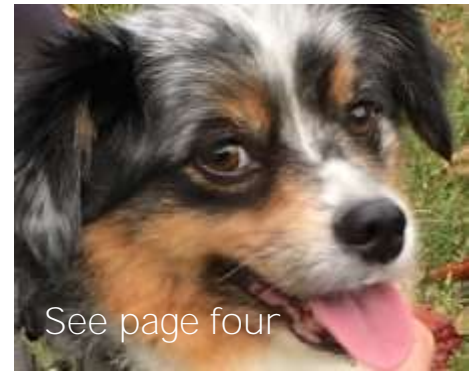


Chapter & Verse

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2017



Letter from the Rector

I'm a Maine girl. I love me some ocean. When I was learning how to scuba dive, I discovered that the hardest part of the dive was when I was on the surface of the water. When you're on the surface the water is often very turbulent—especially in deep water. You are tossed by the waves and the foamy caps of water. It's very bumpy. It can be very distracting. Sometimes even alarming. A couple of times I was having trouble staying with my group while fiddling with my gauges and mask.



It's much easier --and more calm—when you go a little deeper in the water. The choppiness drops away, the motion is slower, and you can see what is actually in the ocean, not just be tossed about on the surface. Under the water you can swim smoothly to your destination, rather than fighting the choppiness of each wave as it hits you.

Sometimes I think the busy-ness of our lives, which makes our lives frenetic, the silly things we argue about that make our blood boil, and our focus on the countless waves smacking against us distracts us from going deeper.

So let's go deeper. Let's try and look past small annoyances, and worry less about every man made controversy. Let's step back from the froth and waves of the world— and rest in the possibilities of God. Let's go deeper.

Lisa+

Get Ready for the Christmas Fair!

As part of Camden's Christmas by The Sea celebration, St. Thomas' will be holding its annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 2 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. The Fair will feature crafts, jewelry, holiday baked and preserved goods, Vintage Treasures, Christmas tables, a raffle for two baskets, as well as refreshments. In addition to kicking off the secular holiday season, this is an important fund raiser for the parish.

Donations are being sought for:

Crafts: Handmade items: especially hats/mittens/scarves/baby sweaters/ baby booties/sweaters/ potholders, quilts. Kate Jackson: 785-4500. Jewelry: Please leave your donations at the Parish Office or call Evie Bridges: 594-5975. Christmas tables: Seeking ornaments, decorations, lights, et al. Please leave on right side of stage or call Terry Bunger: 542-4180. Vintage Treasures is all about quality used merchandise and antiques. Book included. No clothing, please. Anne Ayers: 785-2659. Bake Sale: Please donate preserves, home canned goods and baked items (to be brought the morning of the sale). Pat Ayers: 236-3192. Hot cider, coffee, cocoa and refreshments will be offered for sale at the Fair.



Budget: What We Spend On What



Christian Education

\$45,572—15%

We welcome all types of families, supplying opportunities for community and spiritual growth: book and Bible studies, Education for Ministry, Godly Play, guest speakers, community educational panels and classes for young and old: foundational spirit building.



Outreach

\$15,751—5%

We give to those most in need in our community: Loaves and Fishes, the Food Pantry, Help Heat Homes, Quarry Hill, New Hope for Women, El Hogar.



Buildings & Grounds

\$20,889—7%

Our buildings and grounds provide the setting for worship, fellowship and formation, as well as sanctuary for the helpless, the homeless, the hungry and those wanting to pray any day of the week!



Worship

\$119,418—40%

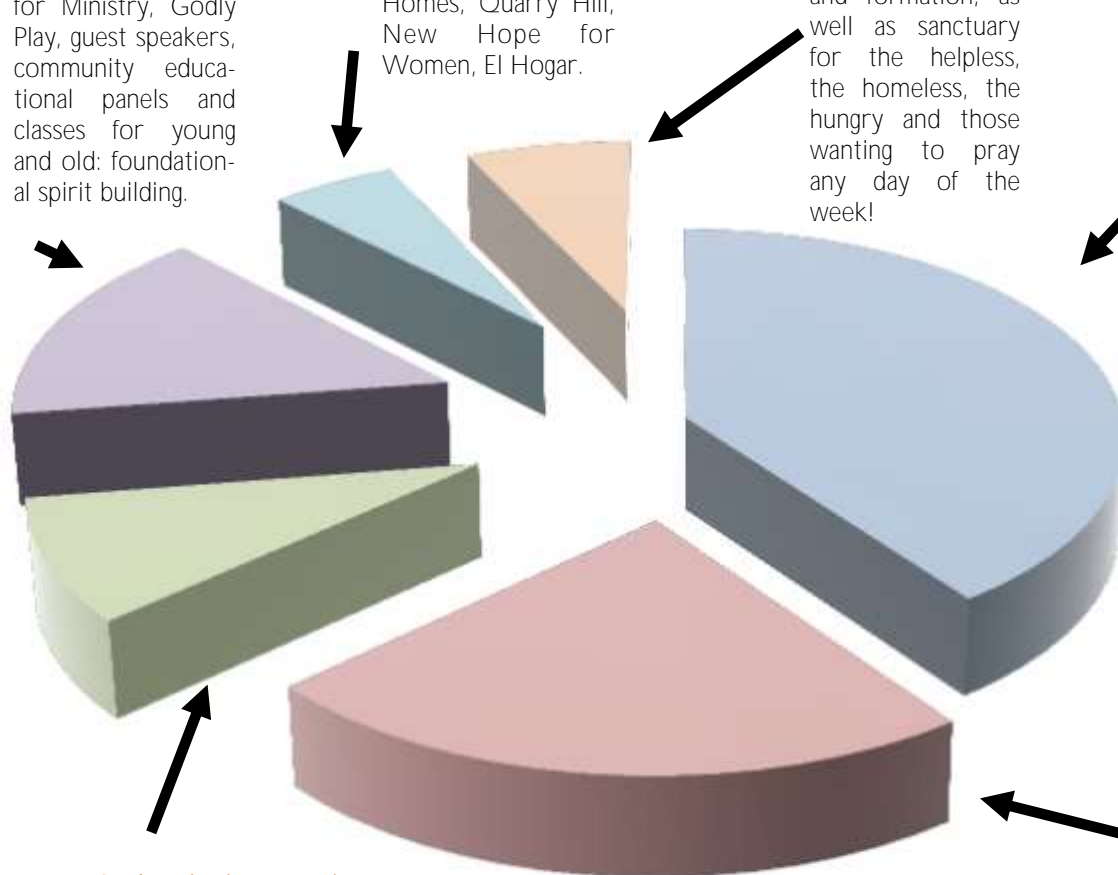
Liturgy is the work of the people, and involves all our senses, intellect, intuition and trust as we inspire the community to raise our hands and hearts to God.

Parish Life

\$69,660 23%



We nurture each other through prayer, pastoral care, community events and fellowship—as we seek to build up the body of Christ.



Administrative

\$27,981—10%

Our ministries are coordinated, facilities organized, and accounting kept on budget through our dedicated staff, and regular audits.

Roots and Wings

Having the opportunity to share an update every month with our Vestry is a good reflective practice for me. I seek to consider my diaconal vows; in particular my call to servant leadership, in light of my ministry commitments and aspirations.

“Roots and wings” is a useful summary of the past few months. I have observed our Rector, Rev. Lisa getting acclimated and rooted within the St Thomas family. I have sought



to be hospitable and helpful, as she finds her way in a new parish community. Weekly staff

meetings are grounding for me as we discuss congregational life, as well as our desire to make St Thomas acces-



Abby and Bill Pettee at home, left and Bill with his boat, above.

sible for the wider community.

In my own devotional life centering prayer is foundational, and a vital practice. Abiding in the vine of God’s love and listening for the Holy Spirit’s wisdom really makes a positive difference.

Diaconal vows involve listening to the needs and concerns of the people in one’s neighborhood, and beyond—and bringing an awareness of those challenges, hopes and dreams to the church. And then seeking, with God’s help, to help us go beyond the walls of our church. Risking for the

sake of the Gospel; spreading our “wings”, particularly on behalf of the marginalized, and those who are often overlooked in our culture.

Through the St Thomas outreach coalition and within the Mid Coast Interfaith Alliance, our local clergy group I am praying for a discerning heart and mind. Where are the invitations Lord, and how can we say a deeper “yes” to partnering with each other on behalf of serving in your liberating, life-giving name?

—Rev. Abby Pettee

Diocesan Convention

The diocesan convention was held on Saturday, 28 in Bangor, Maine, and was attended by Rev Lisa, Susan Fockler and Suzanne Scott. Discussed: the upcoming transition surrounding Bishop Stephen Lane’s retirement, and the business of the diocese: budget, church news, welcoming priests new to the diocese including our Rector.

Convention passed a resolution on the appropriate Support of the Holy Land’s Children, which would “direct the Maine Deputation to General Convention (GC) to propose to the 79th GC of The Episcopal Church

that it ask the Israeli Prime Minister and the President of the Palestinian Authority to provide assurances that their Governments will accord those under 18 years of age, i.e., those defined as children under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child, the full range of rights and protections called for under the international agreements to which they have subscribed....” The resolution proposed than the Diocese of Maine ask the General Convention to “call upon the President and Members of Congress to persuade the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to sustain

their commitments to international law with regard to children’s rights and welfare, and that they ensure that children held in custody will not, as has often been alleged, be subjected to coercion, physical or psychological abuse, or torture.”

Bishop Lane also preached a wonderful sermon. Use this link to listen: <http://episcopalmaine.org/images/diocese/convention/2017/Sermon2017FINAL.pdf>

—Lisa Fry

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 8 ❖ Photos by Jan Gilley

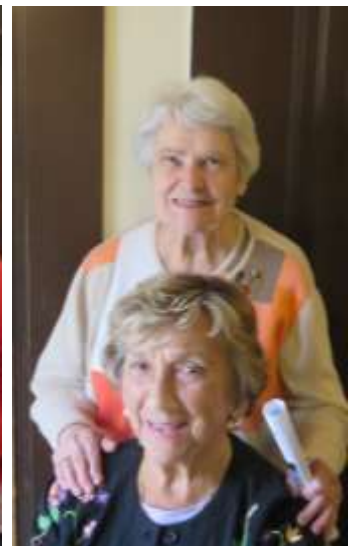
O Lord, give us humility to thank you for the creation of animals, who can show affection which sometimes puts us to shame. Enlarge our respect for these your creatures, of whom we are the guardians. And give us a sense of responsibility towards all your creation, for Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.

—A Prayer from Robert Runcie, 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury





St. Thomas' End of Summer fund raising event took place on Friday evening, September 22. Parishioners and friends enjoyed an evening of food, drink and fellowship. A silent auction of gifts and services featured over 60 items. Raffle tickets were sold for three grand prizes and three themed gift baskets. All told, the evening raised over \$6,000 for St. Thomas' Parish. Above, familiar faces fill the Parish Hall. Above left, Tony Pike gets some refreshment from Joe Kulick. Right, Oana Meier, her fiancée and Jim Ebbert. Below, left to right, Frank Beane (with his Welsh terrier necktie), Rev. Lisa Fry, Senior Warden Lucy Ebbert, and Suzanne Scott, and Evie Bridges with Karen Laite.

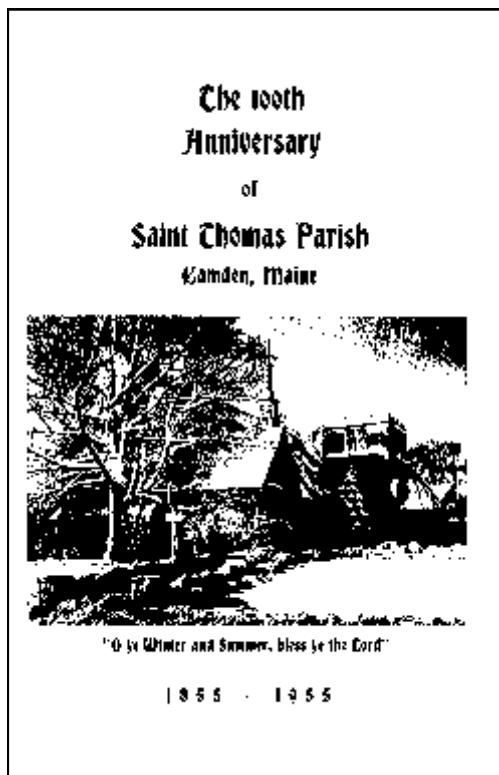


The Importance of Church Archives

The fall meeting of the Parish Administrators Collaborative, a group sponsored by the Diocese of Maine, took place on October 2. The topic of the meeting was church archives. The presenter was Elizabeth Estey, an archival consultant who has worked closely with the Diocese.

Ms. Estey gave a lively and informative talk on the role of parish administrators in caring for church records. "Records matter," she said, "some more than others." She stated that while records provide protection, they also require protection. In addition to providing accountability, they satisfy legal liability and provide churches with a sense of their history and cultural heritage. Some records are transient, yet are valuable in the long run. Others have a definite life cycle, such as accounting records which may be properly disposed of after 7-10 years. The task confronting administrators is records management.

Sacramental records, such as parish registers, lists of communicants and letters of transfer need to be safely kept in perpetuity since church congregations are legal entities that have a continuing historical identity in the wider community. Annual re-



This 1955 program can be found in St. Thomas' archives.

ports and minutes of vestry meetings, as well as deeds, parochial reports, architectural plans, photographs, descriptions of church property all fall in the same category, as well as copies of newsletters and service bulletins. Add to this email correspondence, which is a trove of valuable

ephemera, and the task of archiving can seem almost overwhelming.

Since so many records are electronic in nature, it would seem prudent to make backup copies on disks or "memory sticks". While these media devices do provide convenient and safe storage, will there be equipment existing in 50 or 100 years capable of reading them? No one knows the answer to this question.

Fortunately, good record keeping habits and computer backups can go a long way towards responsible records management. At St. Thomas' we are fortunate to have a secure archives area, which is away from the dampness hazards typically found in basement locations. The good news is that ordinary paper has improved in quality in the last generation so documents printed on common office paper should survive for many years. The main hazards to paper archives are of course fire and water. Ms. Estey advised that a quick solution for dampened paper records is freezing them in a non-frost free unit. This will arrest the damaging effects of mold and mildew until these records can be professionally dried.

—George H. Jones

Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

The Midcoast Interfaith Association will be hosting a Thanksgiving service on November 19 at 4:00 pm. **St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is hosting this year.** Pastor Wendy Anderson from Nativity Lutheran Church will be the preacher, music will be offered by the First Universalist Church in Rockland, the Rockland Congregational Church, St. Thomas' Choir-- and our Rector will be singing during the offertory. Abby Pettee has written a litany of Thanksgiving and we will be joined by the faithful from many of the area churches. Come and give thanks!

SOME GUIDING LIGHT, PLEASE

O God,
Help me to judge myself and others less, to be
satisfied and happy in my expectations modest,
and to live each day as it comes.

Let me rejoice in the basics of life:
a decent and nutritious meal
a roof over my head
a caring and loyal pet
a special sunrise
true fellowship
fond memories

With this appreciation may I affirm daily and live
graciously 3 principles:

peace
joy
love

Give me the strength of courage to live each day
anew and to have a growing awareness and holy
silence that you, my Lord, know my real needs
even before I do. Let this inner confidence and
inherent responsibility be extended to others in a
caring and loving way

And in the end, please, let me be remembered for
my constancy in the belief of the spiritual truth
that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit.

Amen

Submitted by Jeffrey Conrad

Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 19
Stewardship Ingathering

Tuesday, November 28
5:00 pm: Vestry meeting

Thursday, November 23
2:00 pm: Thanksgiving Dinner
at St. Thomas'

Saturday, December 2
10:00 am—1:00 pm
Christmas Fair at St. Thomas'

Sunday, December 3
Advent I
1:30 pm: Service at Quarry Hill

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

Sunday, December 24
7:30 and 9:30: Advent IV
4:30 and 10:30 pm:
Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 25
9:30 am: Christmas Day service

Chapter & Verse

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www.stthomascamdenme.org ♦ admin@stthomascamdenme.org

The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry, Rector ♦ 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)

Elizabeth Moran (2018) ♦ Suzanne Scott (2020)

RECEIVING TREASURERS

Bonnie Achterhof ♦ Pat Ayers ♦ Joan Bennett

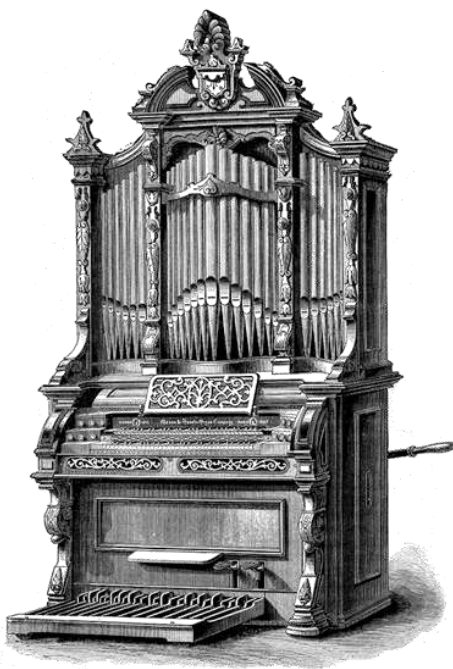
STAFF

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

From the Organ Pit

I am so grateful that I was able to carve out the time to commute to Bangor October 24-27th to participate in The Maine Historic Organ Institute. There were recitals, demonstrations, lectures, round-table discussions as well as 'field trips' to hear and play 19th century tracker organs in Blue Hill, Stockton Springs, Bucksport, Hampden, Bangor and Belfast. Due to the diligence and dedication of parishes and their organists, these organs have been maintained (or in some cases restored) so they have the integrity of sound created when they were first built. We (all the participants) intentionally sang a hymn in each church: it was glorious to have the participants singing with gusto(!), singing in unison on the first and last stanzas and in harmony on the inner stanzas (an unwritten tradition among church musicians) being supported by the full sound of each organ. I also heard organ music which I had not known: once I find the music and learn it, you will hear the fruits of this!

The Bangor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists was one of



the supporters of this Institute. (I am especially proud of this since I am Dean of the chapter.) Our Chapter started the year with a totally non-musical event: the annual pot-luck supper at a member's home at the end of September, to which partners and spouses are invited and we get to know each other *outside* of all our musical roles.

The liturgical year soon comes to

a close on the Last Sunday of the Church Year, Christ the King, November 26, 2017. We will then switch gears to Advent: to mark this we change the colors of the vestments, use different Eucharistic prayers, sing different settings of the service music, sing a different setting of the psalm. (And, I will change the Tower Bells to be playing Advent hymns.)

There are two things I plan to program in January:

"Everything you wanted to know about the Organ" - a session for our youngsters after the 9:30 am service (It has been too long since I did this!). Then, *"Everything you wanted to know about the Organ"* - a session for our adults in which the children help explain and demonstrate the organ (it is wonderful!)

Hymn Sings! I will be talking with all of you at coffee hour and as I see you during the week in order to find the best time to do this.

Meanwhile, *Sing with Gusto!*

—Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music



Thanksgiving Dinner

Don't feel like cooking on Thanksgiving Day? You're invited to St. Thomas' where a free, family style Thanksgiving dinner will be served at 2:00 pm. Let us know you are coming on the signup sheet in the Sun Room. Want to help cook or set tables or clean up after dinner? Call the Parish Office at 236-3680.