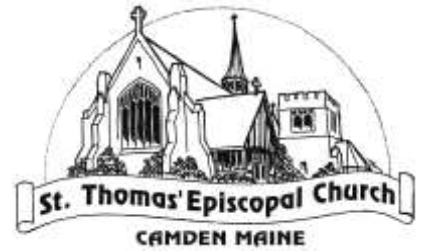


# Chapter & Verse



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MAY 2017

## *A Time of Transition Comes to an End*

Dear Parish Family,

After sixteen months, the transition period at St. Thomas' is quickly coming to an end. Rev. Suzanne's last Sunday is May 28 and Mother Lisa will officially assume her duties as Rector on June 15. Her first day in the pulpit is June 18, her birthday.

Over the past year my own spirituality has grown through the everyday workings with Rev. Suzanne. Under her leadership the staff learned that "less is more"—specifically, doing things in a deliberate and focused manner is best and that chocolate helps the stress of

Holy week. However, for many of us, Rev. Suzanne's grace and thought provoking sermons kept our interest in the parish and our attendance high. Working very hard with our pastoral team, she made sure that her presence was always available to the sick and hospitalized. When I hired her, the Sunday school was at the top of her to do list. She organized an advisory team very quickly and the result was even more new families. We the parish of St. Thomas' are blessed to have experienced her ministry and grace. **THANK YOU SO MUCH Suzanne!** Although we will miss

her, the reality is that the transition period is over and it is time to prepare for a new spiritual leader.

Mother Lisa's last Sunday in Little Rock, Arkansas is Pentecost, June 4. The movers will then be arriving, hopefully, on Monday the 5th to pick-up her furniture. After a very long drive with her cat, she is targeted to arrive on or around June 10th. Recently, she purchased a home just over the town line of West Rockport in Hope. Thanks to George Jones and Terry Mello the Rector's office was repainted to a lovely shade of blue. The shelves were also cleaned in anticipation of her twenty boxes of books!

Over the next few weeks there will be many emails and sign-ups for you to personally meet Mother Lisa through small group events that St. Thomas' likes to call "cottage meetings". On her first Sunday, June 18th, there will be a coffee following both services. Please plan to attend. In the continuing spirit of welcoming her, the Youth Group and Sunday School will host an all church Fourth of July Picnic on Sunday, July 2nd following the 9:30 am service. Please mark your calendars.

This is truly a new chapter in the life of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church. Let's all work together to define the future.

Faithfully,  
Lucy Ebbert  
Senior Warden

### From the Transitional Priest in Charge

*"To live close to the heart of Jesus..."<sup>1</sup>*

Whenever I say good-bye to a parish it is bittersweet. As a "temporary shepherd," I am filled with gratitude for the journey we share; for gifts given and gifts received. I am excited and eager for the new rector to arrive. I am proud of the challenges we've faced, the lessons learned and the preparation well done. And so it is as I prayerfully do my best to leave all of you at St. Thomas.

As I think about our time together, I'm asking myself two questions: "What have I learned?" And "What do I wish for the friends I am leaving- for all of you?"

What I learned is the same now as it was when I wrote my Annual Report. I am

*Continued on page eight*



## Hymn-a-thon!

Do you know that we have 720 hymns in our *The Hymnal 1982*? Plus 185 hymns and canticles in our hymnal supplement, *Wonder, Love and Praise*? Plus 281 hymns and canticles in our African-American hymnal, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*? That is a lot of hymns!

I was inspired by something done by Bruce Neswick, Canon for Cathedral Music, Trinity Cathedral, Portland, Oregon: a *Hymn-a-thon!* The Trinity Cathedral choirs do these hymn-a-thons to raise money for

choir singing trips abroad. I just think it sounds like great fun

We will need to schedule more than one to be able to sing through the hymnal! How about one hour on late Sunday afternoons this Summer? Let me know your ideas!

## Summer Hymn Requests

It's that time of year again to stuff the ballot box! (legally, too!) The **Summer Hymn Requests** ballot box is on the table in the Sun Room, along with hymnals so you can look up the

hymns you want us to sing. I endeavor to include as many as possible of those requests. Please put your name (so I can contact you if I need more information to find a hymn) on the paper and let me know if you plan on being away from St. Thomas' anytime this summer. Too often I work in someone's hymn request only to realize they were not here to sing it with gusto!

—Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music

## Unity in Diversity

*Creator God,  
You have made us not in one mold,  
but in many.  
So deepen our unity in Christ,  
That we may rejoice in our diversity.*  
—The New Zealand Prayer Book

Leading up to Holy Week and Easter, the Christian clergy of the Mid Coast Interfaith Alliance gathered to consider how we might focus more intently on the church as a faithful witness for Good News. Right here, right now. Not just on behalf of our own individual churches but as One Body, witnessing in word and action that we share in the One Bread. God's liberating, life-giving love is a wide embrace, and we wanted to reflect that more fully somehow, as an embodiment of resurrection life in our midst. We asked of ourselves and one another what it means to go outside the walls of our own worship settings, listening for God and trying to be faithful to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit. Our conversa-

tions "mirrored" my diaconal ministry, which is in part a circle of taking the church to the world, and bringing the world back to the church. "Be who you are" and celebrate your unique self, my mentor in deacon formation would remind me, because God will use your personality, your gifts and your challenges for ministry on behalf of his people.

So we had honest, prayerful conversations with one another about who we really are, and what was unique and deeply meaningful about each of our faith traditions. Where are our "growing edges, we wondered, as we consider new and emerging possibilities?

On Good Friday, the ecumenical noon time service was held for the first time at our neighboring congregation, Chestnut Street Baptist Church. Baptist, Congregational, Catholic and Episcopal brothers and sisters came together for a worship experience that was genuine and engaging. Two lay people from

Chestnut Street preached, revealing an invitation; the gifts of the laity as a vital "voice" and resource for church renewal and transformation.

At 3 pm that day, clergy and lay folks from six denominations gathered at Stations of the Cross: An Ecumenical Journey, with Catholic Priest Fr Bob Vaillancourt inviting us to join his parish, St Bernard's in Rockland, for a holy time of prayer and reflection. Voices from each denomination were heard—unity in our diversity. We were invited to go on a pilgrimage ourselves as we encountered Jesus speaking from his heart, in his journey to the Cross.

Let us all go forth, rejoicing in the power and love of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia..!

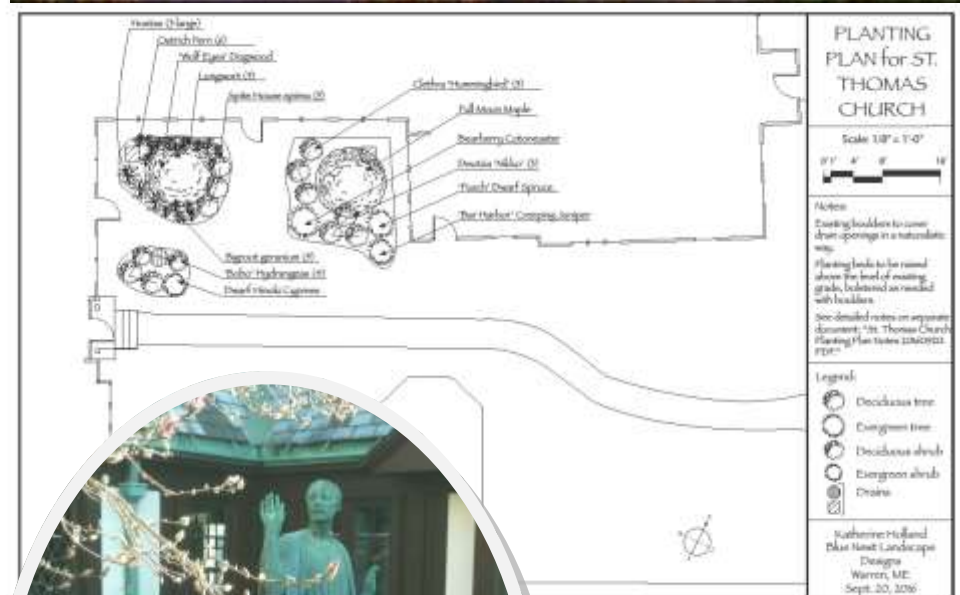
—The Rev. Abby Pettee, Deacon

## Looking Back—and Forward at St. Thomas' Garden

Before the Cloister wing connecting the Parish Hall of St. Thomas' and the old Rectory was built in 2006, there was a lovely garden behind the Rectory known as the Dodge Memorial Garden. It was given to the church by the Dodge family in memory of Donald and Gertrude Dodge, long time summer parishioners of St. Thomas'. It was a shade garden with moss-covered boulders, evergreen shrubs and a few perennials.

For ten years, a group of parishioners has planned to re-establish that garden in the present cloister area. With the approval of the Building and Grounds Committee and the Vestry, planning finally began last year. After consultation with a landscape designer and with the Dodge family, a design was accepted and bids for the reconstruction were received. In early May construction began on the new garden by moving dirt and replacing the boulders (which originally came from the Dodge estate) that had stored in back of the parish hall. For those in the parish who are interested, the plans for the new garden are in the church office.

Opposite the Cloister is the All Souls Memorial Garden, a repository for the remains of members of St. Thomas' Parish. In the center of the garden is a statue depicting St. Thomas' at the moment of his epiphany ("My Lord and my God!" - John 20:26-28). The statue is the work of the sculptress Eleanor Mellon (1894-1979) who was well known for her ecclesiastical works. The statue was dedicated to the memory of Rev. Ralph Hayden (1888-1961), rector of St. Thomas Church from 1919 to 1933. The dedication of the statue was held on September 3, 1964 with the Rev. Robert Hayden, son of Ralph Hayden as the celebrant the Rt. Rev. Oliver Loring, Bishop of Maine, giving the sermon.



Top photo: the original Dodge Memorial Garden, located where the Sun Room stands today. Middle: The plan for the recreated garden which will occupy to Cloister area. Left: the St. Thomas statue has graced the courtyards for 53 years. Right: the site of the new Dodge Memorial Garden

Chris Glass



A very hearty *thank you* to all who made possible this year's Noon Music in Lent programs! This year St. Thomas' has witnessed an increasing number of requests for help with housing: therefore, all the free-will offerings collected at this year's Noon Music in Lent programs was given to The Knox County Homeless Coalition/Hospitality House. The six programs brought in a total of \$734!

A very special thank you to the performers who donate their time and talent. This entails choosing what to sing or play, learning the music, practicing with others in the church, and then finally offering the program from 12:00-12:30 p.m. on a Friday in Lent. This year's participants included Matthew Mainster, organ; Kathryn DerMarderosian and Nancy Riesgo, voice; Millie Crocker, harp; Suzanne Scott, piano; Howard Walen, organ; and Douglas Beck, organ.

The number of folks attending the programs and the soup lunches that follow has increased to anywhere from 30-50 each Friday. Therefore, we decided to start right off setting up the soup lunch in the Parish Hall. We used the round tables, tablecloths, had plants (thank you,

Francina) on each table as well as the baskets of clementines and breads. This made the lunches even more *gemütlich* (!) (cozy, friendly, warm, inviting). All of this was made possible by the organizing skills of Karen Laite and Francina Bardsley; the soup-making skills of Pat Ayers, Susan Freeman, Terry Mello, Kate Jackson, JoAnne Ryan, Dean Jackson, Victoria and Fred Bucklin, Donovan Bowley, Bonnie and Paul Achterhof; the bread-making skills of Jan Gilley; the clementine gathering, set-up and clean-up, and general helpfulness of Roy Gilley, Jacqueline Recht, Rosalee Glass, Joan Bennett, Isa Babb. Thank you to Chris Glass for exemplary page-turning as well as wonderful reading of the selected psalms for Douglas Beck's program. If I have omitted anyone's name, please forgive me, it was not intentional.

Noon Music in Lent is clearly providing our community with a time and place for Sabbathtime, rest, contemplation and then the breaking of bread and fellowship.

Next year's Noon Music in Lent will take place from Friday, February 16, 2018 through Friday, March 23, 2018.

—Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music

## Think About Taking EfM Next Fall

**It's not too soon to begin thinking** about joining the Education for Ministry (EfM) seminar next fall. Whether we seek spiritual growth, hunger for a deeper knowledge of Holy Scripture, or feel called to understand more about Christian history and theology, EfM is a unique continuing education opportunity. Participants bring a diversity of backgrounds to the seminar, which makes the shared learning experience very rich and stimulating.

There are no classes in the summer, but the weekly seminar begins again in the fall. There are no pre-requisites or examinations, and grants from the Diocese and the Parish make EfM affordable for anyone. For more information, contact EfM mentors Rosalee Glass ([rosalee.glass@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rosalee.glass@myfairpoint.net)) Donovan Bowley ([BrDAidan@aol.com](mailto:BrDAidan@aol.com))



The Noon Music in Lent performers. Clockwise from above, Matthew Mainster, Nancy Riesgo and Kathryn DerMarderosian, Jane Schroeder and Suzanne Scott, Budge Walen and Millie Crocker. Not pictured: Douglas Beck.





# Eastertide



Eastertide brought joy after a long winter. The 9:30 service celebrated the baptism of Joshua Record Robbins, top photos. At left., the bake sale did a brisk business. At left and below, Evie Bridges and Jan Gilley pour tea using Jan's silver tea service, served with a piece of special cake. At right, the altar decked with Easter flowers.



## Camden Area Christian Food Pantry

The Camden Area Christian Food Pantry is supported by five Camden churches including Chestnut Street Baptist, First Congregational, John Street Methodist, Our Lady of Good Hope, and St Thomas. Each church appoints two members and an alternate to serve on the Food Pantry board. The St. Thomas appointees are Tom Crowley and Leamon Scott. The alternate is Max Black. The Pantry serves individuals and families in eight towns including Appleton, Camden, Hope, Lincolnton, Rockport, Searsmont, Union and Washington. We are blessed beyond belief at the generosity of businesses and individuals in and around Camden as we witness these gifts and thank their donors at the Food Pantry every week.

Each of us at St. Thomas has been gifted with the opportunity to serve our church and our community. As a parishioner, there are several ways you can support our efforts at the pantry and help those in need.

**Food Donations:** On the first Sunday of each month, we collect donations of non-perishable grocery and personal hygiene products. These can be deposited in a basket in the rear foyer near the Wood Street exit. Please check expiration dates before dropping off items.

**Monetary Donations:** You may make a cash donation anytime using the specially marked envelopes in the pew racks. Checks should be made payable to St. Thomas Church with "Food Pantry" written in the memo line.

**Egg Cartons:** The pantry receives eggs from a supplier in bulk and divides them up for distribution to our clients. We are constantly in need of egg cartons. These can be either 6 or 12 egg cartons. They can also be paper or plastic. Feel free to drop them in the same basket as food donations.

**Bread Pickup:** Hannaford in Rockland generously donates its leftover bread and pastries to the pantry.

Each Saturday and Sunday morning, a volunteer from one of the member churches picks up the items from the store and delivers them to the pantry. St. Thomas has this opportunity every fifth month. This errand usually takes a little over an hour. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Jo Anne Ryan.

**St Thomas' youth have formed a** new group made up of tweens and teens. Members are Elizabeth Akin, Ella Johanson, Freya Johanson, Kavan Kibler, Kristian Kibler, Lilliane Robbins, Will Robbins, Sophie Ryan and Coco Roberts. Mentors are Evie Bridges, Joe Kulick and JoAnne Ryan.

Our program began with **burning the palms from last year's Palm Sunday that became the ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday. It seemed easy but it's harder than you think!** Kavan Kibler became keeper of the flame, keeping the ashes burning when the wind kicked up.

Our Lenten program used *Christ Walk Kids*, a 40 day spiritual journey. This is a personal journey where each participant commits to following a Biblical journey and doing an exercise that will add up to the miles of this journey. The participants were able to complete their journey and some were able

### The Upper Room



to increase their miles and completed a longer journey. Reading about big biblical ideas and journaling their reflections are also a spiritual journey each one made.

Evie Bridges provided the kids and their families an afternoon of bowling, pizza and fellowship.

The Youth Group participated in the clean up weekend at Camp

Bishopswood May 20 and 21..

Coming up is Planting Day, Tuesday June 6 from, 10:45-11:45 am. We will be planting, weeding and watering the vegetable garden.

We are hoping to provide fresh vegetables to our congregation.

We are looking forward to a summer program and our parents will be providing us with guidance and input as we explore different projects and programs.

We have started cleaning and making the Upper Room our own personal space. We are enthusiastic and dedicated to a healthy and spiritual lifestyle. We are challenging ourselves to focus on the healthy habits both physical and spiritual, keeping the great commandments **"to love God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind and all my strength and to love my neighbor as myself."**

—JoAnne Ryan

## From the Transitional Priest in Charge

*Continued from page one*

in deep awe and gratitude for the seriousness and dedication with which you, the people of God at St. Thomas, take your spiritual lives.

You faithfully come most Sundays whether you are in your 80s or 8 months old. You humbly perform your acts of service, and in doing so, make sure that the Parish of St. Thomas in Camden is open and ready for whomever may be seeking shelter from the storms of life. You truly love each other. Oh, there may be spats and disagreements here and there —just as there are in any community of closeness— but in the end, you notice who among you is in need and you tend to those needs. You practice radical hospitality by the simple and powerful gesture of leaving the sanctuary open during the day. This is no small thing as we all know. You trust that whomever comes in has a need for quiet, for beauty, for God's Presence; for healing, or for rest.

When it comes to what I wish for all of you at St. Thomas, I wish that each of you receive the grace "to live close to the heart of Jesus."

This phrase comes from Martin

Smith's book, *A Season for the Spirit*. Martin Smith is an Episcopal priest and a former monk. He wrote this book in 1991 as a way of praying the 40 days of Lent. In one of his chapters for Holy Week, Smith writes, "To live close to the heart of Christ with its abounding joy and terrible pain would mean keeping contact with the joy and pain of those in whom he lives...To abide in Christ is to stay with him and in him in the life he lives identified with everyone everywhere. He is in all the strangers, all my neighbors. Abiding in him, staying close to his heart, means being open to their joys and sorrows."<sup>2</sup>

I know that St. Thomas' heart beats to the rhythm of Christ's heart. I know it always has and that it always will. I believe that it will go well for you all, knowing that "going well" includes both challenges and blessings. I give thanks to our most gracious God for the time we shared. You will always be in my heart as I try to "live close to the heart of Christ," also.

In Peace and Joy,  
Suzanne +

<sup>1</sup> Martin L. Smith. *A Season for the Spirit*. Harper Collins, United Kingdom. 1991. Page 149.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 17  
11:30 am — Loaves and Fishes Soup  
**Kitchen at St. Peter's Rockland**

Sunday, June 18  
7:30 and 9:30 am  
Rev. Lisa Smith Fry begins ministry  
1:30 pm Quarry Hill service

Sunday July 2  
Parish Picnic follows 9:30 service

Saturday, July 15  
11:30 am — Loaves and Fishes Soup  
**Kitchen at St. Peter's Rockland**

Saturday, July 29  
4:00 pm — production of  
**Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"**  
in Parish Hall

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

Sunday, September 10  
9:30 am — Rev. Lisa Smith Fry  
installed as Rector

Friday, September 15  
"Farewell to Summer" evening event

Saturday, September 16:  
11:30 am — Loaves and Fishes Soup  
**Kitchen at St. Peter's Rockland**

## Chapter & Verse

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Suzanne Colburn, Transition Priest in Charge ♦ The Rev. Abby Pettee, Deacon

### VESTRY

Lucy Ebbert, Senior Warden ♦ JoAnne Ryan, Junior Warden ♦ Terry Mello - Treasurer ♦ Elizabeth Moran - Clerk

Frank Beane (2018) ♦ Br. Donovan Bowley (2018) ♦ Susan Fockler (2019) ♦ Edmund Hartt (2020)

Loren Kitt (2020) ♦ Elizabeth Moran (2018) ♦ Suzanne Scott (2020)

### RECEIVING TREASURERS

Bonnie Achterhof ♦ Pat Ayers ♦ Joan Bennett

### STAFF

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