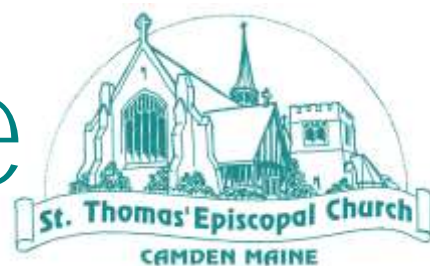


Chapter & Verse

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MARCH 2018



What are we getting out of the Liturgy?

Why do we come to church: to hear the sermon, to take communion, to meet friends, to talk about our faith?

I've been reading a lot of articles lately about what brings people to church. These articles go on and on about what we should be offering: more music, less music, more praise music, more classical music. Offer a "people friendly" bulletin —with everything printed in it. Offer The Book of Common Prayer because millennials like to have to work for what they learn. (I actually read that!) We could read our church's list of sick people during the Prayers of the People or-- give out prayer sticks with the names of the sick on them so everyone can read one aloud.

While I do like to strive for a worship service that is inspiring and thought provoking—that's only a part of what the Liturgy is all about.

Liturgy literally means "the work of the people." It does not mean the work of the clergy, or the work of the choir, or ushers, or preacher—liturgy is the work of everyone who attends the services.

We're each responsible for our own worship experience.

"But how?" you might ask yourself. "I'm not doing anything during the service."

You should be.

Some people—even some churches—think it's up to the church to *entertain* the congregation. I suspect they are confusing worship with the movies, or a sporting event.

Church is about what WE bring to it.

We could walk into an empty church and encounter God there—and I urge you to try it! Our sanctuary is open



during business hours Tuesday- Friday, just waiting for us.

We might be amazed to discover that in many churches I have belonged

to, many people never pick up a hymnal! Perhaps the music doesn't particularly resonate with them, or they've been told they can't sing. Anyone can sing! But even if you don't like singing—pick up the book and read the lyrics. We might see something like:

*My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.*

Or—

*Now the green blade riseth
from the buried grain
Wheat that in dark earth
many days has lain;
Loves lives again,
that with the dead has been.
Love will come again
like wheat that springeth green.*

These words of our hymns can inspire, or frustrate, or calm or rile—but they are there to ponder in our hearts. And though I'm sure you catch the religious significance of the hymns—don't

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Joining a Ministry Team

Calling all people who wish to serve in the Lord's church...join a ministry team! On this and following pages are opportunities for fellowship and growth.

The Altar Guild prepares the altar for our Eucharist, then puts everything away afterward. I've always found that preparing the holy space in the chancel to be a meditative experience. Did you know that until the early 20th century only *men* were allowed to be on the altar guild? It's true. It slowly became a women only ministry—though men have always been encouraged to join. Our Altar Guild has both male and female workers—putting us *once again* ahead of the curve for Episcopal churches in the United States! Volunteers are most welcome to “help prepare the Lord's table until he comes again.”

Lay Eucharistic Visitors take communion to our homebound and assisted living parishioners. I would like us to be able to get communion to these members of our community on a monthly rotation. LEV's traditionally take a small box of pre-consecrated bread and wine from the altar on the Sunday morning they serve and take it to one or two of our parishioners. While there, they lead a short service and share the bread and the wine. While we do have dedicated people who take communion out to our homebound when there is need, we don't yet have a regular schedule on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in this new ministry, and would like to make a great difference in an elder's life, please join this team.

Acolytes assist the clergy and people during the Eucharist and special services. Any of our children eight or above or adults of any age can be trained as an acolyte. It's fun to partici-



Above, some members of the Altar Guild. From left to right, Elizabeth Moran, the late Terry Bunger, Anne Ayers, Pat Ayers and Isa Babb.



pate in the sanctuary. The next training will be held in early May.

Lectors read from the holy scripture at our services. You don't need to be a Lawrence Olivier (or a Benedict Cumberbatch to our younger parishioners) to read. All you need is the desire to understand and share the words of the Old and New Testaments.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist at the altar by distributing the wine during the Eucharist. LEM's at the 7:30 service also share acolyte duties and get to ring the bell. If this sounds like something you're interested in, let us know. We need more chalice bearers. They typically serve once monthly—and there is full training.

If you feel the call to serve in your church in any of these ministry teams, please call George or me in the office at 236.3680. We'd love to welcome you aboard!

+Lisa

Holy Week at St. Thomas'

Palm Sunday: We begin with the *Liturgy of the Palms*, and sing "Hosanna" as Jesus rides into Jerusalem. Then the tone shifts as we dramatically recreate the final hours of Jesus. This service sets up the *Triduum*.

Join us on **Maundy Thursday**, March 29 at 5:30 as we remember the last supper with a meal of lamb stew, enjoy an intimate communion in our very own Upper Room (Parish Hall), then watch as all the adornments of altar and sanctuary are stripped away. The sacrament will be moved to the

altar of repose in the Mary chapel where we can join Jesus in prayer in the Garden.

Good Friday, the day of Christ's trial and crucifixion, is remembered first in the ancient and powerful tradition of the *Way of the Cross*. This ecumenical offering will walk you through Christ's final moments on the way to his crucifixion.

Later that evening we relive, through John's passion narrative, prayers, music and veneration of the cross, the final hours of Christ's life.

Communion from the reserved sacrament will follow.

The Holy Vigil begins in darkness on Saturday the 31st of March at 7:00 pm. The light of Christ is lit and we hear our faith story told through word and music. Baptisms and reaffirmations are celebrated, and after a joyous bell peal, we celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter. Lisa Fry preaches, and Lael Sorenson celebrates at St. Peter's Rockland, our host this year. Come join us for the most dramatic service of the year!

The altar is bare of its flowery finery during the Lenten season, but beginning on Easter Sunday it will be adorned again. The beautification of the altar is due in part to the generosity of parishioners and the ministry of the Flower Guild. Altar flowers aren't only given in memory of departed people, they are there in thanksgiving for people, prayers answered, to commemorate birthdays, anniversaries, graduation, baptisms or whatever one wishes. If desired, the name of the donor is published in the bulletin.

There are four ways to give flowers:

Flower Guild Ministry

- ◆ A \$50 donation to St. Thomas' Church
 - ◆ Purchase your own flowers
 - ◆ Bring flowers from your garden or woods
 - ◆ Contributions at Christmas and Easter using pew envelopes
- Don't worry about the arranging — the members of the Flower Guild are quite artistic!

The 2018 Flower Calendar, found in a notebook in the Sun

Room, has many empty spaces. Dates can be reserved — or shared with another person. In this way, flowers can be provided for the altar and also the Chapel.

The Flower Guild is looking for new members. You need not have a background in floral arranging, just love for flowers. You will be paired with an knowledgeable member to help you. If you are interested,, please contact JoAnne Ryan (785-2726) or Anne Ayers (785-2659).

Thank you for adorning the altar to the praise and Glory of God!

— Kate Jackson



Getting to Know Our New Wardens

Carlos Mello

I was born and raised in Rhode Is-



land; attended college in Boston; and spent most of my career in the greater New York City area. Terry and I met while I was still in college. We were married in 1984. We lived in Weston, CT from 1985 to 2012, with our three wonderful sons. Matt and his wife Kaitlin now live in Baltimore; Nick and his wife Amelia live in Bronxville, NY; and Dan lives in Broomfield, CO.

While our children were growing, we would vacation along the Maine coast. In 2010, we bought a second home in Camden, with the intention of someday retiring to the coast of Maine. We were so taken by the warmth, friendship and openness of the St. Thomas' family; we joined St. Thomas' as part-time parishioners in 2011. Due to a change in career in 2012, we sold our house in Connecticut, our Camden residence became our home and St. Thomas' became our extended family.

Many of you know Terry far better than I. She served on the Vestry from 2014 through 2016 and has been Treasurer since 2015. I was

asked to serve on the Discernment Committee and we are blessed to have called Lisa Fry as our rector.

I am humbled and honored to be asked to serve as your Sr. Warden. My goals for this year, include:

- ◆ Helping to grow St. Thomas' membership
- ◆ Providing members with fulfilling opportunities to engage with entire St. Thomas' family
- ◆ Expanding St. Thomas' role in the greater community

I look forward to serving with the entire St. Thomas' family as we go forward in 2018.

Faithfully, Carlos

Edmund Hartt

I grew up in Wilabraham, a town near Springfield, MA. My family were members of the Church of the Epiphany, where my father served as a member of the vestry and I served as acolyte through my college years. I graduated from Kenyon College with a BA in drama.

I moved to Maine in 1979 to work

as a camp counselor at Camp Che-wonki in Wiscasset. In 1983 I moved to this area to work on wooden boats.



I've lived in Lincolnville, Islesboro, Searsmont and Camden. In 1991 I bought and rebuilt a house in Lincolnville.

I now make my living as a boat builder, carpenter and cabinet maker. I have served on the Lincolnville School Committee, the CSD Board and the Region 8 School Board..

Sunday School News

Greetings from Bonnie Achterhof and Karen Colburn who host Godly Play for our parish youngsters! Godly Play includes song and movement, moments of silence and listening, prayer, and handwork. We share guided activities so both familiar and new stories from Godly Play will work themselves into the children's developing bodies and minds.

Since Epiphany, we have pinched dough doves to remember John's baptism of Jesus; enjoyed Giotto paintings of key moments in the early life of Jesus; stitched felt

heart pockets and planted crocus for Saint Valentine's friendship with a blind girl; and we are drawing variations of the cross as we review and explore The Greatest Parable, key moments in the life of Jesus.

As we approach Pentecost, we will be excited to share new materials for Eastertide, including resurrection appearances of Jesus, followed by stories about the early Christian church. We invite you to visit and observe our joyful children's Godly Play class. We will post a sign-up sheet at the door for the weeks between now and June.

Liturgy

Continued from page one

stop there. Think about how they pertain to *you*, particularly. To *your* life. Open that hymnal and join *the work of the people*. Jesus wants us to understand ourselves as much as we understand him.

Are you praying all the prayers that we say in the service—even if the lector or clergy leads it?

If not, why not?

And the Eucharist. Did you know that a priest cannot consecrate the Eucharist alone? It takes all of the people focused on the table to reveal Christ in the Eucharist. Are you praying along with me—stretching out the hands of your heart over the bread—concentrating on Christ manifesting with and in us?

If not, why not? Join in!

Never again think of the liturgy as something you passively watch. Participate. Open yourself to the presence of God, feel the Presence bloom within you.

Church is what we bring to it, and Sunday's liturgy is the *work of ALL the people*.

Lisa+

Assistance for the Elderly in Camden

Lenore "Nonie" Niles, longtime Camden resident and town employee, left provisions in her will which established a trust to assist elderly Camden residents in financial needs with real estate taxes, fuel or utilities. It was Nonie's wish that recipients be 60 years of age or older, and a resident of Camden for at least 5 years. Applications for assistance are administered by the Camden town office.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from this fund, please let them know to contact Janice Esancy at the town office at 236.3353 ext. 101.



Clergy Retreat

Living In The Presence of God was the name of the recent annual retreat for clergy in the Episcopal Diocese of Maine. Facilitated by our Bishop, Rev Lisa and I, together with our priest and deacon colleagues from across Maine gathered at the nearby Samoset Resort for a time away that included two overnights. Through a combination of worship, conversation and alone time, we were encouraged to "lean into" and "attend" to how the Holy One "meets" us, and then to name the occasions, places and moments that God appears to us in our daily lives.

Bishop Lane shared with honesty and genuineness some of the stories of his own life. "We have a gift to unwrap every day" is how he described the presence of the indwelling Christ. Not to be kept on a shelf, this gift is meant to be experienced and shared. Faith is a love relationship, he reminded us—a "posture" of trust and a conviction that God is within and

among us...right here, right now. Tending to this relationship every day involves work and trust, but it means that in times of testing—when there are "stormy seas" in our lives, we will have a solid foundation.

"Give thanks with a grateful heart—give thanks to the Holy One." These words were part of one of the hymns we sang, in consideration of gratitude as a response to the gift we are given, and for our lives of faith. I felt thankful for the opportunity to reconnect with clergy friends I haven't seen for a while, and to make new friends. When I awoke on Tuesday morning, this sunrise greeted me outside my bedroom window. A gift of our creator God, and a moment that filled me with awe and deep joy.

Rev. Abby Pettee
Deacon



It takes a parish (and then some!) to produce Noon Music in Lent

Noon Music in Lent 2018 has been wonderful for performers, audiences and soup preparers and guests alike!

Performers: Howard (Budge) Walen – organ; Brian MacFarland – organ; Nancy Riesgo – voice; Paulette Ulmschneider – voice; Diane Oltarzewski – voice; Michelle Terry – hammered dulcimer; John Mehrmann – composer/pianist; Millie Crocker – harp; Suzanne Scott – piano; Jane Schroeder – piano and organ

Soupers: Andrew Moran, Jan Gilley, Kate Jackson, Donovan Bowley, Sydney Hall, Pat Ayers, Susan Freeman.

Bread and Fruit Suppliers: Francina Bardsley, Isa Babb.

Set up/Clean up: Rosalee Glass, Joan Bennett, JoAnne Ryan, Chris Glass, Roy and Jan Gilley.

Everyone gives their time, talent and resources to make this possible.

Thank you all!

—Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music



The prayer shawl ministry is an old one. Prayer shawls are given to those with serious illness, as a comfort after a loss or bereavement, to those becoming united in marriage, after the birth of a child, or for other special occasions.

Prayer Shawls are stitched with prayer and love for those who need our prayers and blessings. Anyone who can knit—or would like to learn—can assist in this ministry.

Upon completion, a final blessing will be offered at the 9:30 healing Eucharist with all attending participating in the blessing, after

Prayer Shawl Ministry



which the shawl will be sent on its way with our love and prayers. If you are interested in participating in

this ministry, or would like to request a prayer shawl for a loved one, please let Rev. Lisa know.

Blessing for a Prayer Shawl

May God's grace be upon this shawl: warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May this mantle be a safe haven, a sacred place of security and well-being, sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Amen.



Scenes
From
Christmas
2017

Above and below: fun times at the Christmas Fair.

Above, the Paper Bag Pageant. Below: Assembling the Crèche.





Thor Gabrielsen Places First in Math Competition

Thor Gabrielsen, (pictured far right) a member of the Camden Rockport Middle School Math Team placed first in the overall competition at the Mathcounts State Competition for middle schools hosted by the Maine Society of Professional Engineers on March 3 at Kennebec Valley Community College, Fairfield. Congratulations, Thor!

Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 25
The Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday
Services at 7:30 and 9:30 am

Wednesday in Holy Week
March 28
Service of Holy Eucharist and Healing
at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday
5:30 pm
Dinner and Holy Eucharist in the
Parish Hall
followed by Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday
March 30
12 noon: Ecumenical Service at
John Street Methodist Church, Camden
5:30 pm— Good Friday Service
at St. Thomas' Church

Saturday, March 31
7:00 pm Easter Vigil at
St. Peter's Rockland

Sunday, April 1
The Sunday of the Resurrection
Services at 7:30 and 9:30 am

Chapter & Verse

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The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry, Rector ❖ The Rev. Abby Pettee, Deacon

VESTRY

Carlos Mello, Senior Warden (2021) ❖ Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden (2021)

Terry Mello, Treasurer ❖ Elizabeth Moran, Clerk

Susan Fockler (2019) Barbara Kent Lawrence (2019)

Eileen Morelli (2020) ❖ Suzanne Scott (2020) ❖ Fred Bucklin (2021) ❖ Elizabeth Moran ❖ (2021) ❖ Sarah Groman (2021)

RECEIVING TREASURERS

Bonnie Achterhof ❖ Pat Ayers ❖ Joan Bennett

STAFF

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