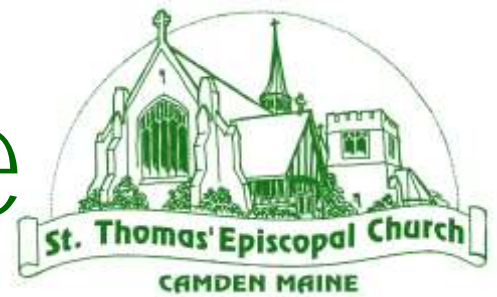


Chapter & Verse



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2016

From the Transitional Priest in Charge

*"Come my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife; such a
life as killed death."*

Dear St. Thomas' family and friends,

It seems only yesterday we were planning for the summer and looking forward to all that summer brings to Maine. Now we find ourselves planning for the fall. We are saying "Farewell to Summer" and to friends and families who come and visit. We are saying good bye to family time and vacations with children enjoying being out of school. At the same time, summer isn't quite done yet and visitors are still flocking to St. Thomas' open door.

On Wednesdays, after the healing Eucharist in the Lady Chapel, Bible Study continues to have warm fellowship and dynamic conversation. Staff meets weekly on Wednesdays and we go over the week and month ahead. After staff I usually meet with St. Thomas' gifted Wardens, Lucy and JoAnne. Often after that, either one or both of our wonderful Deacons and I meet to prepare for upcoming services. Eventually by mid-afternoon the meetings end

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What a great time we all had at the *Farewell to Summer* fundraiser last week! Our committee chairs, Frank Beane, Fred Bucklin, Erik Frederick with the additional auction expertise of Sally Williamson, did an incredible job of coordinating a fun filled evening. And, a very special thank you to George, our administrator, for pulling all the loose ends of the event together.

The net amount from the event was over \$9,000! Thank you to all who participated and made donations.

Lucy Ebbert, Senior Warden

Additional photos are on page 8

From the Senior Warden

Dear Parishioners,

With autumn fast approaching I wanted to give you an end of summer update of Vestry business. The Discernment Committee has completed the Parish Profile. It is currently available for the entire parish to view on our website www.stthomascamdenme.org/st-thomas-church-parish-profile/. Many thanks to the committee for completing this very important task. The committee's next step is to begin accepting applications this fall. A compensation package for a new Rector was approved at the July vestry meeting.

With the death of Parker Laite, who headed the Finance Committee for several years, Frank Beane was appointed as the new head of that committee. Current committee members Bob Furman and Charlie Henderson will both be retiring. Many thanks to them for their extended terms and commitment to St. Thomas'.

Presently, we are only **\$19,400** away from meeting our matching grant goal of \$100,000 for the Parker Laite Building Fund. To date the following work has been completed: replacement of the Parish Hall roof, installation of new windows in the old Rectory, updated emergency lighting, replacement of heating system circulators, installation of Wood Street fence and the development of a master gardener's plan to restore the Dodge Garden. Currently, we are waiting for our contractor to install a new class room window, replace doors in the Sun Room and install a new sanitizer in the scullery. Other items on the list include: exterior painting, slate roof repairs, restora-

tion of the exterior lamp pole outside of the chapel and updating the sanctuary's sound and lighting systems. The Building and Grounds Committee and Vestry are both in agreement that a reserve account of approximately \$50,000 be established from the grant to be used for future building repairs.

Treasurer Terry Mello presented to Vestry a revised budget for July through the end of the 2016 year. To date we are on target with expenditures and pledge income is slightly behind. However, she cautioned that the projected budget for 2017 will see increasing costs due to the hiring of a new Rector and additional staffing for the Sunday School.

Finally, the Diocesan Convention is October 22nd in Portland. In order to demonstrate financial responsibility, it has been reduced to a one-day event. Our representatives are Susan Fockler, Donovan and Erik Frederick. As we move forward together, please understand that over the next few months there are going to be additional changes in our life together as we prepare to call a new Rector. Remember that God is there to guide us through this time of Discernment. He is the constant in our lives.

Faithfully,
Lucy Ebbert
Senior Warden

Safe Church Training

Our diocese is offering a new on-line training program that focuses on our responsibility within our church family to help keep each other safe. Parishioners who work directly with our children and those involved with pastoral care will need to complete the training by October 31, 2016.

Two options are available.

- One can do the training at home using on your home computer. (a PC or Mac is fine, but a tablet, such as an iPad will not work). The link to the online course is right on the front page of our website, under the heading " Safe Church Training.
- One can come to St Thomas on Saturday October 15 or Saturday October 29. (10:00 am to 2:00 pm) Bring your own laptop (if you don't have one, we can provide one). Conversation about the topics will be interspersed with completion of the modules. Refreshments will be served.

A certificate denoting the successful completion of training will be needed.

If you have questions or concerns, please speak with Rev. Abby Pettee.

Thanks in advance for your participation.

—Deacon Abby Pettee

A Note from the Rafters

Dear Friends,

First, we want to thank you all once more for your incredibly generous retirement gift last fall. We are still deeply moved by your generosity and thoughtfulness. And we especially appreciate those who suggested the gift of a trip to visit family in Japan. Thank you, all of you, so very, very much, for this meaningful gift!

Several of you have asked about our trip, so this note is to bring you all up to date. Our first plan was to visit our family in Japan last spring. For a number of reasons, and at our son's suggestion, we rescheduled the visit to the end of the school year. Then, our son's family decided, quite unexpectedly, to return to Japan for the 2016-17 academic year, and so we made plans to visit them during a week-long school vacation this October. Subsequently, a number of issues have come up, including important personal commitments and

medical appointments that simply cannot be postponed or rescheduled.

In short, there is simply no conceivable way that we could travel anywhere overseas this fall, let alone as far distant as Japan. That is a great disappointment to us!

So what are we to do? While our family was all together this summer, we discussed the possibility of "expanding" the church's gift by including Brian and his family, and Becky and a friend, in a family vacation somewhere special that would be paid for by the retirement gift. There was lots of excited discussion about where we might go, and when we'd all be available. The idea that caught everyone's interest was for us all to go somewhere in Canada, probably next July. (Part of the interest in Canada is that my father's parents, J. Wesley Rafter and Florence Scott Rafter, emigrated from Nova Scotia to Vermont just about a century ago.)

We don't have the details

worked out yet, but we will definitely let you know whenever that special vacation happens!

We think this change in our plans is consistent with the intention of the church's gift, and we hope that it will be acceptable to you all.

Thank you for your understanding!

With love and appreciation,
John & Michele

Chapter & Verse

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Suzanne Colburn, Transition Priest in Charge ♦ The Rev. Rosalee Glass, The Rev. Abby Pettee, Deacons

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) ♦ Susan Fockler (2019) ♦ Erik Frederick (2019) ♦ 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



Kiss the "Goat"



Catherine Kitt and Sarah Akin partnered to create an activity for the Sunday School as well as a fundraiser for Heifer International. Billed as "Kiss the Goat", donors were invited to place "bets" on whether certain members of the congregation could actually kiss a goat. The fact that the goats were in fact sheep deterred no one, and following coffee hour, a large crowd gathered in the newly fenced back yard to view the festivities. Goat-kissers pictured here are (clockwise from left) Anna Black, Catherine Kitt, Br. Donovan Bowley, Rev. Suzanne and Bonnie Achterhof. Over \$200 was raised.



From the Transitional Priest

Continued from page one

and often, especially during the summer, I am on my own.

This time alone at St. Thomas' is precious. I often go into the sanctuary to enjoy its peace, its calm, and our Lord's presence. The high altar is always lit —as is the Lady Chapel— not too much, but inviting.

Sometimes I wander to the entrance of the sanctuary to see what it would feel like to be a newcomer or a visitor or someone coming by for solace or need. Having just been a traveler myself in England, I know how rare it is to find churches that are open in this day and age. I love that St. Thomas' offers this profound ministry of welcome by simply keeping the church open during the week.

As I looked at the guestbook recently I came across this note by the signature of a visitor: "So glad

your door was open—thank you!" Who knows what was on the heart of this person who came seeking sanctuary? Who knows what his or her need was; whether they believed; whether they were simply curious or tired of walking and in need of a place to sit down?

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6) and he says it to all of us who come regardless of our reasons. When we are in need, Jesus gives us direction. He gives us his best. He gives us a way forward; he gives us an accurate understanding of what is needed and he gives us life- that wonderful energy of creation that we call Love.

As we look ahead to the new rector job being posted, to applications being submitted, to the Search Committee working behind the scenes, the steadfast direction, truth and love of Christ will guide us; hold and nurture us.

Thank you to everyone for helping to keep St. Thomas' door open. Thank you to our families

and all who come so faithfully; to Sunday School teachers, to our acolytes who served all summer long; to the choir who vested and sang; to all who planned and ran the "Farewell to Summer" event. Thank you to pastoral care givers; to staff, volunteers, lay leaders and Vestry.

Sometimes the Church, with all its details, mistakes and challenges can appear irrelevant in our time. That's when we remember that we're all pilgrims; all visitors. We are on a journey together and we have, by God's Grace, a Way, a Truth and a Life that always keeps the door open for us.

As we transition from summer to fall, please keep all students and teachers, crossing guards and parents, volunteers, police, school bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers in your prayers. May they all be blessed as they, and we, begin a new school year.

In the Love of Christ,

Suzanne +

Thank you to all those Choristers who have joined us this summer and swelled our ranks! (very bad pun): Polly Chatfield, Loren Kitt, Kay Lehr, Catherine Pindell, Nicholas Wolfhave I forgotten anyone?

Thank you also to those who have given of their gifts to sing or play offertories: Jeffrey Conrad, Millie Crocker, Ed Shindle, and to Budge Walen for agreeing to substitute for me on the organ bench during my four week sabbatical.

Choir Rehearsals resume on Thursday, September 8, 2016 from 5:00-

From the Pit

6:30 pm in the Green Room.

Our **Choir Retreat** is on Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm in the Parish Hall, the Green Room, and the Sanctuary.

An Open Invitation

I am extending an open invitation for any or all to come to the Choir Retreat (free lunch!) to sing lots of anthems, hymns and spiritual songs with us. Likewise, you are invited to come to any of our choir rehears-

al on a Thursday and see if you like it!

Everyone has a voice! It makes me so sad when someone tells me "I am a non-singer." There is no such thing! If someone has told you not to sing aloud, let me know who they are and I will take care of them! (just kidding). We also do on-the-job training.

—Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music

Memories of St. Thomas'

Pat Ayers asked me to write down some of my memories of the time I was the sexton at St. Thomas'. I started working at St. Thomas' in November 1977. On my second day we had a blizzard with 18 inches of snow. My wife Myrna worked at the Camden Hospital and on our way home that evening we encountered snow drifts six feet deep in our driveway.

Fr. Titus Oates was the rector when I started. He was a good organizer and loved gardening and having dinner parties at the Rectory. He left to go to Dorchester, MA in 1982. He greatly increased the Summer Fair which was created by the ECW.

Fr. David Edman came in the summer of 1982. He was completely different from Fr. Oates and I think a lot of people could not accept that. Fr. Edman invited Fr. White, who had retired from [St. Peter's] Rockland to assist him. Fr. White was much loved by many of the older parishioners. He stayed on to assist Fr. Michael Rowe. Fr. Edman organized a parish trip to Egypt which I was lucky enough to go on. We saw the pyramids and ancient temples along the Nile River. The Egyptian people were wonderful to us. Fr. Edman brought St. Thomas' into the modern age with computers and also two new bathrooms in the basement. He met and married "Rita" who was the love of the parish. He wrote and gave beautiful sermons but had a hard time connecting with people. He left in the fall of 1989. Fr. White continued on.

Fr. Sam Henderson started in 1990. He was a former radio and television announcer and had a magnificent bass voice and loved to laugh. It was my duty on Fridays to pick up the senior citizen ladies, about twenty of them, and bring them to the

Guild Room for the day. They were a fun group and one of them would not let me help her on or off the bus. She would jump off with no help and would run down the street to her home. She was also very proud of the fact that she had a pony named Sugar. One of the other ladies loved to sing and had a remarkably good voice and knew all the popular Broadway tunes. One Friday, she was singing as usual when Fr. Henderson walked into the Guild Room. She immediately got in front of him, grabbed his hands and swung them to and fro in time to her singing. Fr. Henderson turned to me and whispered in a voice that could have been heard clear to French and Brawn, "She is as crazy as an outhouse rat!" But that didn't slow her down a bit.

Throughout the years I was working the ECW [Episcopal Church Women] was very active and their members were active in other groups as well: the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Choir, Vestry, etc. One of the most colorful ladies was Lena Brooks, also known as the "Queen of the Rummage Sale," or "The Sarge." She ran the rummage sale like a concert violinist plays the violin and would consistently raise \$2,000 or more which funded many of the church's charitable works. Fr. Henderson worked as a literacy volunteer and spent many hours teaching people how to read.

There were many people who were a big help to me and I thank them greatly. Maynard Tolman helped with heavy lifting such as the Christmas crèche and building projects. Dick Ayers gave me much good advice. Aubrey Young always asked me, "How are the little green apples?" Ruth Ayers, Pat Ayers' mother-in-law, used to say the only thing wrong with her was "old age and

dry rot." Lena Brooks used to quip: "I'd take poison if it would help."

During one of the ECW luncheons the ladies were in the kitchen working like beavers and one of them dropped a big stirring spoon on the floor and said, "Oh, sh**!" Immediate silence followed. Then Opal Tucker said in a quiet voice, "It works better with 'bull' in front of it!" Everyone burst into laughter and went on working.

St. Thomas' went through three organists while I was there: Janice Tucker, Jerry Koontz and Rick Dostie. Rick was also a great pianist and one of the finest musicians I ever knew.

Fr. Michael Rowe arrived in the summer of 1993 with his wife Diane and their children Philip and Teresa. He had a good sense of humor but was more drawn to the abstract. We went through more secretaries during that time than during all my previous years. Fr. Vernon Austin filled in for Fr. Rowe when he went on sabbatical. The secretaries worked long and hard for little pay. Marian Winchester comes to mind. She kept this place going during some dark times when there was no priest here. Sadly she left because she was unable to master computers.

Many people asked me, "What do you do when there is no one there?" Of course my biggest duty was to keep the place clean and tidy. Mostly what I remember were the good times: Fr. Henderson's laugh; bringing some of my vegetables for ECW and overhearing them ask each other, "Did you get some of Henry's beans?"; having morning coffee in the kitchen with whomever came in; the magic of Christmas and Easter. But most of all, the people.

—Henry Jalbert



The Somerset Consort, led by Carleton Russell, gave a free concert in the Parish Hall on June 28.

Inquirers' Class: The Episcopal Church 101

Sundays September 25-October 10

What is the Book of Common Prayer? Why do some of us kneel and others stand in church? You are invited to an inquirers' forum for an hour about everything and anything you wanted to know about the Episcopal Church, hosted by Rev. Suzanne Colburn and Rev. Rosalee Glass. Our group will meet beginning Sunday, September 25 through Sunday October 30 from 11:00 am—noon. Please register by calling George in the Parish Office at 236-3680 or by email: stthoscampen@roadrunner.com

Calendar

Sunday, September 17
11:30 am:
Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen
at St. Peter's Rockland

Saturday, September 24
Choir Retreat

Sunday, October 9
1:30 pm:
Blessing of the Animals
in St. Thomas' courtyard

1:30 pm
Service at Quarry Hill

Saturday, October 22
Diocesan Convention

Sunday, November 6
The Rt. Rev. Geraldine Wolf,
XII Bishop of Rhode Island,
Celebrant and Preacher,
7:30 and 9:30 services

Saturday, November 19
11:30 am—Loaves and Fishes
**Soup Kitchen at St. Peter's
Rockland**

Thursday, November 24
Thanksgiving Day
at St. Thomas'



We didn't have a chance to get everyone's name at the party since so many brought friends. Most of you will recognize (clockwise from upper left): Sally Williamson (right), Pam and David Bardon with Jim Ebbert; Connie and Robert Bock; Jan and Sandy Lyle; Jim and Lucy Ebbert; Rosalee and Chris Glass with Polly Chatfield, right.