

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church



ANNUAL REPORT

166th Annual Parish Meeting

January 31, 2021

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Rector: The Rev. Canon Lisa Fry
Deacon: The Rev. Abby Pettee
Senior Warden: Carlos Mello
Junior Warden: Edmund Hartt
Treasurer: Terry Mello
Clerk of the Vestry: Shirley Fierro
Minister of Music: Clarissa Brown
Office Manager: Susie Crawford
Sexton/Groundskeeper: Jonathan Elwell
Nursery Care: Ella Johanson

VESTRY

Outgoing Vestry Members:

Sarah Groman
Elizabeth Moran

Terms End 2022:

Bill Freeman
Br. Donovan Bowley

Terms End 2022:

Dean Jackson (Class of 2023)
Jen Johanson (Class of 2023)
Eileen Morelli (Class of 2023)

Nominees for Vestry (Class of 2024):

Elizabeth Moran (*Senior Warden*)
Kendra Watkins (*finishing term of Barbara
Lawrence, Class of 2022*)
Troy Bickham
Roy Gilley
Jan Lyle

2020 PARISH STATISTICS

Communicants in Good Standing: 225
Average Sunday Attendance: Unknown due
to COVID-19

Parish Marriages: 0

Burials: 3

New Members:

Marcus Mwroka

Deaths in the Community:

Karen Laite
Sally Leighton
Ann McKendry
Bill Pettee
Kevin Stanley
John Steele
Sally Lincoln
Seana Roubinek

*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.*

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MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Opening prayer
3. Stewardship 2 Video
4. Comments from The Rev. Canon Lisa Fry
5. Comments from the outgoing Senior Warden
6. Comments from the Junior Warden
7. Call for approval of minutes
8. Presentation by the Treasurer of the 2020 Financial Results and the 2021 Budget, as approved by the Vestry
9. Farewell to outgoing Vestry, and Introduction and Election of Senior Warden and Vestry members
10. Questions and answers from the “floor” for the Rector
11. Closing prayer and adjournment

2020 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Call to order by The Reverend Lisa Smith Fry

Opening Prayer

By Deacon Abby Pettee, in absentia, read by the Rector

A video of Bishop Thomas J. Brown presenting his vision for the future of the Diocese.

Rector's Report - State of the Church

- 25 new members in 2019;
- 30 Children are now in our congregation;
- Would like to offer morning or evening prayer 5 days a week;
- Think about our strengths and weaknesses as a parish;
- Child and Adult Classes;
- Ongoing Repairs to the Church Facility-completed;
- Second Service changed to 10:00 a.m.;
- Development of 4 Acolyte Teams;
- Blessing of the animals-Camden public ceremony;
- Monthly Youth-led service first Sunday of every month.

Looking forward in 2020:

- Upgrade the sound and light systems in the church;
- Biographies of the Vestry;
- Newcomer packets;
- More attention to ideas and voices;
- Additional Laity involvement;
- Wednesday evening Rite 3 Service for all but especially folks not familiar with a Sunday Service Setting to include the Eucharist;
- Theatrical group for children in a church setting.

Report from The Reverend Abby Pettee, Deacon

Deacon Abby told us of the words shared with her when she was in formation for ordained ministry: *The deacon reminds us of the grace of Jesus himself, that he is humble and in solidarity with human need, present in the midst of suffering and difficulty.* Deacon Abby lives out those words through the ministry among us at St. Thomas'. Her meeting minutes closed with this sentence: "Life in Christian community gives us rich opportunity to companion another and to stay present in times of suffering and in times of rejoicing."

(Minutes continues...)

*(Minutes continued...)***Senior Warden's Report—Carlos Mello****Slide show presentation:**

Principles guiding our goals. We will:

- Provide ministries and opportunities for growth and fulfillment;
- Encourage and welcome others to join us in this journey;
- Grow the resources for St. Thomas' to achieve its mission.

In support of these goals, we will undertake the following activities in 2020:

1. Form an ad hoc committee to take a fresh look and revitalize our parish ministries;
2. Hold ministries fairs to build awareness and encourage participation;
3. Provide an evening service for those unable to attend traditional services;
4. Develop a three-year building and grounds renovation plan;
5. Launch a capital campaign to support these renovations;
6. Implement a long-term giving strategy to support our parish.

Junior Warden—Edmund Hartt

1. We have learned that the bell tower is in dire need of rebuilding, the roof is at the end of its life and the chimney needs rebuilding.
2. The Vestry, upon recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee, chose to have the tower wrapped in a waterproof covering, but this will only serve us for 1 – 2 years. Options are:
 - Rebuild the tower just as it is;
 - Rebuild it with different materials, yet to look the same;
 - Change the design to be less susceptible to water;
 - Remove the tower all together.

Financial Report from Treasurer Terry Mello

Actual operating income for 2019	\$264,813
Net Loss for 2019	(\$4344)
Budget for 2020	\$260,000
Outreach - \$13,069 or 5%;	
Facilities - \$178,691 or 7%	
Worship - \$98,351 or 40 %	
Parish Life - \$57,056 or 23%	
Administrative - \$22,503 or 9%	
Youth - \$17,214 or 7%	
Education - \$20,916 or 9%.	

(Minutes continues...)

(Minutes continued...)

Endowment Committee – Lucy Ebbert

After much consideration, screening and review, the Endowment Committee asked Maine's Department of Securities to verify that no complaints or actions were outstanding against Allen Insurance/Financial Services (AIF). As none were found, shortly thereafter funds were transferred from Key Bank to AIF. Goal for 2020 is to work with AIF to develop an investment and legacy strategy.

Finance Committee – Susan Fockler

Developed a Gift Acceptance Policy; monitor the Baird investment funds, review monthly financial reports, and assist in creating the yearly budget.

Minister of Music – Clarissa Brown, AAGO MM

- Continue the current music program, rehearsals, and worship services with special anthems;
- Continue the Music Ministry at Quarry Hill;
- Youth Choir;
- Senior Choir celebrations including birthday parties once per month;
- Annual Lenten Music series will continue.

Christian Formation – Karen Colburn, Rachel Bickham, Rev. Lisa, Brother Donovan Bowley and Deacon Rosalee Glass

- Godly Play – for Ages 4 – 9
- Church, the Bible and Me – for Ages 10 and up
- Rector's Class – Adults
- Bible Study – Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
- Education for Ministry – Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Acolytes – Joe Kulick, Rev. Lisa

Adult and Youth Acolytes serve at both Sunday morning services and special services throughout the year.

Altar Guild – JoAnne Ryan

Prepared the table for God's Eucharist. We need help with this important ministry for the care and spirituality that comes from serving God in peace and grace.

Flower Guild – Kate Jackson

Donations are being accepted now to give flowers throughout 2020. You may bring flowers from your garden, purchase flowers or write a check for \$50.00 and flowers will be purchased.

(Minutes continues...)

(Minutes continued...)

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM's) – Pam Bardon

Assist with communion by administering the chalice. Additional people are needed in this ministry.

Lectors – Bill Freeman, Terry Mello

It is with much appreciation to the members who each Sunday are responsible for reading the lessons and leading the Prayer of the People. Youth members continue to read the lessons on the first Sunday of the month at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Ushers – Terry Mello, Jim Ebbert

Ushers' duties include greeting folks as they enter the church and assisting during the worship service. Both Adults and Youth serve in this capacity. If you have a desire to serve, please let one of the current Ushers know.

Loaves and Fishes Ministry – Pam Bardon

This Ministry and its volunteers provide a community lunch at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rockland on the third Saturday of every month. They are always looking for new recruits.

Outreach Coalition – JoAnne Ryan

Our goal this year is to continue providing services and monetary donations to charities in our community. We are currently planning fundraiser events for this year. Thank you for your continued support and participation in Outreach events.

Website & Electronic Communications (www.stthomascamdenme.org) – Terry Mello

A weekly email with information about St. Thomas, *Tidings* newsletter, is sent out to those on our email list. If you are not receiving a weekly email from us and would like to be on the distribution list, please let the church office know. Your information will not be shared.

The Reverend Lisa Smith Fry once again took the podium for the Election of New Vestry Members utilizing Roberts Rules of Order.

Nominees for Vestry

Edmond Hartt – Junior Warden

Bill Freeman – Vestry

Dean Jackson-Vestry

Jen Johanson – Vestry

Eileen Morelli - Vestry

(Minutes continues...)

(Minutes continued...)

Unanimous vote to elect all five nominees was accepted.

2019 Minutes were accepted and approved.

Next year the Annual Meeting may be held between the two Sunday Services. Please give Mother Lisa your thoughts regarding this suggestion.

2020 Annual Meeting closed with all those in attendance reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Prayerfully Submitted,
Shirley F. Fierro



RECTOR

delivered January 2021

This past year was a Church year unlike any of us have ever known. Since none of us were alive during the pandemic of 1917/18, we were thrown completely when church attendance, as we knew it, ended. People suggested to me that the church has never closed before, ever. That isn't true. It did shut down briefly during the earlier pandemic last century. But many died, including St. Thomas' rector at the time, the Rev. Gilbert Foxwell.

So mid-March, everything changed.

On the one hand, it's been the most difficult year in all my 61 years—probably yours as well. On the other hand, I thank God that this time around we have many different ways to stay in contact—ways that weren't possible in 1917. We have phone (*audio and Facetime*), internet (*Zoom, Facebook, email*), more knowledge of things like pathogens and aerosol transmission, and masks—so many masks—of all shapes, colors, and styles. And so many deaths.

I again give thanks to God that—as I write this—we haven't lost one parishioner to COVID-19. We have, however, lost others. We've lost family and friends that we couldn't be with through their passing because of COVID. And we've lost 400,000+ fellow countrymen and women who will leave a gaping hole in our nation, going forward. May they rest in peace.

Some of us had to slow down. Some of us have never had to work faster. Some of us discovered that they now had more than one job every day, while others lost their jobs.

St. Thomas' buildings may have closed, but our Church continues in the risen life of Christ's followers in the world.

First, let's not forget what happened prior to closing: we formed a new children's choir which joined us in worship, and we had one of the most successful music series (at least for 3 weeks) that we'd ever had!

And after closing the buildings:

- We continued classes: Rector's Class, Bible Study, EfM, and even briefly, children's classes.
- We have fed the hungry at Loaves and Fishes, and the Camden Area Food Pantry.
- We have continued to worship in new and unusual ways.
- First: we learned how to livestream Morning Prayer on Sundays.
- We began livestreaming Daily Noonday Prayer and Compline, which still continue.

We began a new adventure with video services on Sundays—finding that everyone who wanted to, could participate—even those who hadn't been able to make it to the

(Rector continues...)

(Rector continued...)

- physical church in years. We welcome their presence and their participation once again.
- We began having Vestry on Zoom. Strangely, the vestry seems to love Zoom.
- We formed a COVID task force primarily made up of people with experience in the sciences: doctor, biologist, food inspector etc. to assist with decision-making.
- We began classes again online via Zoom. We even have people participating from other states.
- We initiated a phone tree for those without smart phones or computer access.
- We had outdoor services when it was safe—so we could come together again.
- We opened our church once a week for private prayer in our beloved sanctuary.
- We opened a new prayer garden behind the parish hall for people to come, reflect, pray.
- The “Weed Whackers” continued their ministry with landscaping, offering a space in our garden of both peace and solace—not just to us, but any who stopped by to meet friends and to pray.
- We added WiFi to our Sanctuary so we can continue to bring all our services to you on *YouTube* and *Facebook*.
- We redid *Tidings* so it can be read easily both online and with our smart phones.
- We redesigned our Website so it functions better, and is more easily navigated—as well as being much more attractive.
- Instead of a theater program with all of our kids—we had a hilarious Film 101 class as we videotaped the pageant--while learning about microphones, props, camera angles and “takes.” I look forward to more video work with them.

And I am looking forward to adding some MORE things:

- Better signage outside directing people to our online presence.
- Writing an article for the paper to highlight what is going on both virtually and in person.
- Purchasing and implementing the equipment to really make our videos shine—even after we are back together in person.
- Beginning a podcast where everyone has the opportunity to contribute--accessible to everyone—either through phone or computer.
- Continuing our *Video Ministry* with many more volunteers as we make sure that ALL our people—even those who are not in the pews due to mobility, illness or vacation—can still be a part of Jesus’ *Beloved Community* through the assistance of this team of people who will bring inclusivity to a new level for us.

Of course, the thing we are all looking forward to **the most** is opening up the building to in-person worship again. I certainly hope vaccination goes quickly and we are in a safer place

(Rector continues...)

(Rector continued...)

where we can open: first with masks and distancing, and then – finally – when we can worship together unmasked.

We've spent nearly a year struggling to hear each other through the masks, and not recognizing our best friends in the store because of the masks—but I want you to reflect on the fact that to God, *we are completely unmasked*. God knows us anywhere, anytime, no matter what we wear or how intricate our mask: God sees us. Always.

Let us end this tumultuous year with a prayer:

Loving God, you have led us to this place and time, not to shield us from heartache and the pain of human life, but to – in this moment--heal us, to gently redirect us, till we see the world as you do and love it with your love, no matter what befalls us. Amen.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Canon Lisa Fry+

DEACON

To the people of God at St. Thomas':

I am writing these words during the liturgical season of Epiphany. I pause to think more deeply about what I am being invited to make visible. I wonder about the ways that we--in our individual lives and as the Body of Christ in Camden--are being called to manifest in word and deed the divinity of Jesus.

Since the last time I shared an update for our Annual Meeting, much has happened. Leading up to my husband Bill's death on March 9, 2020, he and I sought to stay very close to one another, and to our Good Shepherd. We were truly companioned by gifts of grace and practical help, making his end-of-life passage not only bearable, but life-giving.

With God's help I've made an effort day by day to be tender with my own grieving heart. Just after Bill's passing, I reached out to the SSJE monastic community on behalf of receiving spiritual direction. Through the wise and compassionate support of one of the brothers, I am discovering healing and hope amidst the sorrow.

Soul work of this kind also equips me in my vocational work as chaplain at Pen Bay Medical Center. Suffering can mold and equip us as human beings. Before a conversation or time of prayer with a patient I say "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Help me to make visible your healing love." I'm coming to discover that in trusting my own healing journey my capacity for being more fully present to the sufferings of others has deepened.

Healthcare spiritual care ministry during the pandemic's continuation has meant that apart from the last 24 hours of a person's life, I am the only clergy person at Pen Bay Medical Center. Visitor restriction polices are in place to try and help mitigate the spread of this

(Deacon continues...)

(Deacon continued...)

tenacious virus. The primary place that I am living out my call to ordained ministry currently is in the halls and rooms of our local hospital.

Reverend Lisa's message at Christmas, as shared in *Tidings* has stayed with me. "May the Prince of Peace heal you this day." She went on to help us understand that the oldest meaning of the word peace (Shalom in Hebrew) is "wholeness." I believe we are all invited each day to consider what hinders the manifestation of wholeness within us. In doing so the flow of divine flow can find an opening, and healing can happen. We are then able to be bearers of Christ's merciful love, in a world that is so deeply hungry for wholeness, and hope.

Being part of the Mid Coast Interfaith Alliance's New Year's Eve service of Remembrance, Resilience and Hope was transformative for me. Partnering and collaboration of this kind is so meaningful, and I believe it is part of what will help heal the deep hurt in our nation. We drew upon Christian, Buddhist and Jewish teachings to lament the multi-layered "grief upon grief" that was present in 2020. And then we named our resilience and strength, both individual and collective, in being able to move forward together. Over 100 people attended this virtual event.

In early February I will partner with a local hospitalist physician to engage in a conversation entitled "Opening to Grace." Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Committee at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, we will consider how significant health events and grief of many kinds can be a portal for the discovery of healing and hope. In an upcoming issue of *Tidings* I will share further information—you are all welcome to join the conversation and time of sharing.

Respectfully,
The Rev. Abby Pettee

SENIOR WARDEN

The year 2020 started with such promise. Bishop Brown's New Year's message shared the up lifting and inspiring words given by Father Cary, SSJE to the Sisters of St. Anne-Bethany. St. Thomas' Vestry, with the feedback and counsel of our parishioners, charted a course for 2020 based on guiding principles, goals and objectives. The Bell Tower had been wrapped to protect it from further decay and we were developing long-term plans for the refurbishment of our parish properties.

And then..... The world experienced and continues to experience the worst pandemic in a century. We were isolated and sheltered in place. We no longer socialized with one another. Unable to share a meal with a friend, offer a handshake, or provide a much-needed hug. Schools and universities were limited to remote learning. Many of us were unemployed or forced to work from home. Parents were required to juggle their family and career obligations, as family members shared kitchen tables transfixed on computer screens. The economy shut down and went into free fall.

(Senior Warden continues...)

(Senior Warden continued...)

Since the dark days of March and April, we have experienced something out of Charles Dickens; Tale of Two Cities - *"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."*

We have seen all time financial market highs, real estate prices have soared, witnessed incredible innovation, medical break throughs attained, became proficient with Zoom and FaceTime, shopped online and certain sectors of the economy flourished.

Meanwhile many of us have experienced great sadness. We have lost over 400,000 fellow Americans. Many remain unemployed. Small business owners have seen a life's work devastated. Maine's tourism and hospitality industries stand on the precipice of ruin. Students have been forced to learn in hybrid and remote environments. Depression and substance abuse run rampant. And we experienced peaceful protest, riots and political strife.

St. Thomas' was not immune from this dichotomy of light and darkness.

During 2020, St. Thomas' launched a series of virtual ministries: Noonday Prayer; Compline; Coffee and Check-in; Bible Study; EfM; Rector's classes; and prerecorded Sunday Morning Eucharist, increasing the opportunities for worship beyond traditional Sunday morning services. Parishioners participated who could not have done so in person due to safety concern, personal health or physical location. We continued our Loaves & Fishes and Food Pantry outreach ministries. For many, St. Thomas' was a light in a sea of darkness.

For others, our virtual ministries were hollow substitutes for in person fellowship and worship. Many of our fellow summer parishioners were unable or unwilling to return. We attempted in vain to reopen the church, but were limited to outdoor worship. Many felt their spiritual journey left adrift; neither providing solace or comfort, nor helping them attain well-being.

Our inability to meet the needs of all parishioners will forever mark the year 2020.

As we look forward to 2021, I ask we continue to utilize our guiding principles to chart our course as a Christian community:

- St. Thomas' welcomes all in our greater community; those who worship traditionally, as well as those who are searching, or have been unable to attend traditional services;
- St. Thomas' will be true to our Christian Episcopal foundation;

(Senior Warden continued...)

- St. Thomas' will embrace all; nourish spiritual growth and not be judgmental;
- St. Thomas' will evolve and grow to meet the needs of our parish and the greater community;

(Senior Warden continues...)

(Senior Warden continued...)

- St. Thomas' members are encouraged to participate in ministries which align with their spiritual journey; if a ministry is currently not available, members will be encouraged to start one; and
- St. Thomas' will ensure its continued relevance to its membership and the greater community, by growing and renewing its parish leadership.

It has been an honor to serve as your Sr. Warden for the past three years. The fellowship and wisdom garnered from the parish was far greater than I could repay. I pray and wish the best for our Parish, Rector, Vestry and Sr. Warden, Elizabeth Moran, in the coming year. I believe our best days are yet to come.

Respectfully and humbly submitted,
Carlos Mello

JUNIOR WARDEN

By tradition in the Episcopal Church the Jr. Warden is in charge of the building and grounds. At St Thomas' we follow that tradition, the Jr. Warden is assisted by the Building and Grounds subcommittee of the vestry.

Because of the pandemic, we paused our efforts in early spring. When it became apparent that the virus was not going to go away, we adapted to having our meetings on the Zoom platform. Our primary focus has been what to do with the deteriorated bell tower. When the temperatures warmed last spring, the weather proofing of the tower was completed. Some adhesives needed warmer temperatures to cure. We hired an architect to help us envision different solutions to the problems of the tower. We are in the middle of that process.

There were some upgrades performed in the church during the time it was closed. All the spotlights in the nave and chancel were replaced with LED bulbs, it is brighter in there now. And the wifi system in the entire building was upgraded, it is now available in the nave and chancel.

This year, 2021, we will continue our work deciding what is the best solution to the tower problem, we hope to bring our decision to the congregation this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Edmund Hartt

FINANCIALS

2020 Financial Review

As we enter 2021, we want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of St. Thomas'. For more than ten months we have been unable to see each other in Church and other parish activities; however, with your support we have been able to virtually reach you through daily prayer, daily coffee and check-in Zoom meetings, educational opportunities, and a weekly online worship service. Our community outreach continues with volunteers working at the Food Pantry and the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen at St. Peter's. Following are two reports for your information – *2020 Statement of Activity* and *Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2020*. As you can see, our financial position is healthy as we enter 2021. We would not be in this position without your support.

2020 Statement of Activity

2020 Income Received (Excludes Bequests and Capital Improvement Donations)	
Total Operating Income	\$ 218,333
Outreach Donations	10,106
Weymouth Altar Guild Interest	459
Income from Investments for Scholarships	7,875
Other Restricted Donations (<i>Flowers, All Souls, Music, etc.</i>)	376
Total Income	237,149
2020 Expenses (Excludes Capital Improvement Disbursements)	
Total Operating Expense	(245,133)
Outreach Disbursements	(1,628)
Scholarships and Educational Grants (<i>Disbursed from RI Thomas Scholarship and Sarah Davenport funds</i>)	(7,890)
Other Expenses (<i>Flowers, All Souls Garden and Music Expense</i>)	(936)
Total Expense	(255,588)
2020 Bequests Received and Capital Improvement Donations	
Stormy Bok Bequest	25,000
Capital Improvement Donations (<i>Building Fund, East Elevation, Tower</i>)	15,997
Total Income	40,997
2020 Funds Disbursed and Accounts Payables for Capital Improvements	
Capital Improvements	(7,102)
Other Building and Tower Expenses	(1,266)
Total Disbursements	(8,368)
Net Investment Earnings/(Losses)	69,638
Change in Net Assets	\$ 83,828

*Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2020*

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 138,263
Investments	1,431,226
Account Receivables	24,680
Other Current Assets	<u>1,950</u>
Total Current Assets	1,596,119

Fixed Leashold Assets

Building	1,730,356
Other Property	100,000
Equipment	<u>9,758</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>1,840,114</u>

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 3,436,233

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 7,750
Other Current Liabilities	44,381

Long-Term Liabilities

Expected Capital Campaign Income	14,537
Paycheck Protection Plan Loan from Diocese	26,800
Other Long-Term Liabilities	<u>1,949</u>
Total Liabilities	95,417

NET ASSETS

Restricted Funds (Non-Operating)	1,482,729
Restricted Funds (Operating)	41,724
Restricted Funds (Outreach)	11,408
Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>1,804,954</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>3,340,816</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$ 3,436,233

2021 Operating Budget

Below please find the *2020 Results and 2021 Budget*. We are reporting a \$26,800 deficit for 2020. In April 2020, the Diocese applied for a Paycheck Protection Plan loan on the behalf of all the parishes. St. Thomas' received \$26,800 to help with our salary and benefits expenses for the months of May through July. These funds are currently on our Balance Sheet as a loan from the Diocese and are not included in our Operating Income. We do expect that the PPP loan will be forgiven in 2021 – at this point in time we do not know how these funds will be reported in 2021. Because of the availability of the PPP funds, St. Thomas' used \$12,804 of our Endowment rather than the originally budgeted \$33,000.

Our 2021 Budget shows a projected deficit of \$20,000. The budget was prepared using three criteria – 1) Actual costs known; 2) Estimates based on information available; and 3) Estimate based on reviewing a 5-year average (2015-2019). We anticipate reviewing the budget on a quarterly basis to determine if it needs to be adjusted. We will continue to post our quarterly financials and any changes to the budget on the website.

2020 Results and 2021 Budget

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Operating Income			
Pledge and General Donations	193,000	176,724	172,000
Endowment Income used for Operations	33,000	12,804	33,000
Rental Income and Facility Use Donations	32,200	28,627	27,800
Fundraising Income	1,500	-	-
Other Income and Donations	300	178	200
Total Operating Income	260,000	218,333	233,000
Operating Expense			
Salaries and Benefits	158,100	156,198	159,600
Diocesan Allocation	41,600	41,562	39,500
Church Facilities Expenses	33,600	23,865	26,300
Administrative Expenses	21,100	21,067	23,500
Other Operating Expenses	5,600	2,441	4,100
Total Operating Expense	260,000	245,133	253,000
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	-	(26,800)	(20,000)

My term as Treasurer was supposed to end this month. When I announced that I would not stand for reappointment, COVID-19 was not anticipated – Carlos and I were looking forward to becoming grandparents in February 2020 and spending time with our expanding family. In June, I told the Vestry that “You make plans and God laughs” and agreed to extend my term through January 2022. If you have any interest in this position or helping with the bookkeeping responsibilities, please contact Rev. Lisa or a member of the Vestry or Finance Committee. Wishing you all a blessed and healthy 2021!

Faithfully ~ Terry Mello

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Members of the Endowment Committee (EC) are Suzanne Scott and Lucy Ebbert. Ex Officio members were the Rev. Canon Lisa Fry, Rector; Carlos Mello, Senior Warden; Terry Mello, Treasurer; and Susan Fockler, Finance Committee Chair.

As background, in late 2019 the EC chose Allen Insurance/Financial (AIF) to be our investment advisor. During the year the committee, rector, senior warden, treasurer and finance committee worked with them to develop an Investment Policy Statement (IPS).

The purpose of the IPS is to set forth a summary of an investment philosophy that provides guidance for both the Investor and the Advisor. It also allows for better continuity within the committee from year to year.

Included in this IPS were guidelines designed to:

- Establish the Funds' objectives
- Provide guidance and direction to the Funds' Advisor
- Determine the measurements and methods for monitoring and evaluating the Funds' investment performance
- Describe the distribution and spending parameters for the Funds' assets

In the future the EC will meet with AIF each January and July to review the prior six months' performance. Although we had hoped to begin work on a legacy strategy in 2020, the pandemic presented many challenges in being able to meet. Hence, this goal was not accomplished but will be pursued in 2021.

If this committee is of interest to you, please contact me for additional information.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lucy Ebbert, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee members consisted of Susan Fockler (Chairperson), Chris Glass, Elizabeth Moran and Leamon Scott. Our Ex Officio members were the Rev. Canon Lisa Fry, Carlos Mello (Sr. Warden) and Terry Mello (Treasurer). Most of our work involved reviewing the monthly financial reports as prepared by our Treasurer. We also monitored the Baird investment funds and assisted in creating the yearly budget. In the coming year the duties of the Finance Committee and the Endowment Committee will be combined. If you are interested in joining this committee or would like additional information, please contact Lucy Ebbert.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Moran

MINISTER OF MUSIC

The past year has been dominated, of course, by the pandemic. Along with every other program at St. Thomas', the choirs and fellowship associated with those groups had to be suspended for safety's sake. We were in the midst of planning for the Great Vigil when everyday operations ceased.

We were able to have about half of the annual Lenten Noontime Concerts, which did raise a good amount of money for one of the non-profit organizations in town.

Mary Sullivan and friends performed for our first concert, held in the Sanctuary. It was well-attended and very enjoyable.

We were able to have the Jazz Band from Camden Hills High School perform in the Fellowship Hall. They raised the roof along with our spirits!

The final concert we were able to hold before the church shut down was all about opera. Dean Jorgenson put me through my paces with a mixture of complex accompaniments--I was tired when I went home that day!

We do have a wonderful group of youth who will be helping out in the weeks coming up--I'm planning to have them sing during some of our Sunday videos. I can't wait to see their faces again on a regular basis--I have missed them.

Part of my job going forward will be helping to edit the videos that we are currently making for virtual church services. I was privileged to be able to do the Christmas Pageant, and have already started helping with some of the services in January.

I am hoping that we will be able to pick up where we left off and meet again in person for choir rehearsals. Zoom is good, but not as good as in-person connection. We all want to sing again.

Personally, I can't wait.

Faithfully,
Clarissa Brown, Music Minister

OFFICE MANAGER

What a blur last year was! Even with the pandemic causing many of the usual church and secular activities to be cancelled or moved online, there has been much to do in adjusting to the new way of doing things. And some of the old tasks continued just as before.

For instance, I was still scheduling and meeting with inspectors and contractors to check out and service fire-safety systems, pest control—more about that in a minute—and utilities. Now I also make sure all visitors are masked and sign in and out.

(Office Manager continues...)

(Office Manager continued...)

I re-scheduled a couple of weddings, and re-scheduled them, and... re-scheduled them! Hopefully, the new dates will work!

Okay, so about those pests... Besides our usual mouse and bat problems, this year we also had squirrels in the walls! I hired a humane wildlife pest remover, who determined that the squirrels were in the walls of the rectory apartment. He put out humane traps and caught the two critters, then shored up the foundation around the building so no more could enter.

I began working from home in early spring, and that was *interesting*. I've been back in the office for several months now.

I'm still taking calls, answering email inquiries, ordering supplies—now including masks and hand sanitizer--sending out weekly hard-copy mailings of *Tidings* and the Rector's sermon to our homebound parishioners, mailing "Day by Day" to those who request it, and now creating email notices for online services, Noonday Prayer, Compline, Coffee & Check-In, etc.

I'm still creating the *Tidings* newsletter, and recently, we changed the format so it looks better and you can get it on your phone! It still isn't perfect, but... there's always next week!

Susie Crawford

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Rector's Class — This class continued throughout 2020, as we read *Sabbath*, by Wayne Muller, *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by the Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor (which turned out to be rather prescient), and we are now completing our work with the Enneagram. These classes were facilitated or taught by the rector and others. All classes are open to everyone, even if you haven't been "keeping up". No judgement: join us, and join in.

Bible Study — Brother Donovan Bowley –Wednesdays, after the 9:30 a.m. service from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Sun Room. COVID-19 saw us move this class to Zoom at 10:30 a.m. Despite the pandemic, this class is well attended. When we come together in person again, there will be a fellowship hour with tea/coffee/cookies at 10:00 a.m. 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 4:00-6.30 p.m. After our building shut down due to the pandemic, this course moved online, successfully. A 4-year course in Holy Scripture, Church History and Theology offered (now in its 20th year) at St. Thomas' 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 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Guild Room, usually convenes on an ad-hoc basis when there is interest, or a timely topic. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Canon Lisa Fry

BIBLE STUDY

The pandemic has changed the way and location in which we have conducted Bible study. Come join us now online by Zoom for an informal Bible study and discussion on Wednesdays at 10:30 am to 11:30. The discussions are fairly lively and wide-ranging. Each session is based on the Lectionary texts for the following Sunday. The link for this meeting is posted each Wednesday in the morning “Bible Study—Zoom Invite” email. All are welcome.

Brother Donovan Bowley

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Since March 2020 we have met by Zoom on Wednesday afternoons, September to June, at 4:00-6:30 p.m. This is a 4-year course in Holy Scripture, Church History and Theology (offered now in its 20th year at St. Thomas’), and is provided by the School of Theology at Sewanee, University of the South. We cover Hebrew Scriptures in the first year, New Testament in the second year, history of Christianity in the third year, and contemporary church issues and theology in the fourth year. Graduates receive a Certificate of Completion from the School of Theology at the University of the South. Registration for this course occurs during the summer months. If interested, please talk with the co-mentors.

Co-mentors: The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass and Brother Donovan Bowley

ACOLYTES

“An acolyte’s purpose is rooted in our love of God, our faithfulness is seen in our willingness to serve responsibly, and our loyalty is determined in how carefully we carry out our duties. – A Manual for Acolytes (Michno)

An acolyte’s role is critical within each service. These dedicated youth and adults ring the sanctus 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 (3 teams) 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.

Our kids served faithfully until we ended in-person worship in March, but we saw them again at the outdoor services, pitching in and showing that they haven’t forgotten their skills.

When we open again for in-person worship, we welcome new acolytes to be trained. Any

(Acolytes continues...)

(Acolytes continued...)

child, age 7 and up, who would like to acolyte, please email the Rector at rector@stthomascamdenme.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Kulick
The Rev. Canon Lisa Fry

ALTAR GUILD

No report submitted.

FLOWER GUILD

No report submitted.

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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.

Because of the pandemic, the church building remains closed, and our Lay Eucharistic Ministers have had to discontinue this ministry for now. They will return with renewed energy when we reopen. If anyone is interested in future volunteering and eventual certification by the diocese, please notify Pam Bardon or the Rector.

LECTORS

We appreciate the dedication of the members who each Sunday are responsible for reading the lessons and leading the Prayers of the People. During 2020 we were delighted to have youth members of the church continuing to read in our services. No surprise to anyone, 2020 has presented new challenges with in-church services being curtailed. Our readers took on the additional task of recording their readings and uploading to the St. Thomas' website. We appreciate the dedication of our readers. We are always interested in having new parishioners who would be willing to serve the church in this important ministry. Please contact Bill Freeman (236-2396).

7:30 a.m. Service: Pat Ayers, Pam Bardon, Edmund Hartt, Diane Kirkman, Jan Lyle, Sandy Lyle, Terry Mello, Andrew Moran, JoAnne Ryan

(Lectors continues...)

(*Lectors continued...*)

10:00 a.m. Service: Bea Bickham, George Bickham, Hettie Bickham, Anna Black, Donovan Bowley, Polly Chatfield, Jeff Conrad, Millie Crocker, Kathryn DerMarderosian, Roy Gilley, Chris Glass, Sarah Groman, Dean Jackson, Kate Jackson, Freya Johanson, Poppy Johanson, John Mattern, Haunani Wallace, Ralph (Doc) Wallace, Charlotte Watkins, Sally Williamson

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Mello and Bill Freeman

LOAVES AND FISHES

It has been a year of having to be flexible in a time of rapidly changing guidelines and protocols.

The good news is not one meal has been skipped. Every weekend the teams who pitch in to provide meals from St. Peter's managed to adhere to the current guidelines. At one point we were seating three guests per large round table. Each person gave their phone number and name at the door, in case contact tracing was necessary. Masks were required when not actually eating. Then as COVID case numbers began to accelerate in Maine we went to a takeout system, only, which currently is working quite well.

We are only allowed two team members in the kitchen right now which because of the low numbers of guests is adequate. Many thanks go to Gwen Prosser for her monthly service and to Francina Bardsley for wonderful donations for our takeout menus.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Bardon

OUTREACH COALITION

No report submitted.

USHERS

No report submitted.

WEBSITE AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

In the Fall of 2020, our website was totally redesigned. We continue to make improvements, and suggestions are always appreciated.

We continue to send out the weekly *Tidings* newsletter with information about what is going on at St. Thomas' — now, mostly what is going on online. We also send email announcements and invitations to services and classes. If you are not receiving e-mail from us and would like to be put on the distribution list, please let the office manager know and she will add you to the list. Please be assured, we will not share your information!

MEET YOUR NOMINEES

SENIOR WARDEN:



ELIZABETH MORAN grew up in Camden and has been a parishioner of St. Thomas' since 1964. She and her husband, Andrew, were summer parishioners until 1987 when they moved from Fairfax County, Virginia, to Northport, Maine. In Virginia, they were married in St. Alban's Church in Washington, where Elizabeth taught church school. After moving to northern Virginia, they were members of Truro Episcopal Church in Fairfax, where Elizabeth was Directress of Altar Guild, and their daughters, Heather and Melissa, were acolytes.

After moving to Maine, Elizabeth and Andrew and their family have been active in St. Thomas'. Elizabeth has served on Altar Guild, the Archives Committee, the Memorial Gifts Committee, the building Committee for the new Church School Wing, the Finance and endowment Committees, the Personnel Committee, and the Grounds Committee. She has served as Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and on Vestry including Clerk of the Vestry. As "unofficial" church archivist, she compiled a History of the St. Thomas' needlepoint kneelers.

Elizabeth has been active in the community as Director of the Camden Public Library for 20 years and as a volunteer on various community projects.

As an Episcopalian, Elizabeth respects the rich history of the church and its Anglican heritage as the foundation for the traditional liturgy and worship of today's church while also adapting to the changes needed in the contemporary church to keep it vibrant and growing.

VESTRY:



TROY BICKHAM I first came to St. Thomas' with my family in summer 2012 as seasonal (summers and Christmases) residents, spending the rest of the year living and working in Qatar. Since 2017, we have been here more or less full-time. Our home is in Hope. My wife, Rachel, has been involved with Christian education, but most of you are likely to recognize our children—George, Hettie, and Bea—who are visible (both in church and, since COVID, on screen) as acolytes, lectors, reading the Prayers of the People, and in the Christmas Pageant. I am honored to be considered for St. Thomas' vestry.

(Nominees continues...)

(*Nominees continued...*)

ROY GILLEY grew up in Maine, and attended St. Thomas' for many years, but for the past 19 years he has worked in Connecticut supervising his own architecture office. He has designed stores, shopping centers, housing for elderly, schools, hospitals, private residences and other projects. Roy commuted back and forth to Camden for the past several years while his wife Jan held the fort. When he could, he joined us at St. Thomas' as a lector, crucifer, usher, reader and student of EfM. He is now retired, and is delighted to be asked to serve on the Vestry.



JAN LYLE After a few Sunday visits to St. Thomas' I knew that I had found my new church home. I am a lifelong Episcopalian having been baptized and confirmed at St. John's in Ketchikan, Alaska. Since coming to St. Thomas' I have been involved as a 7:30 Lecturer and Usher. In the past I was actively working in the "rummage room" and organizing rummage sales and the Fine Goods table for the fairs. I served on the Vestry for about six years filling a few incomplete terms. I have worked in Human Services for the past 20 years. My husband Sandy and I live in Lincolnville. We have three grown children and two grandchildren.

KENDRA WATKINS moved to Midcoast Maine in 2002 and took the position of the first Assistant District Attorney to specialize in juvenile matters for Prosecutorial District 6. Soon thereafter she was appointed by the Governor to the Board of Visitors for the Mountain View Youth Development Center. She met her husband Jon Watkins in 2004 at Camden Harbor while he was serving as the First Mate of S/Y *Sumurun*. They married in 2007, and in 2008 Kendra left the DA's office to start a solo legal practice specializing in representing children in juvenile defense, emancipation and as a Guardian ad litem. Jon and Kendra have four children, Luke, Charlotte, Wolfe and Violet, whom they homeschool. The family began attending St. Thomas' when they moved from Thomaston to Camden in 2016. In 2018, Jon began his own company as a for-hire boat captain and property manager for private rental properties in Camden.

