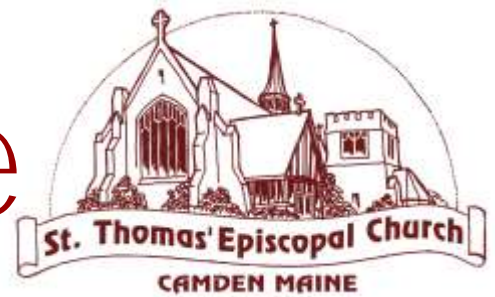


# Chapter & Verse

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
JANUARY 2016



## Lent: A Season for the Spirit

Beginning Feb. 21 and continuing on the Sundays in Lent, everyone is invited to gather for contemplative conversation in the Guild Room, after coffee hour. Using meditations, scripture passages and questions for reflection, we will create some space for a deepening of our spiritual lives. You will not need to purchase books in advance; instead, just bring your open heart and mind. With the late Thomas

Merton, Trappist Monk and Henri Nouwen, priest and theologian as our guides we will seek to be present for the "still, small voice" of holy love and wisdom.

*"That Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him."* (Ephesians 3:17, NLT)

*Faithfully, Deacon Abby*

### Noon Music in Lent Returns

The Tenth Annual Noon Music in Lent Series will begin on Friday, February 12 and will continue through the six Fridays of Lent. It is intended to be a *Sabbath* set apart. The program begins with a short prayer, then half hour of music from noon until 12:30, followed by homemade soup, bread, fruit and fellowship in the Sun Room. In the words of one of our Lenten hymns:

*Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry;  
For schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain.*

*Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication;*

*God brings new beauty nigh;*

*Reply, reply, reply with love most high.*

The Hymnal 1982, #145; Words: Percy Dearmer

The schedule is as follows:

February 12, 2016:

Douglas Beck, organ

February 19, 2016:

Millie Crocker  
and friends, harps

February 26, 2016:

Bay Chamber Voices

March 4, 2016:

Howard Walen, organ

March 11, 2016:

Loren Kitt, clarinet

March 18, 2016:

Kathryn DerMarderosian, voice.

Karen Laite will once again organize the soup makers, bread bakers, fruit suppliers, servers and cleaner uppers. Please call her at 230-8176 or the church office at 236-3680 if you can help!

May you have a Holy Lent.

—Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music

## A Lenten Quiet Day

*"An Exploration of Prayer"*

*Saturday, March 5, 2016, 9:00 am-1:00 pm*

Down through the ages, people have engaged in some sort of prayers in their attempt to relate to God or what they understood to be spiritual powers. In our Western religious traditions, we usually understand prayer as our thoughts and feelings expressed to a compassionate, just, and all-powerful God. At our Quiet Day on March 5th, we will explore many different modes of praying and consider what they have to do with the relationship we have or seek to have with our God.

In our half-day together, we will have short meditative presentations alternating with free time to silently pray, read, drink coffee, walk around, or whatever. At noon, we will break silence to share our thoughts from the morning over a brown bag lunch. The church and the rest of the campus will be closed to other activity, and these hours away from our normal routines will offer us a good balance of spiritual nourishment and refreshment, rest, and fellowship. All are welcome. Sign up is on the clipboard in the Sunroom or by calling or e-mailing the church office at [stthoscamnden@roadrunner.com](mailto:stthoscamnden@roadrunner.com).



Nearly two hundred people attended the 4:30 pm service on Christmas Eve at St. Thomas'. A Christmas pageant, organized by Stephanie Laite Lanham, Bud Summers and Bonnie Achterhof featured not just children and adults but some four-legged friends as well. The Rev. Bob Hargreaves was the celebrant and he read a Christmas story to the children, at right.



# Thanksgiving Dinner

A tradition at St. Thomas' continued on Thanksgiving dinner when, under the auspices of the Outreach Coalition, St. Thomas' served a free, complete Thanksgiving Dinner. Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, hot roll and pumpkin and apple pies rounded out the menu. A good time was had by all. Mark your calendars next year for Thanksgiving at St. Thomas'!



# News from Abroad

Dear Friends,

It has taken your annual stewardship campaign to move me into writing. In spite of the fact that I have been over three years away from Maine **and St. Thomas', I think fondly of you all, especially as you move once again into the search process for a new rector...**

My partner Shirley and I – friends in the same village 60 years ago – have recently moved across the river from Chelsea to Battersea as we wait for our new home in Battersea Place (“Gracious Retirement Living”) to be completed.

In Chelsea our Sunday home has been the chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, which is not a hospital in the conventional sense, but a retirement home of old soldiers, founded by King Charles II in 1568. Its inhabitants, known as Chelsea Pensioners, are readily visible in their uniforms and scarlet coats. The chapel is a magnificent Christopher Wren building; with a splendid choir, and traditional to the extent that Choral Matins in the main Sunday service.

Our parish church in Battersea is **St. Mary's, completed in 1777 on its site where a church as stood since around 800 A.D., the Thames lapping at its boundary wall. It's a lovely church. William Blake was married there. J.M.W. Turner painted from here, and Benedict Arnold (a man more sinned against than sinning, in my opinion), is buried in the crypt.**

Life in London is active with concerts, plays and exhibitions, **not to mention Shirley's countless friends.** I have learned to play bridge – after a fashion – and while I no

longer do the long walks I used to, **it's good on a nice day to walk a stretch of the Thames path.**

So even though an ocean separates us, I am still with you in spirit and hope that I will be able to take a trip to Camden in 2016.

God bless you all,  
John Doncaster

## What does a Grieving Widow Do? Sail to Antarctica!



Thus begins a press release from Minnie Biggs, a former parishioner of **St. Thomas'** who moved to Australia a few years ago. Minnie has written a book, *Shards of Ice*,

about the death of her husband. She interweaves the process of her grief with her experiences in traveling to Antarctica and the Red Desert in central Australia, two places that hold spiritual significance for her.

Minnie Biggs wrote her first book when she was thirteen and she has been writing ever since. She is the author of *Simple Cooking* and has also written essays on spirituality for yoga and monastic journals. She was born in New York and now lives in New South Wales, Australia.

## Calendar

Saturday, February 6  
8:45 am - 2:00 pm  
Vestry Retreat

Saturday, March 5  
9:00 am - Lenten Quiet Day

Wednesday, February 10  
Ash Wednesday  
9:30 am: Holy Eucharist  
with Imposition of Ashes  
5:30 pm: Liturgy of the Word  
with Imposition of Ashes

Thursday, March 24  
Maundy Thursday  
5:30 pm — Supper and Communion,  
Stripping of the Altar

Friday, March 25  
Good Friday  
12:00 noon: Liturgy of the Word

Saturday, March 26  
7:30 pm — Great Vigil of Easter  
(details to follow)

Sunday, March 27  
The Sunday of the Resurrection:  
Easter Day  
7:30 & 9:30 am — Holy Eucharist

## Wanted: Replacement Basket Cases

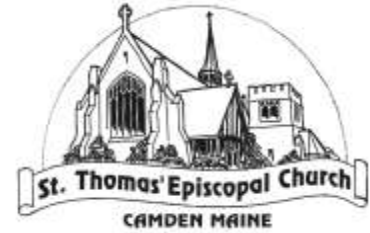
That is, replacement Raffle Basket Chairpersons for the church fair raffles. We are moving on to other committees and wish to leave this fun, rewarding job in other creative, capable hands. Would be happy to pass along ideas, guidance and some computer assistance.

— Jan Conrad, 236-2011  
and Rebecca Vogt, 236-0682

## Charge to the Discernment Committee

At its meeting on January 12, the Vestry of St. Thomas' Parish gave the Discernment Committee its charge to begin the search for a new rector. Following are the guidelines the committee has agreed to follow:

1. Commit to entering into a prayerful discernment process in accordance with diocesan policies, to begin effective with the date of this charge from the Vestry.
2. Together develop and publish a prayer to be used regularly by the Discernment Committee and congregation.
3. Determine rules for confidentiality and establish a covenant among the committee members for maintaining discretion with respect to those matters that should remain within the committee.
4. Develop a program for congregational self-study with a goal of participation by 100% of the congregation.
5. Based on learnings from the congregational self-study, develop a Congregational Profile, together with answers to the narrative questions included in the Office of Transition Ministries Portfolio, and present a draft to the Vestry, Discernment Committee, Canon, and Transition Priest in Charge to receive comments, suggestions and final vestry approval.
6. Communicate regularly [keeping confidentiality] with the Vestry and congregation through the *Tidings* and *Chapter and Verse* newsletters, email notices and Sunday announcements.
7. In consultation with the Canon, establish a clear and consistent process for receiving applications, screening and interviewing candidates.
8. Determine a consistent decision making procedure, such as majority, unanimous, or by consensus.
9. Prayerfully select *one* candidate to be presented to the Vestry. *It is the Vestry who will elect and call the Rector.*
10. Discernment Committee members will use email accounts **not shared with others for the committee's internal discussions.**
11. Retain all records until the new Rector is in place, and then destroy all materials regarding candidates at the conclusion of this process.



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[stthoscamden@roadrunner.com](mailto:stthoscamden@roadrunner.com)

The Rev. Rosalee Glass, Deacon  
The Rev. Abby Pettee, Deacon

### VESTRY

Lucy Ebbert - Senior Warden  
JoAnne Ryan - Junior Warden  
Terry Mello - Treasurer  
George H. Jones - Clerk

Sarah Akin (2018)  
Frank Beane (2018)  
Anna Black (2017)  
Br. Donovan Bowley (2018)  
Fred Bucklin (2017)  
Jan Dolcater (2016)  
Catherine Kitt (2016)  
Stephanie Laite Lanham (2018)  
Terry Mello (2017)

### RECEIVING TREASURERS

Bonnie Achterhof  
Pat Ayers  
Joan Bennett

### STAFF

Jane M. Schroeder, S.M.M.,  
Minister of Music  
George H. Jones,  
Parish Administrator