

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

164th Annual Parish Meeting
January 27, 2019





St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

Officers and Staff

Rector: The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry
Deacon: The Rev. Abby Pettee
Senior Warden: Carlos Mello
Junior Warden: Edmund Hartt
Treasurer: Terry Mello
Minister of Music: Jane M. Schroeder, S.M.M.
Administrative Assistant: Raylene M. Hunt
Clerk of the Vestry: Elizabeth Moran

Vestry

(Outgoing) Terms end 2019

Susan Fockler
 Barbara Lawrence

Terms End 2020

Eileen Morelli
 Suzanne Scott

Terms End 2021

Fred Bucklin
 Sarah Groman
 Elizabeth Moran

Nominees for Vestry Class of 2022

Barbara Lawrence
 Haunani Wallace
 Brother Aidan Donovan Bowley

2018 Parish Statistics

Communicants in good standing: 246

Average Sunday attendance: 101

Parish Marriages: 2

Burials: 10

Baptisms: 1

New Members This Year

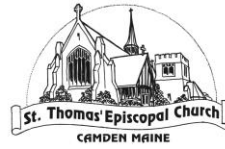
Shirley Fierro
 Phillip and Anne Bagnall
 Dr. Ralph and Haunai Wallace
 Elise Thyrré
 Eugene Walton
 Thomas Porto
 Susan Stopper
 Avery Jenkins
 C. Winston Jenkins
 Jane McKay



Deaths in the Community This Year

Jane Hards
 Henry Joseph Jalbert
 Terry Bunker
 Robert S. Furman
 Henry Harley Leigh
 Eleanor Allen Flottman
 Nancy Traill Soderberg
 Stormy Bok
 Anne Cary Edmunds
 Richard Soderberg

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;
 And light perpetual shine upon them.
 May they, and all the departed, through the mercy of God,
 Rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.*



Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Opening prayer and comments — The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry
3. Comments from the Senior Warden and Deacon
4. Report of the Clerk and call for approval of minutes
5. Presentation by the Treasurer of the 2018 Financial Results and the 2019 Budget, as approved by the Vestry
6. Introduction and election of new Vestry members
7. Questions and answers from the floor for the Rector
8. Closing prayer and adjournment

**There will be a retreat/Mutual Ministry Review for the Wardens and Vestry
at a date and place to be announced.**



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church January 28, 2018

The Rev. Lisa Fry called the meeting to order and led us in an opening prayer. She then made the following comments:

- To facilitate more Christian education opportunities, there will be a discussion about moving the 9:30 service back to 10AM to allow teaching between the services.
- In order to have a balanced budget cuts have been made. There will no longer be a flower budget thus necessitating donations to support the flower ministry.
- The Junior Warden will no longer be responsible for organizing the summer fair.
- The Chestnut St. side of the church is bowing out and work needs to be done on it so that damage is not done to the large stained glass window. The ivy on the bell tower needs to be removed as it is infiltrating the mortar.
- A Rite 3 mid-week service in the evening to accommodate those who cannot come on Sunday is being considered. Also a quarterly recovery service for those suffering from addiction may be established.
- Lucy Ebbert and JoAnne Ryan were recognized for their work as Senior and Junior Warden during the interim.

Deacon Abby Pettee gave her report as follows:

- 1 out of 3 people in Maine are unchurched so what can we do to bring more people in.
- We need to help each other first and be active participants in our worship and then we need to go out beyond our walls.
- Need to invite the community in and have a more active lay ministry but also be more visible out in the community with "ashes to go" an example.

Comments from the Senior Warden Carlos Mello

- Carlos thanked the staff, the treasurer and Receiving Treasurers, and the Discernment Committee and Vestry members for their work during the interim.

Minutes of the January 29, 2017 meeting were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

- Terry showed the sources for income for 2017 as well as the operating expenses with a deficit that was erased by year end.
- A barebones but balanced 2018 budget was presented. About \$39,000 will need to be withdrawn from our endowment.
- 71% of our income will come from pledges/donations, 13% from investments, 12% from rentals and 4% from fairs and other revenue sources.
- For the 2018 expenses, 10% will go to administrative expenses, 24% for parish life, 14% for Christian education, 5% for outreach, 7% for building and grounds and 41% for worship.

Introduction and Election of Wardens and Vestry

The following candidates were presented:

Carlos Mello Senior Warden
Edmund Hartt Junior Warden and Chair of Building and Grounds Committee
Fred Bucklin
Sarah Groman
Barbara Kent Lawrence
Elizabeth Moran

Retiring Vestry members are Frank Beane and Donovan Bowley

Upon the motion of Terry Mello and second by Lucy Ebbert, the slate was approved as presented.

Susan Fockler, Jan Lyle, Suzanne Scott and Lisa Fry were elected as delegates to the electing convention.

Questions and Answers

Church School now has 25 children. Bonnie Achterhof, Carrie Bickford and Karen Colburn are the volunteer teachers.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth A. Moran

Clerk of the Vestry



Report from the Rector

January 2019

Dear Parishioners,

Each year brings new challenges, new crises, but also new hopes, new urgings of the Spirit to go places we've never been. First of all, we have accomplished a lot this last year.

Let's give ourselves a pat of the back:

- *We've welcomed 12 new members this year*
- *We've begun new classes for the children and adults*
- *We've completed our building project*
- *We successfully raised money not only for the building, but for some ongoing repairs*
- *We've successfully changed the time of the 2nd service to accommodate more class time*
- *We now have 4 teams of acolytes with a crucifer, torches, and server on each at 10am*
- *We had a Blessing of the Animals on the Camden Village Green. About 25 people and about 40 pets attended, and several folks stopped and took pictures!*
- *We have updated our website and continue to improve it as a work in progress.*
- *LEV's (Lay Eucharistic Visitors) are trained. Sending them out soon.*
- *We now have a monthly Youth led service, with most kids participating.*

The Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) for 2018 is 101. We didn't get a boost this year because Christmas wasn't on a Sunday this year, but this means our attendance is steady.

Christmas services went well, with great attendance and participation at the early Christmas Eve service with pageant. Many congratulations to Rachel Bickham for spearheading this effort and Suzanne Scott, Jane Schroeder and Karen Colburn for assistance. The "midnight" mass is holding steady, and with a few tweaks, next year may even grow. Christmas Day was lovely, with a lively conversational sermon time, and a peaceful Eucharist. Perfect.

The Summer and Christmas by the Sea Fairs both went well, raising money for operating costs and for outreach. Other fundraising and fun events for us and all of Camden are being discussed for 2019.

We have hosted the Camden Shakespeare Company here for several years as their "rain date" venue, and for the last two years they have used our space for one of their two shows running in repertory. This summer we

will host again. This gives us a chance to be more visible to the people of Camden, offer refreshments at the intermissions for the 5 shows, and receive "complimentary" tickets for parishioners interested in seeing the shows. There are so many possibilities to offer our hospitality to the Camden community through this.

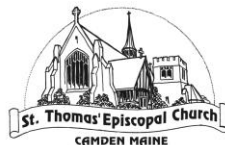
So give yourselves a hand!

Now: things I'd like to work on in 2019 with a little help from willing writers, volunteers and entrepreneurs:

- *Welcome/outreach/wedding brochures available in the narthex- possibly in a new display of some kind.*
- *Encouraging 80% of our parishioners next year to pledge or become "givers of record".*
- *More website updating, more intentional Facebook posting.*
- *A bulletin board in Parish Hall brimming with current events, upcoming events, and pictures of events from the church.*
- *A poster board on a stand with pics and bios of our Vestry. (Selfies, just fine) in a visible place, so parishioners and newcomers can see who our Parish Leaders are.*
- *Newcomer "packets" to hand out to newcomers when we meet with them.*
- *New members Sundays hosted regularly to meet and greet our newest parishioners.*
- *Developing new, different (and easier) fundraisers.*
- *Strengthening our Adult and Children's Formation opportunities*
- *Possible theatre opportunities with the kids and adults from the area*
- *Implementing the new Wednesday night worship service- Rite 3- for ALL in the larger mid-coast community, especially the overlooked, disenfranchised and those struggling*
- *Being more attentive to new voices and new ideas in our midst.*

But most of all, I would like a healthy, happy, restful, prayerful, peaceful and exciting 2019 for each and every one of you. May God's blessing be upon you all.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry



Treasurer's Report

2018 Financial Review

Once again, our parishioners answered the call to support St. Thomas'. With your help and some fiscal responsibility, we did not have to withdraw the full amount of budgeted funds from our Endowment account and have a small Operating Loss of \$471. Many of you answered our call for donations to repair the East Elevation Wall – we are humbled to report that **we exceeded our goal by \$40,400!** Because of your generosity in 2018, we have/will be sending **\$13,309 to charities** – ranging from the Camden Area Christian Food Pantry, Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, local charitable organizations and other special needs of our community and abroad. Following are two reports for your information – *2018 Statement of Activity* and *Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2018*.

2018 Statement of Activity

2018 Income Received (Excludes Bequests and Capital Improvement Donations)

Total Operating Income	\$ 281,499
Outreach Donations	8,043
Flower and Altar Guild Donations	4,296
Total Income	293,838

2018 Expenses (Excludes Capital Improvement Disbursements)

Total Operating Expense (Excludes Outreach from Operations - \$820)	(281,150)
Outreach Disbursements (Includes Outreach from Operations - \$820 and Accounts Payable of \$4,750 as of 12/31/18)	(13,309)
Scholarships and Educational Grants (Disbursed from RI Thomas Scholarship and Sarah Davenport funds)	(3,375)
Flower and Altar Guild Expenses	(3,098)
Total Expense	(300,932)

2018 Bequests Received and Capital Improvement Donations

John and Margaret Stone Bequest	594,813
East Elevation Repair Donations	110,061
Parker Laite Building Fund Donations	20,000
Bequest Received for Music	4,381
Total Income	729,256

2018 Funds Disbursed and Accounts Payables for Capital Improvements

East Elevation Repair (Includes \$185,567 due to BES as of 12/31/18)	(404,325)
Capital Improvements	(23,615)
Total Disbursements	(427,940)

Net Investment Earnings/(Losses) **(43,958)**

Net Cash Flow **\$ 250,263**



Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 343,214
Investments	1,211,588
Capital Campaign Receivables	58,147
Pledge Receivables	3,351
Other Current Assets	2,918
Total Current Assets	1,619,218

Fixed Assets

Building	1,543,317
Other Property	100,000
Equipment	2,656
Total Fixed Assets	1,645,973

TOTAL ASSETS **\$ 3,265,191**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

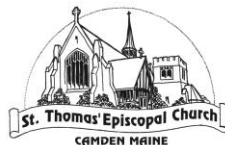
LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 191,237
Deferred Pledge and Capital Campaign Income	85,404
Total Liabilities	276,641

NET ASSETS

Restricted Funds (Non-Operating)	1,494,907
Restricted Funds (Operating)	40,367
Restricted Funds (Outreach)	1,531
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,451,745
Total Net Assets	2,988,550

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$ 3,265,191**



2019 Operating Budget

The Vestry has approved a balanced 2019 Budget. We are pleased to report that 7 new households have pledged this year and 19 (35%) households increase their pledge by an average of 18%. Unfortunately, our estimated Pledge and General Donations are down by about \$24,000 as compared to 2018; this is the result of 17 less pledging households in 2019 and 10 households decreasing their pledge by an average of 20%. Working closely with Mother Lisa, difficult decisions were made to cut expenses in order to balance our budget. In addition, members of the Vestry, Building and Grounds Committee and the Finance Committee were consulted for their input and approval. Thank you all for your help and support during this process.

Did you know that it costs approximately \$5,300 per week to enable St. Thomas' to offer our Worship Services, Pastoral Care, Christian Education, Community Events, Outreach, and maintaining our building facilities? Your faithful offerings make it possible!

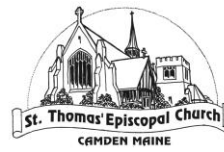
A big thank you to our Receiving Treasurers – Pat Ayers and Joan Bennett; your commitment to our Parish is a truly appreciated. Thank you to Susan Fockler for all your help and support in making sure our bills are paid and our finances are in order!

Everything is possible for him who believes. (Mark 6:23)

2018 Results and 2019 Budget

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Operating Income			
Pledge and General Donations	\$ 206,000	\$ 214,804	\$ 190,550
Endowment Income used for Operations	39,000	21,375	39,000
Rental Income and Facility Use Donations	33,900	35,604	36,700
Fundraising Income	11,500	7,745	7,500
Other Income and Donations	1,200	1,970	2,350
Total Operating Income	291,600	281,499	276,100
Operating Expense			
Salaries and Benefits	190,500	177,292	165,200
Diocesan Allocation	40,400	40,397	44,800
Church Facilities Expenses	32,000	39,365	40,700
Administrative Expenses	18,300	16,561	17,000
Other Operating Expenses	10,400	8,355	8,400
Total Operating Expense	291,600	281,970	276,100
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	\$ -	\$ (471)	\$ -

Faithfully,
Terry Mello, Treasurer



Senior Warden's Report

Like the Maine Coast, 2018 has been a year of challenges and change, with both stormy seas and pleasant summer breezes; but through all we have remained true. We have seen the passing of long-time members of our congregation. We grieve for their loss and celebrate their everlasting peace with our Lord. Our beloved, century-old church has weathered the impact of harsh winters. It continues to stand proud but has begun to show the effects of age and wear. Through the generosity of past and current parishioners, and the efforts of skilled craftsman, we have begun the process of restoring the church; so that it will be a place of Christian worship and community for generations to come. Through the leadership of Mother Lisa and the parents of our youth, we have launched a new Sunday School Christian Education program, implemented a monthly Family service and expanded our Sunday morning opportunities for adult and youth Christian Education.

Like the Maine Coast, we are true to the bedrock of our Christian Episcopal foundation. We stand strong against the challenges which face us. We celebrate in God's grace and our Christian community. We continue to evolve and grow to meet the needs of our parish and community.

Parish Survey

We received over 50 responses to the December 2018 – Parish Survey. A heartfelt thank you to all who shared their thoughtful, gracious feedback and counsel. The 2019 Vestry will utilize these results to help set the priorities for St. Thomas' in the coming year.

The survey asked how parishioners valued six areas of our parish life (Administration, Christian Community, Christian Education, Outreach, Pastoral Care and Worship). Respondents to the survey indicated:

- Pastoral Care and Worship were most valuable, with over 90% indicating either very or extremely valuable;
- 80% found Administration and Christian Education as either very or extremely valuable; and
- 70% found Christian Community and Outreach as either very or extremely valuable.

Respondents identified the need to grow the parish membership. They observed community, employment patterns and family life continue to evolve. They urged St. Thomas' develop additional Worship, Christian Education and Christian Community offerings to meet these evolving

and growing needs of its members, including young families. They encouraged St. Thomas's to be more outward focused and engage with the greater Camden Community, through partnering with other parishes and community organizations. Recommending we open our parish and church hall to more community-oriented activities and events.

Respondents identified the need to engage the hearts and talents of all members of the congregation. They talked of the importance of Christian Education for all members; in forms which meet the members' spiritual needs and recognize the complexity of daily life. Further, they talked of the importance of recognizing the unique talents and perspectives of our parishioners. We need to be welcoming of all. We are proud and anchored in our traditions, but we must be willing to embrace new perspectives and approaches. We need to provide opportunities for all members to participate in parish life. Further, we need to act as one parish, not as 7:30am and 10am congregations.

Respondents also noted the importance of being good stewards. They reinforced the importance of preserving our Church, including its care and maintenance. They also commented on being wise stewards of our talent. The need to respect and care for each other. The need to expand parish leadership. The need to include and hold each other accountable. To engage all parishioners' talents.

The priorities identified by respondents are very much in line with their comments and include:

- Grow St. Thomas' membership, including young families
- Increased parishioner engagement; more opportunities to participate in existing ministries, as well as creation of new ministries and/or events
- Expand adult and youth Christian Education opportunities
- Increase our presence in the community, including outreach activities

I wish to thank my fellow vestry members for their wisdom, guidance, charity and effort in 2018.

2018 has been a year of challenges, change, opportunity and growth. St. Thomas' has much to offer its members and community. With God's grace and Christ's guidance, I look forward to our shared journey for a bright, strong and fulfilling 2019.

Faithfully,
Carlos Mello
Sr. Warden



Junior Warden's Report

The Jr. Warden is responsible for the building and grounds of the Parish. I am assisted by the Building and Grounds subcommittee.

Part of our building is nearing 100 years of age, other parts are older. Renovations, repairs, and upkeep have been done throughout its existence. Renovations, repairs, and upkeep need to continue, in order for our church to be viable in the future.

This year, we undertook the repair of the wall facing Chestnut St. An engineering and design firm was hired, they created a plan of action, a masonry company was hired to do the work. The engineering firm oversaw the work done by the masonry company. The project is just about completed. It was a very extensive rebuilding and repair masonry project. Areas of the wall were taken completely down and rebuilt using the same stone and the proper mortar. Areas not rebuilt were completely repointed. The project was successful. In the spring we will have the landscape repaired in front of the church.

This past year several smaller repairs were also completed. Some of the gardens were pruned, we rediscovered a sculpture in the back yard. The carpet in the office was replaced with laminate flooring. A new storm window was made for a window in the parish hall. Our plumbers have replaced a broken sill cock, repaired two toilets, and replaced two water heaters.

This coming year we will learn more about what repairs are needed to the other stone work, including the bell tower. The slate roof is coming to the end of its useful life, we will need to learn more about that. The exterior and interior of the church require painting. I am gathering estimates for these jobs. We hope to upgrade the lighting in the church, as well as install a modern audio-visual system.

As I mentioned, our church building is old. It has two boilers for heating; each boiler has 7 thermostatically controlled zones. The church has 7 toilets and 5 water heaters. We have good solid relationships with our heating oil, plumbing, and electrical contractors. But machinery does wear out and need replacement. I expect this to be true into the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Edmund Hartt, Jr. Warden

Outreach Coalition

We have a unique calling. Christ calls us to be committed to others in the work of the Gospel and in building strong, cooperative relationships.

We participate by funding opportunities within our faith community, our local community and the world. We volunteer at the Camden Area Food Pantry, Loaves and Fishes, the Sussman House and Camp Bishopswood. Our Angel Tree Giving provided gifts for 13 families. Through donation we were able to provide a Christmas and Crafts party for the Knox County Homeless Coalition.

We provide financial support, to local organizations:

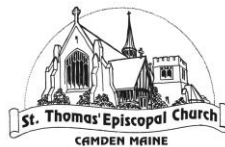
- New Hope for Women - in support of their mission of eradicating domestic violence and stalking.
- Coastal Opportunities- which provides services to adults with intellectual disabilities, to assist adults with intellectual disabilities to become participating members in the social and economic community.
- Knox County Homeless Coalition- as a result of community support hundreds of families who were once homeless are now successfully living in sustainable, safe independent housing.
- Meals on Wheels- providing a safety net that helps to provide hot nutritious meals to everyone in need, and regardless of ability to pay.

Support to world community:

- El Hogar- we provide tuition for 2 students to attend school where they learn technical and educational skills to ensure they have a strong foundation for healthy growth.
- ERD- dedicated to the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world.

We meet the first Tuesday of each month and we're always looking for new ways and new opportunities to strengthen our community and be of service. Please consider joining us.

Submitted by JoAnne Ryan



Minister of Music Report

A bittersweet time, as this will be my final report as Minister of Music at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Camden, Maine (I will retire at the end of May 2019). This is also the first Annual Meeting I will miss: I will be in Portland, Oregon, celebrating my granddaughter Zoë Eloise's Second Birthday! Thank you Howard Walen for substituting for me today. I hope you are singing with gusto!

Soon we will embark on the **12th NOON Music in LENT Series**. Thank you to all of you for your support: it would not happen without all your soup-making, bread-baking, fruit-gathering, setting up, serving and then cleaning up! Of course the musicians have their part in choosing music, practicing, practicing and then giving their time and talents for all of you to soak up on a Friday in Lent from 12:00-12:30 p.m. Last year the free-will offering totaled **\$732!** (Given to the Camden Area Christian Food Pantry of which St. Thomas' is a founding/supporting church.) This year's series starts on Friday, March 8, 2019, with Budge Walen playing an all-Bach program on the mighty Schantz organ. Kathryn DerMarderosian (mezzo) will sing; Nancy Riesgo will sing, Michelle Terry will play the hammered dulcimer and others will join them; Suzanne Scott and I will have fun playing four hands on one piano again; we have some surprise guests still choosing their programs; Dean Jorgensen (bass) and Ed Shindle (tenor) and I will do the final program, which will be a rouser! (We have been rehearsing since early Fall.) Lucy Ebbert is shepherding all the lunches in the parish hall: when she calls you, please say yes!

The Choir continues to sing year-round (that is 52 Sundays plus holy days!). So a few years ago I instituted a four week *Choir Sabbatical*. Now when you see and hear a choir member as a person in a pew (today and in the next three weeks) please thank them for all their time and service! The Choir went many extra innings this year to sing at the Memorial Services for Jane Hards (February 3, 2018) as well as for Stormy Bok and Anne Edmonds (this past Fall).

We are fortunate to have visiting musicians who share their time and talent: Jackson Bryce (composer and bassoonist) and Sam Woodhead (trombonist). If you have ever played an instrument, please get it out of the closet! It truly is like riding a bicycle; once you start playing it comes back; then you just have to get your lip/arm/fingers whatever is used to play back into shape. Talk to me! I love to play with others!

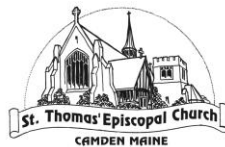
In June I was again able to gather the children after the late service for *Everything You Wanted to Know About the Schantz Organ but were afraid to ask!* This is when you get to test-drive the organ (!) In July I followed up with a similar program for the grown-ups. We brought back *Taizé* services on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m.: June 24, 2018; July 22, 2018 and August 26, 2018. These are quiet, intimate services with Taizé songs interspersed with brief readings and periods of silence.

I am happy to report that our Junior Warden, Edmund Hartt, has taken on an active role in addressing the challenges of our Tower Bells. Thank you! (There is nothing wrong with these magnificent cast bells: the ringing apparatus which is exposed to salt air, moisture, wind, etc., is what suffers). Leamon Scott has stepped up to be the worthy assistant who 'waters' the Chickering piano in the Sanctuary. (Ask Leamon *grin*) Thank you!

We continue to minister to the folks at Quarry Hill every 4.2 weeks on a Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. Truth be told, they minister to us. You probably tire of my saying this, but those folks sing with gusto! Come sometime: you will be uplifted and spiritually fed. (Our next scheduled time is Sunday, February 3, 2019).

I pray that you continue to sing out from the bottoms of your hearts. So here are some synonyms for gusto! **Brio! Verve! Vigor! Zing!** And my personal favorite: **Moxie!**

Jane Schroeder
Minister of Music



Christian Formation Report

Godly Play continues for the children ages 4-9 with Karen Colburn. They study bible stories, discover the church year cycle, pray and sing. It's a well-rounded class ensuring our youngest members spiritual growth.

Church the Bible and Me is a new addition to our curriculum led by Rachel Bickham and was developed for youth ages 10 and up. It's geared toward the development of older children and delves more deeply into our faith and how it affects our lives.

Rector's Class — The rector teaches in several different formats: video, powerpoint, books and discussion to cover a wide group of topics from current church affairs, our new Bishop election, angels, the Aramaic Lord's Prayer, and PB Michael Curry's the 7 Marks of a Christian with more to come.

Bible Study — *Brother Donovan Bowley* — Wednesdays, after the 9.30 am service from 11am-12pm in the Sun Room. There is a Fellowship hour with tea/coffee/cookies at 10 am before the bible study starts. All are welcome.

EfM (Education for Ministry) — Co-mentors: Brother Donovan Bowley and the Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass. Wednesdays, conference room 4:00-6.30pm. A 4-year course in Holy Scripture, Church History and Theology offered (now in its 18th year) at St. Thomas's and provided by the School of Theology at Sewanee, University of the South. Good course for those who have the interest but do not want to take a degree in Theology.

Forum/Book Studies/Classes — Forum 11:00am-12:00pm, Guild Room, convenes on an ad-hoc basis when there is interest, or a timely topic.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Smith Fry

Education for Ministry

The Education for Ministry Program completed its eighteenth year at St. Thomas' in June, 2018. Known familiarly as EfM, it is a continuing education seminar course designed for those who want to study Holy Scripture, Church history, and Theology. Though one of its purposes is to inspire, and enrich an individual's own spiritual life, it is also designed to build and strengthen Christian ministry and community. Those who have already completed four years often return for continued learning.

This comprehensive program, offered here and provided by the School of Theology at Sewanee, University of the South, is open to all. It is a four year course, but participants only need commit themselves to one year (Sept.-June) at a time. This flexibility makes it possible for people to take a year or more off and return when they are able.

The 2018-2019 group members are Br. Donovan Bowley, Shirley Fierro, Sue Foltz, Rosalee and Chris Glass, Gwen Prosser, Jacqueline Recht, Seana Roubinek, and JoAnne Ryan. The group meets 4:00-6:30 PM on Wednesdays to discuss their lessons and to reflect together, connecting Scripture, the history of Christianity, and theology with everyday life.

--- EfM Mentors
Rosalee Glass & Donovan Bowley

Altar and Flower Guild Reports

This year we were able to honor a dear friend and member of the Altar Guild, Terry Bunger, by purchasing a silver paten and offering it in her name. The paten was purchased through the generosity of St Thomas congregants.

Shirley Fierro has joined us in our ministry and we're pleased to have her with us.

The flowers are purchased through your generous donations at Christmas and Easter and by those wishing to commemorate people or events in their lives.

I am grateful to the members of the Altar Guild and Flower Guild for inviting me to the other side of the Altar rail. I thank them for their authenticity, their competence and their connectedness. Being part of these ministries has strengthened my own spiritual awareness.

So yes, the Flower Guild and the Altar Guild are about tasks, but they are not about drudgery. We are ministries of service, of loving labor offered to God.

Our mission is excellence. We commit ourselves to 2 hours of service every 3 weeks.

So when you see the gleaming brass and silver, the snowy white linens and the flowers, symboling spiritual joy, we are welcoming you to the Lords table. We are all guests at the feast.

It is a great honor and privilege to care for the holy things in God's house.

I hope you will consider joining us.

Submitted by JoAnne Ryan



Acolyte Report

"Acolytes serve, and serve in love, with faithfulness and loyalty. There is no right or wrong way to serve. The best rule is that all should be done with dignity and care in the simplest way possible so as not to distract the congregation." – A Manual for Acolytes (Michno)

A couple of trainings were held in 2018. An acolyte's role is critical within each service. These dedicated youth and adults ring the bells, light the candles, carry the cross and torches, help the priest or deacon set the Lord's table, move sacred items from place to place, and occasionally help the priest when the inevitable unexpected things happen.

This year's adult acolytes were: JoAnne Ryan, Sandy Lyle and Pam Bardon

This year's youth acolytes (4 teams) are: Liliane Robbins (*team leader*), Will Robbins, Olivia Robbins (soon to be trained); Freya Johanson (*team leader*) Lola Black, Hettie Bickham; Kavan Kibler (*team leader*), Kingston Kibler, Tom Roberts; and George Bickham (*team leader*), Charlotte Watkins and Poppy Johanson.

We welcome new acolytes to be trained. Any child, 3rd grade and up, who would like to acolyte, please email the Rector at rector@stthomascamdenme.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Kulick
Evie Bridges

Lectors Report

We appreciate the dedication of the members who each Sunday are responsible for reading the lessons and leading the Prayers of the People. During 2018 we were delighted to have young members of the church, including George Bickham, Hettie Bickham, Lola Black, Freya Johnanson, Poppy Johanson, and Charlotte Watkins, reading on the first Sunday of the month at the 10 am service.

Two new readers, Doc and Haunani Wallace will be joining the 10 am readers in 2019. We are always interested in having new parishioners who would be willing to serve the church in this important ministry.

Please contact Paul Holman (236-7087) for reading at the 7:30 AM service or Bill Freeman (236-2396) for the 10 AM Service.

7:30 AM Service Readers: Pat Ayers; Paul Holman; Jan & Sandy Lyle; Terry Mello; JoAnne Ryan; Jane Schroeder; Diane Kirkman; Edmund Hartt; Pam Bardon.

10:00 AM Service Readers: Anna Black; George Bickham; Br. Donovan Bowley; Polly Chatfield; Jeff Conrad; Millie Crocker; Kathryn DerMarderosian; Jan Dolcater; Bill Freeman; Roy Gilley; Chris Glass; Sarah Groman; Sydney Hall; Dean & Kate Jackson; John Mattern; Jane Schroeder; Olivia Vega; Sally Williamson

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Holman
Bill Freeman

Ushers' Report

Ushering at St. Thomas' is an easy way for parishioners to serve our parish. Over the years we have been fortunate to have a core group of volunteers for the regular 9:30/10:00 AM services and occasional special services. We are also fortunate to have a number of summer residents who regularly serve when they are in town.

During 2018 our 10:00 am group included Joan Bennett, Dean Jackson, Bill Freeman, Roy Gilley, Leamon Scott, Phil Groman, Ed Williamson, Mike Moore, Scott Chrysler and Lucy Ebbert. Our 7:30 am ushers are: Paul Holman; Carlos Mello; Jean Cox; Marilyn Smith; Edmund Hartt; Jan Lyle; Isa Babb; Bert Ryan; Anne Ayers.

We were eagerly expecting Frank Beane to rejoin us after his extended medical leave, but just as that was about to happen Rosie and he decided to move to North Carolina. We thank Frank for serving for so many years while noting his use of one of the only two reasons an usher can be relieved of his duties. This is consistent with the unspoken policy that no one is ever fired from serving.

Moving into 2019, please remember that you do not have to be asked to join our group. We can use additional volunteers, especially in the winter months. If anyone, including our youngest members, is interested in serving they should feel free to approach anyone in our group. It's not hard to do and is a wonderful way to serve St. Thomas'.

Sincerely,
Jim Ebbert



Deacon's Report

*True prayer is finding out who we are
In God—
finding the spacious place of
The soul where we and God feel most at home.*
(Richard Rohr, Franciscan Priest)

Over the past six months I have paused from parish based ministry as a deacon, in order to focus more deeply and intently on my home life. I have close family members who live courageously day by day with complex health issues. With God's help I strive to companion them thoughtfully, with the offering my support and love on behalf of their well-being. I have rediscovered a spaciousness over these months that has caused me to draw closer to God, and to my loved ones.

Meanwhile my chaplaincy vocation at Pen Bay Medical Center has continued, offering me varied opportunities for servant ministry—in particular on behalf of the oppressed, the sick, and the marginalized. On some Sundays I offered a simple service of prayer and praise at the hospital. Together with the patients I serve, we first create a sacred space. A bible, a photograph of loved ones, a hymn book, a small rock from the shores of Penobscot Bay, rosary beads—among other treasures. Sometimes I incorporate the Litany of Healing Prayer that is often used in the Wednesday morning chapel service at St Thomas. Always I invoke the Holy Spirit, asking for wisdom and guidance.

And on some Sundays my husband Bill and I lingered over a breakfast of oatmeal together, sharing the stories of our lives and giving thanks for everyday miracles. We found strength and solace in praying together.

How meaningful that my first Sunday back with you all was the Feast of the Epiphany. The celebration of Jesus made manifest among us and our call to spread this Good News to the world outside the walls of our church—this is 'near and dear' to my deacon's heart! And it reflects the invitation we all share in our baptismal vows—the offering of ourselves as Christ-bearers, through the sharing of his life-giving love and peace.

*Thou has given so much to me,
Give me one more thing—a grateful heart.*
(George Herbert, as quoted in Friends of Silence)

I am grateful that we are together in this journey of fellowship and service—may our God bless us with a vision of how we are called to be the Body of Christ in 2019, and may we trust his love to guide us.

The Rev Abby Pettee, Deacon
January 27, 2019



Endowment Committee Report

The Endowment Committee's members are Robert Knapp, Suzanne Scott and Lucy Ebbert, Chair. Ex officio members are Rev. Lisa Smith, Rector, Carlos Mello, Senior Warden and Terry Mello, Treasurer. During the late spring of 2018 the previous chair, Frank Beane, resigned due to a move to North Carolina. Lucy Ebbert was named chair by the vestry in May of 2018.

Prior to his departure an in-depth meeting was held with KeyBank representatives to review the 2017 investment results of the endowment portfolio (both restricted and unrestricted funds) and to discuss the bank's views both about 2018 to date and looking forward.

All members of the committee realize and agree that St. Thomas' over the years has been blessed with legacy gifts. A prime example is the recent bequest by the Margaret A. Stone Marital Trust which is currently being used to help fund the repair of the wall facing Chestnut Street. It is the committee's objective to create awareness of the different types of legacy giving that are available.

In January the committee met with Terry Mello, treasurer, to discuss the allocation of accounts with KeyBank.

The committee receives reports on a quarterly basis from KeyBank. A review of the account with representatives of KeyBank is in the process of being scheduled for February.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Ebbert, Chairman

Parish Administrator's Report

I began as Administrative Assistant at the end of August. Two editions of *Chapter & Verse* have gone out in that time.

As the wall of the church was worked on there was the discovery of a Time Capsule placed in 1922, which was replaced.

IYL, a local landscaper came to do a fall cleanup of our gardens.

We have hosted the annual community Thanksgiving Dinner and one of the Monday Morning Community Breakfasts for Chestnut Street Baptist Church.

We were scheduled to have Watershed School do their project fair, but had to cancel due to weather.

CIFF and Camden Conference are already scheduled on the calendar for 2019.

It has been wonderful having folks drop in the office and introduce themselves, sometimes more than once, as I strive to learn each parishioner by name.

Respectfully Submitted,
Raylene M. Hunt

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

(LEM's) assist with communion by administering the chalice. Sometimes the LEM's do extra duties when necessary and can sometimes be seen being Crucifer or Acolyte as well. They are dedicated, versatile team players.

Our 7:30 LEMS are: JoAnne Ryan, Pam Barden, and Sandy Lyle, and our 10:00 LEM's are: Kristian Kibler, Jeff Conrad, Roy Gilley, Jacqueline Recht, Dean Jackson and Bill Freeman.

We could use additional people who would like to serve at the altar of God. Please let the Rector or Pam Bardon know if you are interested.

Vestry Nominees

Brother Aidan Donovan Bowley, BSG



Donovan has been a member at St. Thomas for the past 12 years, since retiring back to Maine, where his father's family has been since the 1740s. Here at St. Thomas', he has been a choir member, Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte, Worship Leader, and Eucharistic Visitor, as well as serving on the Vestry and on the recent Search Committee for the Rector. He convenes the Wednesday Bible Study group, and after taking the Education for Ministry course led by Rosalee Glass, has assisted her in EfM for the past several years.

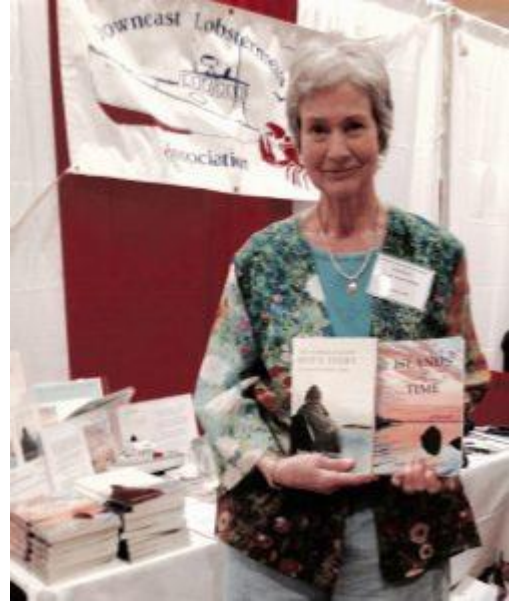
He is a life-professed member of the Brotherhood of St. Gregory. Its members are not monks living at one location together in community but are individual friars dispersed throughout the United States, and in the Philippines, and Australia. He served several years as the Provincial of their New England Province. (The Brotherhood's website, www.gregorians.org, is a good source of information on the Community, should one be interested in learning more about them.)

After some 22 years at the Church of the Advent, he worked with St. John's Parish, Charlestown, Massachusetts; then joined the Parish of the Messiah in Auburndale, Massachusetts, serving there as Vestryman and Warden, coming to St. Thomas' Church from there.

He is a biologist and holds a Ph.D. in Biology from Boston University, where he taught on faculty for the last three years of graduate school. He has been a forest ranger, a regional planner, an environmental analyst, and managed the Technical Services section of the Massachusetts Drinking Water Program, retiring to Maine in 2007.

His current interests include local Maine history, and he works with several local historical societies as well as the Walsh History Center at Camden Public Library.

Barbara Kent Lawrence



Barbara Kent Lawrence is the author of many books, including *Islands of Time*; *The Other Island: Ben's Story*, *Bitter Ice: A Memoir of Love, Food, and Obsession*; and as well as books and many articles about education. She taught anthropology and history at the high school level, then co-founded and ran a real estate and construction firm in Northeast Harbor, Maine. She later served as a policy analyst for the Rural School and Community Trust and then at KnowledgeWorks Foundation, while teaching writing, sociology, and education at Northeastern and Lesley universities in Boston. She has been a member of St. Thomas' since moving back to Maine in 2015.

Haunani Wallace (*Haunani and her mom in the pic*)

After many years vacationing on the Midcoast, Haunani Wallace moved to Rockport permanently just over a year ago with her husband Doc, blind Greek kitty Tria Maria, and sheltie Ella. She joined St. Thomas' in the spring after being invited by neighbors and long-time members Jan & June Dolcater. They both immediately felt they had found family, and cherish their membership in St. Thomas'.

Haunani was born in Hawaii, and has lived in Vancouver, B.C., Seattle, WA, Farmington, CT, Ridgefield, CT, West Wardsboro, VT, and Sarasota, FL. She enjoyed a 10-year career in teaching middle school math in Connecticut and New York. She and Doc have two children and 4 grandchildren. She and Doc served St. James Episcopal Church Farmington, CT as assistant treasurer and senior warden respectively. Haunani is an active member of the Rockport Garden Club, and finds joy in gardening, knitting, skiing, reading, walking, sailing and cooking.



NOTES FROM MEETING:





ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

33 Chestnut Street (P.O. Box 631) ♦ Camden, ME 04843
www.stthomascamdenme.org ♦ admin@stthomscamdenme.org
Church Office: 207 236-3680 (*closed on Monday*)