
25 February 2026
Saratoga Springs

Attending: Rector Fr. Charles Wallace
Rick Wissler, Senior Warden
Marge Verrigni, Junior Warden
Peter Brooks, Treasurer
Timothy Holmes, Clerk
David Harper
Barbara Tasso
Regrets: Holly Sofarelli, David MacVane

A meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called *chez* Brooks at 7 PM on 25 February 2026.

Opening prayer led by Fr Wallace

O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee; mercifully grant, that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 28 January 2026 were approved as distributed. (D Harper, movant; R Wissler second)

Rector's Remarks

Fr Wallace outlined plans for the holy season including added Lenten rites. He expressed pleasure at the appearance of new families attending Sunday services. Thanks have been given to Mandy Walsh for her long time of service in polishing up the sacred spaces. Office operations continue thanks to volunteers. Easter plans are underway.

Junior Warden

Junior Warden M Verrigni reported that Church operations were in good order and that Sunday school was going well.

Senior Warden

Senior Warden R Wissler reported that a fundraising committee meeting would meet soon. Subjects would include treatment of the old rectory building and its planned move. For detailing the interior, some means might be available from bequests.

Charitable Aid Society. Following the October 2025 Vestry meeting update from Mary Withington, and her letter of 5 December 2025, Vestry has been waiting for a promised meeting with the Board of the Charitable Aid Society to detail its commitment to support Bethesda Church. As of 23 February no such undertaking has been received.

Senior Warden R Wissler will follow with an articulate correspondent.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Peter Brooks reviewed the adopted Budget for 2026. A motion was made to amend the Budget \$2,400 for Christian Education (D Harper, T Holmes). The Treasurer emphasized

the importance of planning and that for increased property management a long term capital plan is needed.

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	

Support was reiterated for the rectory building renovation, along with a call to mobilize all the faithful.

New Business. An unsolicited proposition was received suggesting that Bethesda Church rent the basement for 99 years. No action taken.

Next meeting: 25 March 2026.

Closing Prayer led by Fr. Charles Wallace

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.

Meeting adjourned 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Timothy Holmes, Clerk