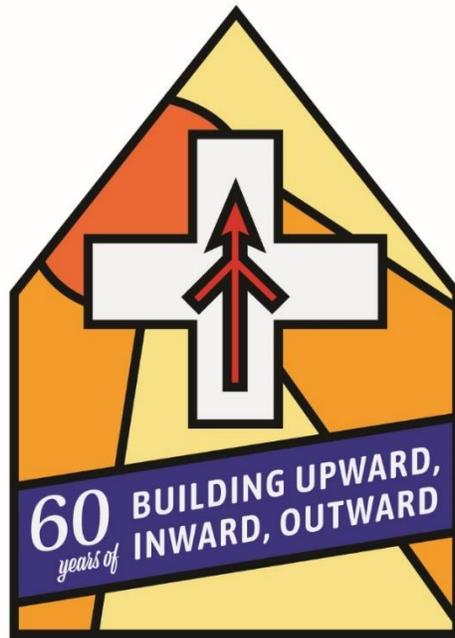


**THE WAY OF LOVE**  
*Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*



**ST. THOMAS**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# **St. Thomas Episcopal Church Annual Parish Report 2018**



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## From the Rector

We began 2018 with a theme to honor St. Thomas's 60th Anniversary: *Building Upward, Inward, and Outward*.

We did not know then how appropriate this theme would be. Nor did we anticipate how the *Way of Love* movement that emerged in The Episcopal Church in 2018 would shape all that we do together.

2018 was a year of *Building Upward*. We worshiped in inspiring, creative, and welcoming ways. Thanks to a gift from Lowell and Norma Jergens, we rededicated the beautifully renovated chapel, where we gather most often for prayer and worship. A new piano in the nave, given in memory of Max Burr, expanded our musical offerings and allowed us to utilize the gifts of more musicians. We celebrated Bluegrass Mass, Choral Evensong, and an All Saints' service at Linwood Chapel, along with beautiful offerings throughout the year. St. Thomas Choir grew musically as they sang with Voices of the Valley Children's Choir on their shared England pilgrimage. Their musical growth impressed us all at a beautiful Columbus Choral Festival. We welcomed a children's choir director and dedicated regular time for children's choir rehearsal to help children learn more about leading worship. Through all of this worship and celebration, worship attendance grew by over 11%. And in thanksgiving for all of these gifts, we increased pledging for 2019 by over 14%. In 2018, we *Built Upward on the Way of Love*.

2018 was a year of *Building Inward*. We expanded opportunities for adult formation and fellowship and learned that we love studying the Bible together. We expanded Erin Redden's role in Christian formation, welcomed Joseph as youth coordinator, and strengthened youth participation. A large (perhaps record?) number of children took part in VBS Wizards and Wonders, and GRAND adults shared hobbies and faith with children throughout a GRAND Summer. We deepened the discipline of publishing a seasonal newsletter to share our many ministries. We enjoyed several fabulous celebratory events – a 60th Anniversary Evensong and Reception, the Episcoparty, Foyers gatherings, a Legacy Society party at the W. C. Bradley Museum, and a beautiful Thanksgiving Dinner. Thanks to the success of our 60th anniversary offering, we completed important work on our facility, including repairs to the parking lot and updates to the nave. We began using the Church Life app better to stay in touch with one another. In 2018, we *Built Inward on the Way of Love*.

2018 was also a year of *Building Outward*. Our Brewer Buddies reading program began its second year. We welcomed new administrators at Brewer Elementary School and renewed our relationship with them as Partners in Education. We learned about the East Carver Heights neighborhood and the rich African American history of Columbus on a day long tour in March. We deepened our relationship with East Carver Heights through soccer, soccer camp, and Path to Shine. We also worked with Habitat for Humanity on a renovation project in the neighborhood. We sent computers to students in Tanzania, welcomed families through Valley Interfaith Promise, supported Wynnton Neighborhood Network, began a relationship with El Refugio, and shared in the good work of CVEM. Our Creation Care team built a relationship with Georgia Interfaith Power and Light. We strengthened our ties with the Jewish Community in Columbus. We practiced evangelism and welcomed many new members. In 2018, we *Built Outward on the Way of Love*.

I could go on. There is so much to celebrate. The reports that follow describe what we did together in 2018 in more detail. Thanks to all who lead and organize these ministries. And thanks to all of you. All who share in the life of St. Thomas through your prayers, presence, gifts and service are part of what we accomplished together in 2018.

May God help us keep *Building Upward, Inward, and Outward* as we follow *The Way of Love*.

Blessings,

Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards

# Reflections from our Senior Warden

Vestry has had an amazing year of spiritual work by focusing inward and applying principles of adaptive leadership to strengthen and support our community. We accomplished this by reading a passage from Acts each month as we reflected on the founding of the Christian church and the similar challenges we face today spreading God's message. In 2018 Vestry members and roles included:

- Junior Warden, Karen Lord –served on finance committee and attended monthly meetings with the rector
- Liaison for Formation, Ray Capo – was aware of needs and opportunities for Christian formation, checked in with formation staff about their hopes and goals, promoted spiritual formation within the parish
- Liaison for Worship, Charlie Snipes – attended seasonal worship committee meetings, was a resource for music, altar guild, flower guild, and all who serve in worship
- Liaison for Welcome, Paul Hostetter – assisted welcome committee in their work, encouraged evangelism efforts and brought a discerning eye to how we communicate and invite.
- Liaison for Outreach, Mike Smith – attended quarterly outreach council meetings, kept Vestry aware of outreach initiatives, encouraged outreach efforts in keeping with mission priorities
- Liaison for Stewardship, Tanya Edwards-Jones – promoted year-round stewardship, assisted with annual pledge campaign and kept Vestry informed about plans for stewardship.
- Liaison for Parish Life, Jennifer Fletcher – took part in Foyers dinner groups, helped invite the parish to fellowship events, strengthened the bonds among us
- 60th anniversary committee, Sherry Wade – served as Vestry liaison and convener of this wonderful committee
- Senior Warden Mitch Grossman – served on property committee and endowment board and attended monthly meetings with rector
- Clerk of the Vestry, Louise Tulloh – took scrupulous minutes of monthly Vestry meetings
- Treasurer, Travis Wade – led the finance committee, monitored our finances, and attended monthly meetings with the rector

Our technical responsibilities and accomplishments consisted of reviewing and approving finances, meeting minutes, budgets, rector reports and the annual parochial report. Vestry fulfilled their training for Dismantling Racism and Safeguarding God's Children. We did an excellent job becoming adaptive leaders while having various discussions around making good decisions for allocating funds for the 60th anniversary, the significant building and property repairs and the commitment to support outreach. We updated and approved a new employee handbook, researched and approved a salary and benefits compensation increase for Reverend Grace, repaired the parking lot, pews and organ. We purchased a magnificent grand piano for the Nave and supported the choir pilgrimage. This year we consulted with the Georgia Interfaith Power and Light to reduce costs and better understand how to conserve energy for our church. We updated a shared space agreement with the Day School and then celebrated and recognized the Day School for joining the National Association of Episcopal schools.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as Senior Warden. Speaking for Vestry, we thank God for his grace and guidance over the past year, we thank Reverend Grace for her virtue of faith and generosity and we thank each of you for walking in the Way of Love with our beloved St. Thomas.

With Gratitude,  
Mitch Grossman

# 2018 Parish Data

## **49 New Members:**

Beth Beoudoin  
Charlie Beoudoin  
Leo Beoudoin  
Lenny Beoudoin  
Deidre Bohannon  
Amaya Chapman  
Jai-Lyn Chapman  
Lauren Copes  
Silver DeWitt  
Cary Degon  
Charlotte Degon  
Hunter Degon  
Samantha Degon  
Hunter Dempsey  
Lindsay Dempsey  
Michael Dempsey  
Tristan Dempsey

Will Dempsey  
Jessica Ezzell  
Luke Ezzell  
Jon Ezzell  
Will Ezzell  
Monica Fortson  
Tom Fortson  
Allen Gordy  
Beverly Gordy  
Robert Hutchinson  
Tracy Leopard  
Luke Mitchell  
Maeve Morrill  
Heidi Regan  
Sid Regan  
Adley Scott  
Steve Scott

Emerson Selway  
Ryan Starkweather  
Anna Jonas Sudayi  
Hagulwa Sudayi  
Lovick Sudayi  
Bernie Sutter  
Molly Sutter  
Mary Jane Thomas  
Bill Thomas  
Kevin Waldrup  
TaKira Williams  
Billy Winn  
Penny Wise  
Molly Wright  
Mia Young

## **10 Baptisms:**

Amaya Chapman  
Jai-Lyn Chapman  
Luke Ezzell  
Will Ezzell

Luke Mitchell  
Maeve Morrill  
Emerson Selway  
Hagulwa Sudayi

TaKira Williams  
Mia Young

## **3 Confirmations/Receptions:**

Allen Gordy  
Beverly Gordy  
Kevin Waldrup

## **1 Marriage**

Michelle Shumpert and Francisco Garcia

## **9 Deaths/Burials:**

Chuck Fessenden  
Wayne Henly  
Sally Hutchinson

Russell McEwen  
Corey Milner  
G. I. Morris

Charles Pawlowicz  
Joe Vollrath  
Heidi Williamson

# Ministry Reports

We invited St. Thomas ministries to summarize their activities in 2018 by responding to these questions:

- **What does this ministry do?**
- **Who participated in 2018?**
- **Highlights from 2018**
- **How is this ministry an example of building Upward, Inward, and Outward?**

Here are their reports. Thanks to all who serve and lead through this congregation.

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## 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Sherry Wade

### **What does this ministry do?**

St Thomas celebrated 60 years of doing God's work in the world with many memorable events. Our theme - Building Upward, Building Inward, Building Outward - guided the Committee as plans were made throughout 2017 for the 2018 events.

### **Who participated in 2018?**

These are the chairs of the many groups who led the celebration.

60th Anniversary Celebration following Evensong - Jenny Holder and Nelia Partain

Evangelism and Branding - Bobsie Swift

Outreach - Vicky Partin

Renovation Projects and Property - Frank Feagle

Endowment and Legacy Society - Spence Sealy and Celia Page

History - Ann Burr, Michael Owen, Paul Johnston, Sandy McCann

Special Gifts - Norm Easterbrook and Travis Wade

Festive Annual Parish Meeting - Parish Life Committee

Piano Project - Rick McKnight and Tom Wade

Sherry Wade, Vestry Liason

### **Highlights from 2018**

The year kicked off with the Parish Meeting in January. The special dinner featured a video interview with The Rev'd Charles Roper and his wife Betty who served as honorary chairs of the 60th Anniversary Celebration. Joe Mills and Jim Rutland led our entertainment and several committee members spoke about our goals for the year.

During the Easter season we held our 60th Anniversary Special Gifts Campaign which led to total pledges of \$145,188 being made. 10% was designated for outreach projects and the rest is to be used for property improvements, piano fund, choir pilgrimage, and expenses associated with the anniversary.

In May the official anniversary celebration was held. The choir presented an Evensong service which was followed by a festive champagne reception. Prior to the pilgrimage to England, another choir presentation was held along with Voices of the Valley as a preview of their upcoming performances.

In July approximately 100 people from Saint Thomas and Voices of the Valley travelled to Norwich, England for the choir's residency at the cathedral there. Both choir members and pilgrims were inspired by our Anglican heritage and history through the experiences that were shared together.

In September we dedicated a beautiful Boston grand piano to the glory of God and to the memory of Max Emerson Burr. This 60th Anniversary project may have the most lasting impact on our parish as the piano has already enriched our worship experience in so many ways. The piano was paid for by memorial gifts and funding from Anniversary Special Gifts.

Also, in September our Outreach Project took place as we helped to refurbish a home along with the owner and her family. This project was coordinated with Habitat for Humanity. Many parishioners participated in roles ranging from carpentry, painting, landscaping, to sandwich making. New friends were made and parishioners were inspired by the teamwork that was demonstrated.

In November a Legacy Society Celebration Dinner was held at the W. C. Bradley Company Museum. This dinner honored those who have made provisions for the Saint Thomas Endowment in their wills or through gifts in their lifetime. The history of our endowment and its founding member, Miss Georgia Mustian Wilkins, was presented by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, aka Norm Easterbrook.

The Branding and Evangelism Committee worked all year discussing plans for replacing our signage on Hilton Avenue.

### **How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

As Vestry liaison and convener of the 60th Anniversary Committee I wish to thank the sub-committee chairs listed below and their committee members who worked to make all of our events very successful. Thank you to all the many parishioners who supported the events planned for the anniversary. The celebration was a fitting tribute to all who came before us and laid the foundation for the ministry of the parish, as well as a look to the future filled with many possibilities to serve God in our church and the world. We will continue to build upward, inward, and outward.

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## **60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OUTREACH PROJECT**

Vicky Partin

### **What does this ministry do?**

Doing a Habitat project celebrates all our Anniversary themes – Building Upward (All God's children deserve a safe place to live), Building Inward (building on personal relationships), and Building Outward (Every hand makes a difference).

We never doubted our St. Thomas flock when we agreed to co-chair our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Outreach Project by renovating Angel Samuel's home on Fleming Avenue. We were blessed with good weather, God's safety net, and two masterful Habitat construction gurus, Scott and Eric. Able bodies, many with excellent tools and skills, came out to scrape walls and paint, replace siding, clean windows, clear entire fences, cut monkey grass, hang three utility doors, donate and bring lunch and drinks, break up a brick barbecue grill, and even take a load of bricks and wood to the city dump! By now, the huge stump on the side fence has been ground and a plumber is scheduled to repair the front yard faucet.

Angel is a delightful partner who so easily shared her space for four days. She worked mostly painting her front porch and around windows and making sure we had plenty drinks and ice. She is a very gracious grandmother whose home apparently has become the "go-to" place for many young people.

Bids are sought for our finishing touches, handrails, flowerbed, and side fence, which will be done by "experts in the field".

Angel has agreed to co-host a neighborhood meeting for Habitat at the Boxwood Recreation Center. Hopefully, working people who rent will come out and learn how to own a Habitat home.

So far the project has costs about \$150, thanks to hundreds of dollars of in-kind gifts!

## Who participated in 2018?

James Decker

Dan Van Kley

Dan Ginter

Tom Wade

Donna Sharp

Darlene Everritt

Sonya Boyd

Grace Burton-Edwards

Ty Samuel

Shanecca Samuel

Pamela Hall

Jack Ceccato

Cortez Williams

Sherry Wade

Marianne Baxter

Steve Partin

Loretta Partin

Perrin Nicolson

Ray Capo

Jennifer Fletcher

Angel Samuel

Chris Harmon

Nathan Carr

Malinda Shamburger

Margo Easterbrook

Jan Pittman

Mike Smith

La'Portia Ryles

Vincent Harris

Erika King-Harris

Annie Johnson

Vicky Partin

John Partin

Habitat Volunteers (4)

Habitat Staff (2)

Linda Van Kley

Tommie Hunter

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## ADULT FORMATION

Meg Olive-Allison, Adult Formation Coordinator

### What does this ministry do?

Adult Formation ministries at St. Thomas seek to provide a variety of opportunities for adults to learn, serve, worship, and have community with one another. All of these things are a part of what forms us as followers of Christ and form an important part in our life together.

### Who participated in 2018?

Adult Formation ministries would not be possible without many volunteers and participants. Many adults at St. Thomas as well as friends of the parish led, learned, served, studied, read, prayed, worshipped, shared, and grew with one another in 2018. Parishioners who have aided in planning and scheduling adult formation opportunities include: Taylor Burton-Edwards, Ray Capo, Denny Clark, Tanya Edwards-Jones, Vicky Partin, Perrin Nicolson, Susan Sealy, and Tom Wade.

### Highlights from 2018

During 2018 multiple opportunities for adult formation for parishioners were offered.

- Perspectives topics in 2018 included: *Are We There Yet? Pilgrimage in the Season of Lent*, *MLK JR: Epistles and Prophets*; General Convention discussions; A Home for All God's Children which offered introductions to many area agencies working on issues of housing in our community; Narcissism in our Lives Today by Art France; and a deeper look at the sayings of Teresa of Avila led by Tom Wade.
- The Lectionary Study Class continued to meet each Sunday morning, led by Mike Nichols
- St. T Talks Parenting began offering a once a month Sunday morning conversation for parents based on popular TED Talks.
- Newcomers classes were offered on Sunday mornings
- Pub Theology continued meeting each month offering a chance for learning and fellowship. In 2018 this group became a Men's Group and met at several different venues.
- The Rector's Study Group was renamed the Tuesday Study Group and studied a variety of offerings including: *Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian or Norwich, *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*, and *The Power of Love* by Presiding Bishop Curry.
- Several intergenerational events took place in 2018 including Small Plates and Short Stories, Summer Show and Tell, Blessing of Animals, and Advent wreath making.
- Perrin Nicolson continued leading *We Make the Road By Walking* Bible study each Wednesday night for adults. This group also continued lectionary-based Bible study over the summer, meeting in a group member's home.

- Parishioners met for dinner together at a Midtown restaurant 4 times over the summer after worship on Wednesday evenings.
- The “Good News for Parents” Bible study met weekly on Wednesday nights.
- Saints and Sinners continued to meet one Friday a month for prayer and fellowship.
- A group for parents of babies and preschoolers at St. Thomas met monthly for a meal, learning, and fellowship.
- Several pilgrimages were offered through the course of the year including one with Ronzel Buckner who offered a history of Carver Heights and beyond; an environmental pilgrimage to Oxbow Meadows; Pilgrimage to the Equal Justice Initiative with CVEM; Jonathan Daniel Pilgrimage to Hayneville, AL with CVEM; and a pilgrimage to the Habitat Global Village in South Georgia.
- Advent luncheons offered a look at the life and work of Teresa of Avila with speakers Rev. Canon Isaias Rodriguez and The Rev. Dr. Deborah Silver.

**How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

Adult Formation opportunities at St. Thomas provide adults with a variety of ways to grow spiritually, inwardly, and in service to others.

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Sue O’Dell, Chair

**What does this ministry do?**

The primary purpose of the Altar Guild at St. Thomas Episcopal Church is to prepare the altars in the Nave and the Chapel for the Eucharist. Care of the altar, sanctuary, vessels, linens and vestments are other “behind the scenes” tasks necessary to support the liturgical life of the parish.

**Who participated in 2018?**

There are currently three altar guild teams with about four or five members each. Each team is “on duty” for two weeks out of six. The teams are responsible for Sunday services in the Nave and the Chapel as well as the Wednesday night service in the Chapel and a monthly Friday morning service. The teams work together to prepare for Christmas season and Holy Week and Easter services and other occasions such as weddings and funerals.

2018 members:

Team 1: Sue O’Dell, Carole Hill, Malone Moore, Pat McMahan, Charlie Snipes

Team 2: Darlene Everitt, Neal Fenter, Paula Evans and new members in 2018 - Becca Nicolson and Angelia Davis

Team 3: Jo Cates, Julie Barbaree, Lisa Herring, Marianne Sheehan, Roger Free, Sandi Pauli

**Highlights from 2018**

Through the closeness of working together, our altar guild members have developed deep friendships and mutual respect for one another. This ministry has helped us to be closer to each other and strengthened our dedication to our tasks as well as our individual relationships with God. It is a joy to participate in the work we do for each St. Thomas service. There is no greater privilege for a lay person in the church than to faithfully and reverently prepare the altar for the Eucharist. We need and would wholeheartedly welcome new members and our hope once again is to add a fourth team.

# BOXWOOD MINISTRIES

## Boxwood Soccer Club

Lisa Venable Herring and Greg Herring

### What does this ministry do?

St Thomas provides the cost; including registration, uniforms and all necessary equipment to support three soccer teams (36 players). Teams are for children ages 6 – 12. Practices and special events are at the Boxwood Recreation Center. Games are played at the Woodruff Farms Soccer Complex. Our teams compete in the Columbus Youth Soccer League. In addition to Columbus Parks and Rec, we partner with the local Boys and Girls Club.

### Highlights from 2018

*Mind, Body and Spirit* Soccer teaches cooperation, consideration, sportsmanship and problem solving that teaches life lessons beyond winning games. We provide an opportunity to participate for many who might not have this opportunity. *Community* Parents bring the after-game snacks and drinks, volunteer as coaches and team managers, help organize team parties. Soccer Saturdays have become a social event for parents, players and volunteers. Community is created around a common desire to see their children succeed. *Trust* For over five years St Thomas has shown up practice after practice, game after game, season after season. People in the neighborhood have learned that this is not the typical “drive by charity”. We have shared the wins and losses, the ups and downs, successes and failures. We have come to know and trust one another. *Hope* From our relationships formed through soccer, St Thomas has sponsored “Path to Shine” mentoring program, and “Partnership in Education” with Brewer Elementary School. This year we hope to start a food co-op at the Boxwood Rec. The soccer community affords St Thomas a wonderful opportunity to continue growing outward in the neighborhoods around the Boxwood Rec Center.

## Path to Shine

### What does this ministry do?

Path to Shine Columbus is a mentoring and tutoring program located at the Carver Heights Presbyterian Church outreach building in East Carver Heights at 700 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Path to Shine exists to help children achieve hope filled dreams. We work on reading recovery, curriculum, homework, and enhancement activities. We meet Mondays from 4:45-6:30.

### Who participated in 2018?

We worked one-on-one with seven children in 2018. Most of the students attend Brewer Elementary School. We had six trained Path to Shine Mentors starting in the fall of 2018 including Marianne Baxter, Malinda Shamburger, Perrin Nicolson, Margo Easterbrook, Lisa Herring, and Mary Jane Whisnant. Lisa Herring is the Path to Shine Affiliate Leader. We have had great support through loyal snack providers Jennifer Fletcher, Donna Sharp, Sherry Wade, and Mary Jane Wadkins. For 2019 we hope and pray for a partnership with volunteers from Trinity Episcopal Church. We are talking about that possibility with Forrest Parker. We are always in need of additional mentors so we can increase the number of children that we serve.

### Highlights from 2018

In the spring we attended the puppet play version of the *Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister thank to Margo and Norm Easterbrook who got the children tickets. Path to Shine also provided two books for each student for Christmas. Jennifer Fletcher provided each child with a treat bag. Margo helped the students make a cute ornament craft that the students wrapped as gifts for their families. Each Path to Shine student also received a coat at the Boxwood Christmas party.

**How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

The students are encouraged, challenged and taught to reach for goals in life. Again, this is one of the ways that people get out of poverty! A mentor is the key to inspire a young student to see things differently and unlock their potential. Please keep these mentors in your prayers as they are changing young lives!

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**BREWER ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP**

Margo Easterbrook

**What does this Ministry Do?**

Students at Brewer Elementary School are some of the most at-risk children in our community. We are changing lives by supporting and encouraging the students, teachers, and staff at Brewer Elementary School.

**Who Participated in 2018?**

This work is made possible by an incredible group of committed volunteers including Marianne Baxter, Jennifer Fletcher, Sara Ginter, Lisa Herring, Bob Hutchinson, Martha Jones, Ruth Nichols, Becca Nicholson, Vicki Partin, Nelia Partain, Donna Sharp, Mary Jane Whisnant, Rob Wubbena, and Grace Burton-Edwards.

**Highlights from 2018?**

*Tutoring:* Every Wednesday from 8:30-9:30, volunteers work individually with 18 fourth graders identified as being the most at-risk students. *Thank You Lunches for Teachers:* We show our appreciation for teachers and staff by serving a back-to-school lunch in August, and again when they return from their break in January. We'll also serve a meal in the Spring for Teacher Appreciation Week. In addition, we help organize and maintain their clothes closet, collect Boxtops for Brewer, and assist in Brewer's Career Day, Spring Fling, and PTO activities. Volunteers also help with the delivery of meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas to families in need.

**How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

Teachers stop me in the halls to thank me for the work we do. Children stop me in the halls to give me hugs. More importantly, we are making a difference in the lives of these children by helping them learn to read. As Episcopalians, Jesus Christ is our role model. We serve our community by being role models to students at Brewer Elementary.

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**CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY EPISCOPAL MINISTRY**

Martha Robert, Director

**What does this ministry do?**

The mission of the Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry (CVEM) is a direct response to our baptismal vows to resist evil, strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. Through commitment to loving our neighbors, particularly those who are most vulnerable and marginalized, and in challenging systems of inequity, our vision is that all people in the Chattahoochee Valley will reap the benefits of strong communities that advance racial equity, further economic security and provide care and concern for those who are suffering.

**Who participated in 2018 and Highlights from 2018:**

CVEM is so grateful to St. Thomas parishioners and staff who participate in every aspect of the ministry—its programs, services, and governance. 2018 Board of Directors included Sara Ginter, Mitch Grossman, Mandy Ochoa, Meg Olive-Allison, and Malinda Shamburger. St. Thomas fulfilled its annual pledge of \$18,000 to CVEM operations; and you continued to offer in-kind use of your facilities. St. Thomas and its parishioners are CVEM's largest source of financial, volunteer, and program support. We wouldn't be CVEM without you!!

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Direct Service, the heart of CVEM, offers limited financial assistance and compassionate listening to our low-income neighbors in times of crisis and deep need. Over decades of service, the ministry has helped thousands of folks to bridge hard times through an illness or between jobs or countless other life circumstances, not just through financial assistance and other resources, but through connecting people with one another and the hope of opportunity. In 2018, CVEM volunteers and staff served 761 people—434 adults and 327 children—in 329 unduplicated households in Muscogee, Harris, Troup, and Stewart counties in GA, and Russell and Lee counties in AL. The ministry provided over \$32,000 for rental/mortgage assistance, obtaining basic household items, crucial medical and transportation services, and employment-related and education expenses. St. Thomas' support of Direct Service included:

- Kristie Sholtis and Linda Prince faithfully served as Intake volunteers, meeting with neighbors weekly to listen to their stories and assist in connecting folks with resources; Margo Easterbrook, Jack Tice, and Jennifer Fletcher served as Reception volunteers each week greeting clients, answering phones, and providing much-needed assistance at the ministry house. Martha Carlsen and Silver DeWitt also volunteered their time for special projects and support.
- Sam Olive-Allison and Gideon Jones carried the 2nd Sunday collection box
- St. Thomas gave \$5,562 in Second Sunday, Ash Wednesday and Christmas special collections, 100% of which is given in assistance on behalf of a neighbor in need, and additional funds from the Rector's Discretionary fund for specific requests for assistance
- St. Thomas, CVEM, St. Mary Magdalene, and First Step Health Agency began a ministry innovations partnership to provide scholarship funds for low-income students who enroll in the Medical Assistance training and certification program offered by First Step which is newly located on the campus of St. Mary Magdalene.

In 2018, CVEM began to implement its strategic plan and focus our learning and action around three missional goals—dismantling racism, forming an independent interfaith initiative, and re-focusing our outreach through the lens of asset-based ministry, meaning that our actions more directly reflect our faith in God's abundance and the inherent giftedness and dignity of each person we serve. The Diocese of Atlanta has been a leader in the work of racial healing in The Episcopal Church. In 2018, CVEM focused on building community relationships and developing resources for the work of racial reconciliation that included:

- Formation of a Dismantling Racism leadership team including Malinda Shamburger (chair) and Dan Van Kley
- Piloted the diocesan Youth Dismantling Racism curriculum at a weekend retreat with seven Infusion teens, including St. Thomas parishioner Riley Mullen. Malinda facilitated the curriculum; Freeman McCluskey also participated and helped chaperone.
- Infusion began a new school year under Malinda's leadership and is focusing its community engagement on racial reconciliation, interfaith experiences, and looking for the giftedness in each person they serve.
- Led a group for the Jonathan Daniels pilgrimage to Hayneville AL (Beverly and Allen Gordy attending) and CVEM twice journeyed to Montgomery to experience the Equal Justice Initiative's National Peace and Justice Memorial and Legacy Museum (Ruth Nichols, Sandy and Martin McCann, Sherry and Tom Wade, Linda Harmon attending).

Through the Thompson-Pound Art Program (TAP)--the longest-running interfaith event in the region-- children, youth, and adults experience and celebrate the diversity of culture and faith present in our communities while forming the bonds of respect and friendship. TAP is a week-long art program each June for 60 children ages six – eleven, two dozen mentors ages 12 – 18, and more than 40 adult volunteers. St. Thomas parishioner Debbie Anderson directs TAP, with April Jacobs assisting, exploring and celebrating the diversity of various faith and cultural traditions through art media and performance arts. 2018's theme was "TAP-estry: Threads of Kindness" and St. Thomas volunteers/participants included: Sonya Boyd, Grace Burton-Edwards, James Decker, Ian Dooley, Frank Eslinger, Delilah Farrow, Lisa Herring, Gideon Jones, Pat McMahan, Joe Mills, Annabelle Mullen, John and Vicky Partin, Jan Pittman, Stevie and William Slater, Anna Slembariski, Bennet Stoltz, and Takira Williams.

In 2018, a new TAP group formed—led by Debbie and including many TAP co-planners and community faith leaders (Denny Clark included)--to dream about an interfaith initiative for the region and take steps to make it a reality. Plans for the first-ever Adult TAP experience began to form in the fall, and TAP i.e. (in other words): Interfaith Encounter will be held on January 27, 2019 at the Columbus Museum!

There are many more of you who contributed to the work of CVEM in 2018; you participated in fund-raising events, made financial or in-kind donations, helped us connect with resources, and/or sought out guidance and resources as you individually found ways to show love and care for neighbors who are in need—including (not previously named and with hopes of not inadvertently omitting anyone): Gerry Boyd; Rinda Brewbaker; Ann Burr; Jack and Nicole Ceccato; Pat Daniel and Steve Hodges; Norman Easterbrook; Mike Edmondson; Tanya Edwards-Jones; Dawn and Skip Farrow; Pam and Frank Feagle; Neal Fenter; Art and Kathy France; Alice Gammage; Dan Ginter; Cindy Godwin; Beverly and Allen Gordy; Lynne Hahn; Linda and Sam Harmon; Marge and Wayne Henly; Greg Herring; Carole Hill; Ena Hunt; Paul Johnston; Karen Lord; Renee and Bob McAneny; Martin and Sandy McCann; Freeman McCluskey; Michael and Elizabeth McFalls; Rick and Marquette McKnight; Erin, Carter, Malone and Robert Moore; Riley, Michelle and Tom Mullen; Ruth and Mike Nichols; Meg and Susie Olive-Allison; Celia Page; Nelia Partain; Roger and Erin Redden; Susan Sealy; Donna Sharp; Jim and Jacob Sholtis; Chris and Patty Slembariski; Clifford and Bobsie Swift; Libba and Joe Russell; Jack Tice; Louise Tulloh; Ruthie Wade; Tom and Sherry Wade; Mary Jane and Bob Wadkins; Gene and Christy Wells; and Susan and Ron Wirt.

**How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?** The mission of CVEM is a direct response to our baptismal vows to resist evil, strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being. In Direct Service, we have the opportunity to live into that promise every day by receiving each person in a time of need, not by his or her need (e.g., poor, homeless, unemployed) but as a beloved child of God. Through TAP, the longest-running interfaith event in the region, children, youth, and adults experience and celebrate the diversity of culture and faith present in our communities while forming the bonds of respect and friendship.

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## CHRISTIAN FORMATION: BIRTH – 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Erin Redden, Children's Formation Director, Birth-12<sup>th</sup> grade  
Joseph Jones, Youth Ministries Coordinator

### **What does this ministry do?**

*Nursery* - We experienced a baby boom in 2018 and watched our Nursery expand into two full classrooms, filled with infants and toddlers. With that many young children to care for, we hired three new employees. Diane Berson, Khania Taylor and Taquanula Williams have been welcomed to St. Thomas and are now considered family. We are grateful to Madison Redden for filling in as a nursery interim and substitute. The Rockers and Rollers Committee consists of Sue O'Dell, Susan Sealy, Julia Slater and Linda Van Kley. Once a month these committee members volunteer in the nursery to rock, bounce, sing and read to the youngest members of our church family.

*Shine Time* - Every Sunday morning at 9:30, approximately 20 children between the ages of 3 years old and 5th grade meet in the Outreach classrooms for formation. We offer a toddler/PreK class led by Kelli Leak and Kristie Ridgeway. We have an early elementary class led by Margo Easterbrook and Michelle Mullen. Finally, we offer an upper elementary class led by Ellen Dahlgren and Susan Sealy. In early 2018 Ray Capo also led a *Shine Time* class. Our dynamic volunteers offer the following curriculums to our Episcokids: Frolic, an early elementary curriculum, brings faith stories to life with age-appropriate play spaces, prayers, storytelling, music, and rituals. Spark, an upper elementary curriculum, corresponds with the Revised Common Lectionary. Children will engage the Bible stories through activities, interactive games, and creative crafts.

*Children's Chapel* - Using lectionary cartoons, our Chapel volunteers Libby McFalls, Marquette McKnight, Julia Slater, Steve Slater, Daniel Mitchell, Lauren Mitchell and Lisa Venable share the Gospel with as many as 25 children

every Sunday. In early 2018 Margo Easterbrook also led Children's Chapel. THE SUNDAY PAPER JUNIOR offers big, bold artwork, a simple story line, an activity page designed to stir children's imaginations and spirituality.

*Acolytes* - Our Acolyte Master, Michael Owen, trained a record number of new acolytes while expanding the roles of our veteran acolytes. We have approximately 6 teams of 4. This year we opened the program up to include children as young as 5 years old to carry the petite cross. Serving as an acolyte is a wonderful way for our children and youth to participate in worship and serve our church.

*Children's Choir* - Our new Children's Choir Director is Katie Holbrook. Also a member of the St. Thomas Choir, Katie meets with the children on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 in the Outreach Center. She leads the children in music games, vocal exercises and technique and learning anthems to perform. The choir has approximately 18 participants.

*Episcokid Faith Formation* - Erin Redden, our Christian Formation Director, plans and implements seasonal workshops each Wednesday night from 6:45-7:30 for our children in the Outreach Center.

*Youth* - Our new Youth Ministries Coordinator, Dr. Joseph Jones, continues to develop relationships with our youth and their families. Part of this process includes defining the group's mission. The Episcopal Youth Community is "to work together to inspire, ignite, and unite one another to spread Christ's message of love to all." At St. Thomas we serve teens grades 6 through 12. We transform the lives of our youth and equip them with a spiritual foundation by providing a welcoming environment of service, prayer and fellowship.

*Sunday School* - At 9:30 on Sunday mornings, our middle school class is led by volunteers, Ray Capo and Brantley Ford. Our high school class is led by Tanya Jones and Perrin Nicholson. The average number of participants is 6. Living the Good News is the lectionary-based curriculum allowing participants to connect to the Revised Common Lectionary scriptures and stories, using music, poetry, and art to breakdown scripture in unexpected ways.

*Wednesday Night Youth* - This group averages 17 youth each week. Joseph leads them by opening in prayer, a daily devotional and ends with an engaging activity followed by prayer.

### **Highlights from 2018**

- Our Vacation Bible School, Wizards and Wonders, served over 100 children and youth drawing large numbers from our greater community and neighboring churches. We had approximately 20 adult volunteers.
- During the summer we invited grandparents and other church members to share their talents and love of God with the Episcokids during The Grand Days of Summer. The children learned about airline attendants, cooking, how to share family stories, riding segways, scuba diving and calligraphy to name a few.
- Our youth planned and implemented a well-attended Animal Blessing to celebrate St Francis' feast day. They also volunteered to provide games, face painting and serve supper to our largest attended Trunk or Treat to date.
- Our annual Christmas Eve Pageant continues to grow. Parishioner Mary Free's beautiful costumes inspired us to take the next step in planning a service that would light the path to a stable in Bethlehem where Jesus, the Son of God, was born. Ralph Wimberly, transformed the Nave into a sky filled with stars and light. We expanded the service to include children and youth. We had approximately 30 participants and 6 volunteers.

### **How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward**

- The Episcokids want to continue to provide opportunities, like VBS, to share the Good News of Christ to members of our greater community while growing our faith and love of Jesus.
- Our youth group has examined their mission and continues to work towards building community and relationships. The Thommies (the self-selected youth name) are a wonderful group of young people who are attempting to change our community through Building Upward, Inward, and Outward. On Wednesday evenings, we engage in discussions that engender a stronger relationship with God. For example, we have discussed the impact of prayer in our lives. As a result, several of the youth volunteer on a regular basis to begin and end our Wednesday evening gatherings with prayer. It is a powerful moment to experience young people interested in praying. Through one of the youth, we were able to adopt Thom the Turtle from Oxbow Meadows. Thom will visit the church in 2019.

# ST. THOMAS COMMUNICATIONS

Meg Olive-Allison, Coordinator

## What does this ministry do?

The Communications Ministry at St. Thomas helps to organize the internal and external communication of the church. This includes managing the website, Facebook, Instagram, Spiritual Adventures weekly newsletter, Rector's Corner weekly message, emailed prayer list, as well as handling internal requests from staff members, requests from parishioners seeking information about happenings in the church or assistance with projects, and responding to inquiries from visitors and potential new members. This ministry creates and handles special printed communications projects throughout the year such as seasonal newsletters, Annual Parish Report and the stewardship campaign materials.

## Who participated in 2018?

Meg Olive-Allison, Director of Communications, along with office volunteers and assistance from Patty Slembariski, made communication happen at St. Thomas.

## Highlights from 2018

- Developed and printed seasonal newsletters highlighting activities and information for the entire church
- Spiritual Adventures and Rector's Corner mailing list grew to over 460 recipients
- Facebook engagement and reach has grown
- Increase in Instagram followers

## How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?

The communications ministry at St. Thomas helps spread the word about the many things happening at and through St. Thomas. It helps us better connect to grow in a variety of ways. Communication here also offers ways to connect those outside the church to the community at St. Thomas and ways to connect those in community here with one another for meaningful worship, service, and formation experiences.

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## CREATION KEEPERS

Christine DiFeliciantonio

### What does this ministry do?

*Creation Keepers Vision. We Reap what We Sow.* To that end, Creation Keepers envision that we continue to reap the environmental fruits of our wonderful earthly home. Our *children* and *their children* and *their children's children* and generations to come will also taste and hear and see and smell of its bounty.

Creation Keepers envision:

Members of St. Thomas Recycle, Reduce, Reuse, Educate, Advocate, and Prize (REAP) (*themes from the Aug brainstorm session*)

R3: Members of St. Thomas internalize our Christian responsibility and harness our commitment into action with interfaith and community partners to REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE.

E: Members of St. Thomas Expand our own Educational currency to recognize the interdependence of life, not only in the local Chattahoochee Valley, but recognizing that the interconnected web extends to our state, nation, and even to our world borders.

A: Members of St. Thomas recognize the relationship between ecological injustice and racism, and Advocate for policy and accountability to dismantle its devastating injustice.

P: Members of St. Thomas commune together in the sacred spaces of our natural environment and Prize God's good gifts of beauty and wonder.

*Creation Keepers Mission.* We will *SOW* to *REAP* our Lord's bounty as faithful stewards by safeguarding God's good Earth. In our Earth-honoring journey, we at St. Thomas *share in, respect for, learn of, and champion* the interdependent web of life.

### **Highlights from 2018**

- On April 21, 8 members enjoyed the Treetop Adventure at Oxbow Meadows, the collaborative effort between CSU and Columbus Water Works focused on environmental education. (BUILDING OUTWARD)
- On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 4 members dialed into the larger Anglican community's webinar on the Stewardship of Creation prior to the 2018 General Convention. Resolutions for the upcoming vote were presented. BUILDING OUTWARD
- In July, a Sunday School discussion focused on the environmental resolutions brought before the leaders of the Episcopal community's General Convention. (BUILDING INWARD)
- On August 29, 10 members with interest in creation care met with Codi Norred, Program Director of GA INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT (GIPL). The result was the collective listing of our interests in recycling, education, and advocacy to spearhead toward our desired ecological effort. (BUILDING UPWARD)
- After our Time and Talent drive, 17 members expressed interest for Creation Keepers in 2019. BUILDING INWARD
- September 10, the Vestry approved Creation Keepers' partnering opportunities with GIPL. They approved utilization of the Creation Care allocated monies to pay for the \$500 POWERWISE ENERGY AUDIT which opened the door for a matching grant opportunity with GIPL. The signed Coaching Memorandum of Agreement between the St. Thomas Creation Keepers and GIPL established a strategic coach. BUILDING INWARD
- On November 3, the PowerWise audit, conducted by Gary Gabriel Consulting, analyzed energy expenditures for the entire St. Thomas footprint. Findings: the annual energy cost (natural gas and electricity) is \$33,701; annual energy cost per square foot is \$1.05 which ranks toward low. The annual electricity cost is \$30,745 which is \$0.96 per square foot. The annual natural gas cost is \$2,956 which is \$0.09 per square foot. The Energy Star Score is 38 which ranks toward low (a score of 50 is average and a score of 75 or greater is eligible for the prestigious Energy Star Award). The winter monthly average btus per square foot consumption is 3,718 (average); the summer monthly average btus per square foot consumption is 2,589 (average). The best option to maximize our energy conservation measures is a lighting fixture refit for LEDs. BUILDING UPWARD
- On November 15, a grant application for matching funds was submitted for a 3-phased LED lighting project totally \$19,466.
- In December, GIPL notified Creation Keepers of the matching grant award totaling \$5,000. St. Thomas will invest the same amount to proceed with \$10,000 to refit existing fixtures in the ALL SAINTS HALL, OUTREACH, EDUCATION, KITCHEN, CHAPEL, NAVE, and ADMINISTRATION spaces with LED lights. BUILDING UPWARD

CREATION KEEPERS will have opportunities in 2019 to R<sup>3</sup>EAP with planned programming through GIPL, with netted energy conservation measures to green our footprint, and with advocacy for policy that greens our state.

In 2019, we will continue to Sow to REAP our Lord's bounty as faithful stewards by safeguarding God's good Earth. In our Earth-honoring journey, we at St. Thomas share in, respect for, learn of, and champion the interdependent web of life.

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## ENDOWMENT BOARD

Spence Sealy, Chair

### **What does this ministry do?**

The Endowment Board of Trustees oversees the management of endowed funds of St. Thomas Church by working with a management firm to be sure funds are invested in a manner consistent with policies set by the church. The board meets quarterly. This group also keeps the congregation aware of how endowed funds are used and encourages members to contribute. It plans events to thank those who have joined the Legacy Society, defined as people who have made a gift or stated an intention to contribute to the endowment in their estate planning.

### **Who participated in 2018?**

The members of the Endowment Board of Trustees are Spence Sealy, Robert Moore, Sherry Wade, John Partin, Kristie Sholtis, Clifford Swift, Marianne Richter, Travis Wade, Mitch Grossman, Grace Burton-Edwards

### **Highlights from 2018**

In addition to our core work as a committee, we explored opportunities to partner with the Diocese of Atlanta to better serve the parish.

### **How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

The Endowment Committee serves all the ministries of St. Thomas by the stewardship of the funds left to us to meet the needs of the parish and greater community.

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## FLOWER GUILD

Ralph Wimberly

### **What does this ministry do?**

The Flower Guild's ministry is to enrich the worship space to reflect the liturgical seasons.

### **Who participated in 2018?**

Our work is accomplished by a very talented and dedicated group of volunteers. The Guild members are Jo Cates, Sara Ginter, Jenny Holder, Nora Ngo, Celia Page, Nelia Partain, Ceci Shirley, Christine Slusher, Sherry Wade, and Ralph Wimberly.

### **How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

The purpose of the Flower Guild is to provide for a full participation in the liturgy. When we are surrounded by the beauty of God's creation, we experience an encounter with Christ. The Bible uses flowers and plants often as imagery and symbolism of beauty and growth. The hope is that what we do has an impact on others' worship experience.

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## FOYERS

Barbara Brandenburgh, Foyers Chair

### **What does this ministry do?**

Foyers plays an integral role in fellowship at St. Thomas. This year, Foyers added a fourth group to reduce the size of each group and to accommodate seating in each host's home. The dinner groups meet in either a member's home or a restaurant. A Foyers Lite group was also formed. The Lite group only meets one time and will meet in early 2019. The Foyers Committee welcomed two new members: Linda Prince and Sara Ginter. The committee's next responsibility is planning the Foyers Finale, a dinner where all participants gather one last time in Parish Hall.

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### **Who participated in 2018?**

Folks who signed up this year include: *Barbara & David Brandenburgh, Taylor Burton-Edwards, Nicole & Jack Ceccato, Silver DeWitt, Christine & Steve DiFelicianantonio, Jennifer Fletcher, Monica & Tom Fortson, Sara & Dan Ginter, Allen & Beverly Gordy, Brad Griffin, Mitch Grossman, Jenny Holder & Celia Page, Ena Hunt, Donna & Kevin Kelly, Marcel Meijer, Perrin & Becca Nicolson, Nelia Partain, John & Vicky Partin, Laura Perkins, Linda Prince, Ceci Shirley, Christine & Darius Slusher, Debbie & Dick Tompson, Linda & Dan Van Kley, Kevin Waldrup, Mary Jane Whisnant, Evelin & Matthew Yardley, Martha Robert & Donna Sharp.*

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## **ST. THOMAS KITCHEN**

Dawn Farrow

### **What does this ministry do?**

The St Thomas kitchen is always busy with special actives and is excited to grow more every year. During the regular church season we have delicious dinner every Wednesday night and also provide a full hot breakfast every Sunday morning. Along with parish life we host all funeral receptions, and are also in charge of all special events , breakfast and dinners that are throughout the year. The kitchen is used for some of the youth fundraisers and VBS during the summer. The day school uses the kitchen as well for some of their activities.

### **Who participated in 2018?**

The kitchen is staffed by four dedicated part-time employees and wonderful volunteers.

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## **JUBILEE MINISTRIES: DIOCESE OF ATLANTA**

Vicky Partin

The focus in 2018 was planning a Diocesan conference to provide training for all Jubilee Center staff and volunteers and southern convocations for Listening to people in our communities and in our pantries and direct service venues. Using the Called to Transformation strategies in Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), this daylong conference at Christ Church in Macon will feature DeAmon Harges, a true “Roving Listener” from Indianapolis. SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, February 2, 2019

### **Status of Jubilee Ministries in the Episcopal Church:**

For over two years the Church Center in New York has not been staffed to coordinate the work of Jubilee. This left a quagmire among Jubilee Officers to the point that I was unable to designate new Centers in our Diocese.

In April I traveled to DC to meet the Domestic Relations Officer to explain Jubilee’s history and membership of over 600 Centers. Our Episcopal Network for Economic Justice Collaborative (ENEJ) presented a Resolution at General Convention in July to reaffirm Jubilee Ministries and provide staff to coordinate new centers and grant applications. This Resolution passed with funding, and thanks to our Bishop Rob Wright and Canon John Thompson-Quartey, the Domestic Poverty Director has responded with a process for moving forward.

I now chair a Jubilee Ministries Task Force with ENEJ, composed of twelve DJO’s, priests and founders of Jubilee. We are eager to move forward to provide input in the new staffing, recruit new centers, and provide grant opportunities. Jubilee will align itself with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s call to become a Beloved Community with the Jesus Movement. So I remain very hopeful in 2019!

### **Why do I tell you this and care about Jubilee?**

Since 1982 I have known the mission of Jubilee to be a “ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people, wherever they are found, to meet basic human needs and to build a just society.” I founded and built an outreach ministry based on this theme. CVEM became a Center in 1989 and quickly learned, through

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annual conferences and networking, how important it is to walk alongside others doing this work. St. Thomas became a Center in 2008 and together we developed new ministries from Jubilee models and many lifelong relationships exist around the country. Jubilee fast became the Episcopal Church's most significant ministry working in the trenches and advocating with people in neighborhoods.

Our Diocese has thirteen Centers and many more ministries doing the Jubilee work of providing charity, community engagement and justice. I pray for the network to continue so we can share with others our call "to love like Jesus."

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## LABYRINTH

Vicky Partin

### **What does this ministry do?**

The labyrinth, located under a canopy of trees near the entrance to St. Thomas, is a sacred path that offers a quiet place for prayer and worship, celebration and thanksgiving, discernment and discovery, healing and reconciliation. The path is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week as a safe haven to mourn, reflect, and pray for situations that trouble us, inspire us, and bring us joy. Our labyrinth was dedicated in the late 90's as a "gift to the community". A ministry to this place is caretaking. One might think that walking our labyrinth is just a personal walk with God (Building Inward). That's true, but the labyrinth provides much more for St. Thomas. It is a gift to the entire community (Building Outward), and it is a place to (Build Upward) to a God who brings us grace, peace, healing, and above all, reconciliation in this troubled world.

### **Who participated in 2018?**

Caretaking has included spreading new gravel, cleaning and hauling limbs, sweeping paths, pulling tiny weeds, adding more luminaries, and blowing leaves from the path. Volunteers include Marianne Baxter, James Decker, Allen and Beverly Gordy, Nelia Partain, John Partin and Dan Ginter.

### **Highlights in 2018**

- Brochures explaining the Path for Prayer, its history and community offerings were made available for the parish, the Labyrinth Box and for distribution in the community
- Richard Rohr's "How to Meditate" was placed in the Box for several months as an option for sitting near the path.
- On May 8 the IAM (Institute for Advancing the Mind) from Eagle Point, Oregon returned to our labyrinth for the second year. Thirteen people walked in silence, prayed, cried and held one another....and then sent a generous donation.
- On June 30, Allison Mills played her singing bowls at the labyrinth for a community gathering. She later joined TAP and taught the children about bowls as a way to meditate.
- On October 30, a group celebrating Domestic Violence Awareness Month visited the labyrinth to explore ways of personal reflection and renewal, spiritual healing, and group and one-on-one counseling.
- The Blessing of Animals and the Procession on Palm Sunday were held at the labyrinth.

Coming in 2019: An event for community counselors and therapists offering both the outdoor and indoor labyrinths

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# LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS

Meg Olive-Allison

## What does this ministry do?

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and Lay Readers are a vital piece of the St. Thomas worship service. These volunteers have dedicated their time and talent to serve everyone in this parish, in addition to serving in weddings and funerals. LEMs wear vestments and participate in the entire service. Processing in with acolytes and Priests, LEMs hold the Gospel in the processional and for the Gospel reading. The LEMs assist the priest in serving communion.

Lay Readers do one of the readings (First Lesson, Epistle or Prayers of the People) and do not have to vest. At the 8:00 am service the server serves as both the LEM and the Lay Reader.

## Who participated in 2018?

Special thanks to each of these people who lead worship at St. Thomas during 2018:

Michael Ankerich	Danny Ginter	Michael Owen
Julie Barbaree	Linda Harmon	John Partin
David Bonaker	Isiah Harper	Erin Redden
Tiffany Bonaker	Susan Henderson	Deborah Scribner
Taylor Burton-Edwards	Elizabeth Hostetter	Malinda Shamburger
David Brandenburgh	Paul Hostetter	Donna Sharp
Ann Burr	Ena Hunt	Ceci Shirley
Jack Ceccato	Perry Lopez	Mike Smith
Denny Clark	Freeman McCluskey	Charlie Snipes
Dan Dawson	Marquette McKnight	Sonny Taunton
James Decker	Pauline Marth	Jack Tice
Christine DiFelicantonio	Joe Mills	Dan Van Kley
Donna Dooley	Daniel Mitchell	Rin Van Kley
Larry Dooley	Malone Moore	Sherry Wade
Craig DuPriest	Robert Moore	Tom Wade
Tanya Edwards Jones	Becca Nicolson	Travis Wade
Neal Fenter	Perrin Nicolson	Kevin Waldrup
Joe Fischer	Mandy Ochoa	Jonathan Walz
Jennifer Fletcher	Meg Olive-Allison	Audrian Ward
Monica Fortson	Susie Olive-Allison	Gardner Wright

## Highlights from 2018

In 2018 we added several new LEMs and Lay Readers to the list of those who serve and Rev. Grace held trainings in the fall for those who serve at both services. We also completed forms to license LEMs with the diocese.

## How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?

LEMs and Lay Readers assist in leading worship and worship offers each of us a chance to grow upward- towards God, inward- through reflection and intentionality, and outward- as we are called to serve the world.

# LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Donna Sharp

## **What does this ministry do?**

The Lay Eucharistic Visitors (Homebound Visitors) offer an extension of our Eucharist table. We take communion and visit with homebound members and with parishioners who are in the hospital until they are able to return to church. This ministry extends our church so all parishioners are able to receive the bread and wine of Christ.

## **Who participated in 2018?**

We are blessed this year to add four new members to our team, Michael Ankerich, Ena Hunt, Martin McCann, and Charlie Snipes. The rest of our dedicated team is: Carole Hill, Tanya Edwards-Jones, Daniel Mitchell, John Partin, Donna Sharp, Gardner Wright, and Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards.

## **Highlights from 2018**

The Lay Eucharistic Visitors have served 99 home communions during 2018. Some homebound parishioners just want visits which we are glad to offer them. We continued this year with the imposition of ashes for the homebound who desire it on Ash Wednesday.

## **How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

Building Inward, Lay Eucharistic Visitors continue to strive to include all parishioners in our community of Christ. Homebound parishioners and any parishioners unable to attend church, we bring Eucharist to them.

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# McCANN AFRICAN MISSION FUND

Sandy McCann

## **What does this ministry do?**

Martin and I have been home from Africa for three years, but we continue to support both our medical and theological missions in Tanzania. For this reason, we are extremely grateful to St Thomas for keeping open the African Mission Fund account where donors can send their monetary gifts. This account allows donors to not only avoid the high cost of individual wiring but also to get a tax-deductible donation. The fact that St Thomas keeps open this account allows both St Thomas donors and various other donors to continue to easily support medical and seminary educations for the many in Tanzania that cannot afford them.

This year three different churches from around the US also sent nearly two thousand dollars through this fund for bicycles for pastors in Mara, Tanzania. Adding undesignated gifts, a total of \$3700.00 was sent for this project for nearly 100 pastors. Pastors in rural Tanzania have an average of 4-6 churches, often many miles apart, and a bicycle is a cherished item that few can afford.

This year the three-thousand-dollar allocation from the St Thomas Outreach Council allowed Paul Johnston to buy eight new computers for Msalato Theological College students. We are grateful to Paul for setting up each one of them, ensuring that they were ready to go on arrival. Undesignated gifts from the African Mission Fund were used to pay for the remainder of the postage and insurance to send the computers to Tanzania. For theological students to keep up with the world, especially in a land where almost no one can afford books, a computer is a library and a lifeline to the outside world.

We again commend Patty Slembariski for her excellent record keeping and helpfulness in all transactions. We thank St Thomas for keeping this account so that we may stay in communion with fellow Christians around the world.

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# MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Ann Johnston, Chair

## **What does this ministry do?**

The Memorial and Appointments Committee is responsible for accepting, if determined appropriate, gifts of property and money. It is responsible for the maintenance of existing memorial items and for procurement of needed items such as furnishings and items used on the altar. The committee is also responsible for the maintenance of the columbarium. The goal of the committee is to keep the church a beautiful and welcoming place for parishioners and guests to come together for worship.

## **Who participated in 2018?**

The members of the committee are Lynne Hahn, Charlie Snipes Ralph Wimberly, Jonathan Walz, and Ann Johnston, chair.

## **Highlights from 2018**

This year the committee has helped with the remodeling of the chapel and the improvements in the Nave. The needlepoint kneelers that were original to the chapel were replaced and framed and are now adorning hallways near the chapel and parlor.

The parish is invited to make gifts to the Memorial Fund and to make suggestions on how these funds should be used.

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# MEN'S PUB THEOLOGY GROUP

Ray Capo

## **What does this ministry do?**

The Men's Pub Theology Group is a monthly gathering of St. Thomas men in a spirit of fellowship and thanks for our common worship. This group meets the first Tuesday of each month at a location announced in Spiritual Adventures and on the Facebook Page: Pub Theology – Columbus, GA. During these gatherings we explore theological topics of faith, faithfulness, and formation as individuals who, together, strive to know Christ and make Christ known.

## **Who participated in 2018?**

We have had about twenty individuals share in fellowship with their time, stories, laughs, and appetizers!

## **Highlights from 2018**

Some of the topics we discussed have included our view of God, faithful service (faith and works), giving in the spirit of thankfulness (a discussion of parts of The Wisdom of Sirach), and Advent – history and meaning of the season of hope. During one meeting, the group attendees wrote messages in a card that was sent to St. Thomas' oldest parishioner, Connie McEwen, in celebration of her upcoming birthday. John Partin also shared information about St. Thomas' involvement in remodeling a house in the community with Habitat for Humanity. Several participants in the men's group volunteered their time and talents during this service project.

## **How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

Men's Pub theology Group truly leads in building Upward in common worship, building Inward through faith formation, and building Outward through service for fellow parishioners and our community. We are excited about a new year and the potential for spiritual growth in faith, fellowship, and in service.

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# MUSIC

Rick McKnight, Organist and Choir Master

## **What does this ministry do?**

The primary responsibility of the Music Ministry is to provide support for congregational singing in our services, singing the psalms and adding anthems and organ selections that lift up the liturgical theme of the day. This includes all genres of music. We clock about 5 hours a week in rehearsal and services so singing in the choir is a big commitment. We are joined by a love of good music – performed to a high standard. Our success is built in our community. We welcome members of the parish who play instruments in our services – adults and children.

## **Who participated in 2018?**

**Sopranos:** Debbie Anderson, Gini Davidson, AnLeone Evans, April Jacobs, Karen Lord, Payne Newsome, Mary Ann Rahm, Nancy Register, Adley Scott, Kristie Sholtis, Susan Wirt

**Altos:** Nicole Ceccato, Angelia Davis, Michelle Folta, Katie Holbrook, Elizabeth Hostetter, Janet Maple, Ruth Nichols, Martha Robert, Eva Robinson, Louise Tulloh, Ralph Wimberly, Molly Wright

**Tenors:** Chris Barbee, Raymond Campbell, Corey Griffin, Isiah Harper, Marquette McKnight, Josh Partridge, Doyle Register, Lucas Testin

**Basses:** David Bonaker, Joe Fischer, Seyi Isijola, Nick Williams, Ron Wirt, Rob Wubbena

## **Highlights from 2018**

The choir made their second pilgrimage to England this summer being in residence at Norwich Cathedral, singing Compline at St. Julian's Church and an Evensong at St. John's College, Cambridge. We were delighted to be joined by the Voices of the Valley for these 10 days. The preparation for this responsibility has carried over into the choir's singing this fall. 50 singers and pilgrims went from St. Thomas along with 50 singers and chaperones from VOV.

In October the choir was invited to participate in a "Liturgical Year" concert organized by the AGO at First Baptist Church. Grace prayed and read scripture and the choir sang "Kings of Orient" by John Rutter – our season being Epiphany. It was a full church and we were happy to participate along with the choirs of Trinity Episcopal, First Baptist and St. Luke Church. We closed with a mass choir singing of "Hallelujah" from *Messiah*. We stocked the CSU Food Pantry for needy college students...celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with music at the Anniversary dinner and sang a Pentecost Evensong...and many of the choir had leadership roles in the fall Episcoparty.

We dedicated a beautiful grand piano in memory of chairman Max Burr and have used it almost every week since it was dedicated in October.

The choir is a microcosm of the congregation with joys and sorrows and needs. We just spend an awful lot of time with each other. Each week at the close of our rehearsals we save time to find out what's going on with each other, how we can help and support each other. And we pray for each other. This is the real secret of the strength of the music ministry.

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## OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Donna Sharp

## **What does this ministry do?**

Office Volunteers help with special projects in the church office and fill in to cover the office on various occasions.

## **Who participated in 2018?**

We are fortunate to have many people who give of their time freely. In 2018, Office Volunteers included: Katherine Andrews, Julie Barbaree, Rinda Brewbaker, Darlene Everritt, Jennifer Fletcher, Linda Harmon, Lisa Herring, Ena Hunt, Ruth Nichols, Mandy Ochoa, Susie Olive-Allison, Donna Sharp, William Slater, and Deborah Tucker.

## **Highlights from 2018**

The highlight of this year is that each time the office needed volunteers, we were able to cover the need.

## **How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

The St. Thomas community continues to fill the needs of all aspects of our church so we can minister to all of God's children.

# OUTREACH COUNCIL

Celia Page, Chair

## What does the ministry do?

The Outreach Council guides St. Thomas in its' ministry with poor and marginalized persons here and around the world. Our mission is to lead the parish in Christian response through charity, empowerment and advocacy by partnering with various ministries to help transform lives.

## Who participated in 2018?

The following persons served on the council as liaisons to these ministries:

Lisa Herring-Path to Shine

Greg Herring-Boxwood Soccer

Jennifer Fletcher-Wynnton Neighborhood Network

Rev. Sandra McCann-African Mission

Malinda Shamburger-Valley Interfaith Promise and Beloved Community

Florence Wakoko-Episcopal Relief and Development

Margo Easterbrook-Brewer Elementary Partner in Education

Christine DiFelicianantonio-Caring for Creation

Vicky Partin-Habitat Project

Dan Van Kley-Dismantling Racism

Mike Smith-Vestry Liaison

Rev. Grace-Spiritual Director

## Highlights from 2018

- Path to Shine changed its' location to Carver Heights Presbyterian Church, an easier place for the seven mentors from St. Thomas to work with the children.
- St. Thomas helped with the Boxwood soccer program for its' fifth year. Sixty children participated. Thirty-four children played on three teams in the fall with great parental involvement. And, all had winning seasons.
- St. Thomas purchased and sent 8 new (older model) computers for degree students of Msalato Theological College in Dodoma, Tanzania.
- St. Thomas hosted families from Valley Interfaith Promise four times during the year.
- Twenty St. Thomas members carried our banner in the MLK Unity Procession. Fifteen members went on the MLK Learning Trail pilgrimage.
- St. Thomas contributed \$250 to the Episcopal Relief and Development General Fund from the outreach budget.
- St. Thomas volunteers assisted The Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry which provided financial assistance to over 300 unduplicated households.
- St. Thomas volunteers worked with 60 children aged 6-11 in the Thompson Pound Art Program (TAP).
- Infusion resumed with Malinda Shamburger as Director. Teens in the group participated in piloting the diocesan dismantling racism curriculum in May.
- St. Thomas mentors helped twenty 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Brewer Elementary School. These children are at least one and often two grade levels behind.
- Brewer volunteers from St. Thomas helped with a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast in May, a Welcome Back Lunch in August, a PTO Grandparents meeting in September, Literacy Night activities in October and the distributions of Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.
- Eighteen members of St. Thomas expressed their interest in Creations Keepers. St. Thomas has coordinated with GIPL, the Georgia chapter of Interfaith Power and Light which conducted an energy audit of St. Thomas.
- Over 30 members of St. Thomas helped to renovate and refurbish homeowner Angel Samuel's home and yard on Fleming Ave. This Habitat for Humanity project was part of the celebration of St. Thomas' 60-year anniversary.
- Several St. Thomas members attended the Jonathan Daniels pilgrimage to Hayneville, Alabama.

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**How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

St. Thomas members through the Outreach Council, help to fill the needs in our community so that we can minister to all of God's children. St. Thomas has been a Jubilee Center of The Episcopal Church since 2000 and is mandated to do charity work, empower people toward self-sufficiency and advocate for those who feel they have no voice. Our committed partners, working in unity, are a constant reminder that we are Building Upward, Inward and Outward.

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## **PARENTS OF BABIES AND PRESCHOOLERS**

Meg Olive-Allison

**What does this ministry do?**

This group exists to help St. Thomas Episcopal Church parents of babies and preschoolers connect with one another. We meet monthly for a meal, fellowship, and learning together.

**Who participated in 2018?**

We met most months in 2018. During 2018 we had 14 families participate with a total of 28 babies and preschoolers.

**Highlights from 2018**

We welcomed new families into our group and enjoyed meeting in each other's homes as well as at the church. During the spring and summer, we used the playground for water fun! We heard from several St. Thomas members over the course of the year who shared their areas of expertise including car seat safety, and practical parenting.

**How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?** Parents need one another to help children grow upward, inward, and outward. We hope this group provides a safe and welcoming space for community to develop.

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## **PARISH LIFE**

Dawn Farrow, Kitchen Manager and Linda Van Kley, Parish Life

**What does this ministry do?**

The parish life committee hosts church-wide fellowship events throughout the year. The committee also organizes and serves at funeral receptions and assists with special events.

**Who participated in 2018?**

Many parishioners supported parish life events in 2018. Thanks to all of you for your hard work! Much of the work of parish life is "behind the scenes" and we hope we aren't leaving anyone out! Thanks to Katherine Andrews, Barbara Billings, Sandy Dawson, Mike Edmonson, Paula Evans, Darlene Everritt, Jennifer Fletcher, Sara Ginter, Allen Gordy, Beverly Gordy, Mickie Hall, Lisa Herring, Jenny Holder, Ena Hunt, Ann Johnston, Pat McMahon, Malone Moore, Robert Moore, Celia Page, Nelia Partain, Rodger Redden, Steve Scott, William Sealy, Stephen Slater, Linda Van Kley, Judy Van Meter, Kevin Waldrup, Ralph Wimberly, Michelle Young, and many more!

**Highlights from 2018**

Here are some of the events the parish life committee supported in 2018: Festive breakfasts, Epiphany Breakfast, Easter Vigil reception, Easter breakfast, Thanksgiving dinner, Backpack Blessing, Trunk or Treat, Boxwood Thanksgiving, Maundy Thursday, TAP Snacks, Choir and Voice of the Valley Bon Voyage Reception, 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events, Advent luncheons, Wassail Celebration, and multiple funeral receptions.

**How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?** The ministry of parish life strengthens St. Thomas internally by creating opportunities for fellowship and celebration together.

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## PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Donna Sharp

### **What does this ministry do?**

The Pastoral Care Committee serves the congregation by supporting, visiting, praying, and communicating with the St. Thomas congregation in times of crisis or need.

### **Who participated in 2018?**

Lay Eucharistic Visitors, members of Bereavement Care group, and the Prayer Group comprise the members of the Pastoral Care Committee.

### **Highlights from 2018**

Pastoral Care has served communion, prayed, and sent books during time of bereavement for parishioners of St. Thomas.

### **How is this ministry and example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

We continue to look for ways to strengthen our St. Thomas community of Christ.

## MEALS MINISTRY

Debbie Tompson

### **What does this ministry do?**

We are a committee that delivers meals to people coming home from the hospital or after the birth of a baby; usually a single meal in these cases, and we offer a breakfast for grieving families the day of the funeral.

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## PIANO COMMITTEE

Tom Wade

### **What does this ministry do?**

The Piano Committee was a special purpose committee formed in the spring of 2017 to purchase a piano for the nave to enhance the St. Thomas music program and to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of St. Thomas. The project included alteration of the pews to accommodate the piano. A Boston Grand piano designed by Steinway was installed and dedicated in memory of Max Burr in September 2018.

### **Who participated in 2018?**

Committee members included Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards, Max Burr, initial chair of the committee, Ann Burr, Rick McKnight, Paul Hostetter, Debbie Anderson, Karen Lord, Jennifer Fletcher and Tom Wade, chair after Max's death.

### **Highlights from 2018**

The work of the committee was described at the dedication of the piano in November 2018 as follows: Those of us who have been working on the piano committee want you to know why and how we obtained this new piano for our St. Thomas music program. Several years ago, Rick McKnight suggested to Reverend Grace the idea of obtaining a larger piano for the nave, because whenever he was off on a weekend, it was difficult to find an organist to take his place. Organists are in short supply, but pianists are more plentiful.

Max Burr, a member of the choir and a gifted pianist himself, embraced this idea and joined with several other interested parishioners to search for a new piano.

As you know, Max died unexpectedly on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. His wife Ann was keenly aware of Max's devotion to the choir and to the music program at St. Thomas, and she invited contributions to a Piano Fund in memory of Max. The memorial gifts were overwhelmingly generous and made possible the reality of purchasing a new piano.

In the 2017, the Planning Committee for the 60th anniversary of the founding of St. Thomas decided to designate \$5,000 of the anniversary offering toward purchase of a piano to commemorate our first 60 years and to enhance our worship.

The idea attracted several more people who worked diligently on the committee for months before making the final choice. This included Reverend Grace, Ann Burr, Rick McKnight, Paul Hostetter, Debbie Anderson, Karen Lord,

Jennifer Fletcher, and myself. During the whole process, we were guided by the expertise of our friend Sally Phillips from Piano Perfect. We considered a range of possibilities from the old symphony grand Steinway to modern digital instruments. We percolated these ideas around for a long time, and we finally settled on this Boston Grand piano designed by Steinway. We think it is the right choice for us, not only because of the fine quality of the instrument, but because we have been able to acquire it without compromising our other programs such as worship, outreach, and Christian education.

This piano will be an alternative to the organ, and it will serve well for quiet music during communion and for accompanying a soloist during regular services, weddings, funerals and other special occasions. Most importantly, it will be dedicated to the glory of God and to the memory of our beloved friend, Max Burr.

**How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

The piano helps us build our relationship with God (upward) when used to accompany singing, and was especially beautiful as we gathered for singing Christmas carols during the Christmas season this year. It is perfect for accompanying soloists during regular services. It strengthens St. Thomas and our life together as followers of Jesus (inward) especially during quiet music at communion. Our piano project has reached (outward) others in the community beyond our parish who come for services enhanced by our beautiful music. More than 80 people outside our parish contributed to the project in memory of Max Burr.

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## PRAYER GROUP

Donna Sharp

**What does this ministry do?**

The Prayer Group takes time to pray together for our parishioners, friends and families, the church, and the world weekly as a group. We pray for parishioners and people from a private and public prayer list.

**Who participated in 2018?**

Sonya Boyd, Ann Burr, Nicole Ceccato, Sara Ginter, Lynne Hahn, Malinda Shamburger, Donna Sharp, and others lift up the needs of our parishioners, friends of the parish, and the needs of the world.

**Highlights from 2018**

The highlights for the prayer group have been hearing how prayers have been answered and prayers have been felt.

**How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

We pray as God wants, privately in the chapel. More parishioners request prayers for family, friends, and parishioners, strengthening the prayer life at St. Thomas. St. Thomas prayer life reaches out to many communities.

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## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Ann Johnston and Frank Feagle, co-chairs

**What does this ministry do?**

The mission/ministry of the Property Committee is to manage the maintenance, repair and improvements of the building and grounds belonging to the Church.

**Who participated in 2018?**

The committee meets on the first Monday of each month. Members serving during 2018 were Ann Johnston, Frank Feagle, Lynne Hahn, Marianne Richter, and Martin McCann. The Vestry representative serving with the Committee was Mitch Grossman.

**Highlights from 2018**

The 2018 calendar year was a very active and productive one for the committee. The committee is engaged on a continuing basis performing routine maintenance and repair activities inherent with such a facility such as supervising landscaping activities, changing light bulbs, cleaning up water damage, and making repairs to

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electrical, plumbing and roofing systems. The following are some of the more individually significant accomplishments during the 2018 calendar year:

- Renovation and re-covering all pews in the Nave, replacing carpet, repair of the pews, cutting down four pews to make space for the piano and wheelchairs, a cost of \$47,000.
- Completed re-surfacing of all parking lots, a cost of \$12,000.
- Completion of a GIPL (Georgia Interfaith Power & Light) energy audit and resulting in a \$5,000 grant to assist with replacing all non-LED lighting fixtures with more energy efficient and longer lasting LED light fixtures. The grant will pay for one-half the \$10,000 total project cost.

**How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

The Property Committee Ministry is to maximize the appearance and utility of our buildings and landscaping in such a fashion that all members and visitors will feel they have been in the presence of God when in attendance, helping us to reach others in our wider community.

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## **RACIAL RECONCILIATION**

Dan Van Kley, Committee Chair

**What does this ministry do?**

Work to promote reconciliation across racial boundaries both inside and outside of St Thomas.

To be St Thomas' contribution to the mission of the diocesan commission: Beloved Community: Commission for Dismantling Racism which is: "Because racism works against our baptismal call to love others in the power of the spirit and to strive for justice and peace among all people, we seek to heal this chronic illness in our faith community through education, developing greater awareness of its existence in our ongoing spiritual formation. We will use prayer, intentional action, continued dialogue and the sharing of our personal and collective stories to help in facilitating the healing, transformation and reconciliation that will make it possible for us to truly see the face of God in all others

From <[https://www.episcopalatlanta.org/Dismantling\\_Racism/](https://www.episcopalatlanta.org/Dismantling_Racism/)>

**Who participated in 2018?**

- 25 participated in the MLK Unity Procession
- About 15 participated in the Martin Luther King Learning Trail Pilgrimage

**Highlights from 2018**

- Organized St Thomas's participation in Columbus' "the Dream Lives On" events in 2018. We had about 25 very hardy people from St. Thomas who participated in the processional on a very cold January day. While the weather was cold, the company was warm.
- Martin Luther Learning Trail Pilgrimage during lent. We had about 15 participate in a journey through the Carver Heights Neighborhood where we learned about the city's first planned African Neighborhood, and the challenges facing it. We were led by Ronzell Buckner and some students from Carver Highschool.

**How is this ministry and example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

We start with God's vision for the world. As God declared the diversity of his creation to be good, we ought to strive to respect the diversity we see among our fellow human beings and live in a beloved community where everyone has dignity. "Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives" (Martin Luther King "Nonviolence: The Only Road to Freedom"). We start looking upward to God's vision for the world and we recognize that to realize this vision we must change our inward selves. Only through an inward transformation can we learn to see God's image in all of God's children. As we transform we can look outward and start to realize God's vision of a beloved community. We call attention to the places where the world around us fails to recognize the dignity of others and look forward to a time when all of God's children are reconciled to each other.

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# STEWARDSHIP

Norm Easterbrook, Committee Chair

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for securing pledges from the parish to meet the annual operating budget for the coming fiscal year as approved by the elected Vestry. The committee coordinates a schedule of activities, produces narrative and budget materials and works with our Rector to assist members of the parish in discerning their financial commitment to the general operation of the church and its related ministries.

This year the committee revised all of the printed materials from previous stewardship seasons. Ann Burr hosted a gathering at her home to celebrate the beginning of the stewardship season. This was followed by several activities to include a dinner with speaker and special guest Ron King who also preached on the last Sunday of the Stewardship season. Beverly and Allen Gordy, Charlie Snipes, and Tanya Edwards-Jones each offered testimony of their experiences and commitment to St Thomas during two Sunday services. One Sunday of adult formation was dedicated to Stewardship. The stewardship season this year started later and was shorter than in years past.

This year, with the generosity of our congregation the campaign was successful in securing total pledges in the amount of \$471,936 which is 87% of the pledges needed to support the goal of \$540,000 set forth by the Vestry. This is an increase of \$57,191 or 14% over commitments made for 2018. As is always the case, the stewardship season is a time to reflect upon life changes that have taken place in our parish in the previous year. In celebrating our sixtieth anniversary we also celebrate the generations and lifetimes lived in the life of the parish. This year we are grateful for those making first time pledges which increased over last year and to those who increased their commitments to support the growth of the parish. We all have reason to and should celebrate the success of this campaign.

The committee will continue to work to stress the importance of every member making a pledge commitment to St Thomas. In anticipation of the year to come and our next stewardship season the committee will pay attention to fully communicating the importance of pledging and fulfilling pledges made to the work of the church. As our congregation grows and as we continue to identify needs in our community the need for substantial, qualified staffing and infrastructure capacities will grow to enable us to fully meet our call to walk with Christ in the Way of Love.

Stewardship is purely a function of our congregation. It is our expression of faith and trust in the ministries of our parish, our Rector and our elected Vestry. To that end we thank the Vestry for their guidance and especially thank Grace for her thoughtful, compassionate and excellent guidance in our work. This year's committee was made up of Norman Easterbrook, Tanya Edwards, Betty Gordy, Allen Gordy, Malinda Shamburger and Travis Wade.

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## ST. THOMAS DAY SCHOOL

Jodi Saunders, Day School Director

### **What does this ministry do?**

The mission of St Thomas Day School is to build a strong core of school-readiness in each student through social, intellectual, emotional, and physical development in a loving Christian-based teaching environment. In addition to our daily curriculum, we offer our S.T.E.P (St Thomas Enrichment Programs) that take place after school from 1:00 – 2:00pm daily. Programs offered include Cooking, Art, Architecture, Zoology and Music & Movement. Students in our toddler's through Pre-Kindergarten classes attend music twice a week in the All Saints Hall. We also visit chapel once a week in the church nave with the Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards and Mrs. Ruth Nichols. Claire Lambdin led chapel in early 2018.

### **Who participated in 2018?**

At the time of print, the day school enrollment for the 2018-19 school year was 71 children in 7 classrooms. Our classroom age groups are infant, toddlers, two's (A & B), three's (A & B) and Pre-Kindergarten. We also have 7 lead teachers, 7 assistant teachers and a director. Our Board of Directors continued to build on the strong base that was established in 2017 with the board consisting of Rev. Grace, two church members, the school director and three school parents. In 2018 the board reviewed the by-laws and these were approved during our December meeting.

Additionally, the school became a member of NAES which is the National Association of Episcopal Schools. St. Thomas members Elizabeth Selway is the current chair of the Day School Board.

### **Highlights from 2018**

2018 saw a lot of positive changes for the Day School. The Board of Directors assumed leadership of the school and a parent stepped in as Interim Director beginning in April. A new school director was hired with Jodi Saunders being appointed beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>. In April the school installed sinks in the infant and toddler rooms located in the church. After re-evaluation and seeking the advice of architects and local authorities, the school was able to add interior walls to the two-year-old classrooms creating additional rooms which allowed for the re-location of the Director's office and staff workroom. Sinks were added to the original music room and office after existing plumbing was located creating an infant and toddler classroom within the school. This allowed for all students to be together under one roof. The exterior doors were re-assigned for entry/exit by parents and visitors which enhanced visual and security control to the school. Aesthetically the hallway and a few classrooms were painted and environmentally-friendly LED lights were installed. The newly created classrooms were furnished for our infants and toddlers.

### **How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

The preparations and changes in 2018 at the Day school will move us forward as we celebrate the school's sixty year anniversary in 2019. There are many thousands of children who have passed through the doors of the school, and we have the delight of now seeing second and third generation families attending. We are the only Episcopal Day School in the Columbus area. Our student base derives from St Thomas church families, parents seeking an Episcopal education, the tradition of attending St Thomas for our alumni families, and current families introducing friends to the day school. The school is founded upon a Christian-based mission with the church being an integral part of the children's curriculum. We are looking forward to more wonderful opportunities to grow the school and it's teachings in Christ's love in 2019.

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## **ST. THOMAS BOOK GROUP**

Sonya Boyd, Convener

In its fourteenth year, the Saint Thomas Book Group continues to pursue reading materials that range from classic to contemporary, fiction to memoirs, biographies, and essays---even newspaper columns. We emphasize books that raise questions from an ethical, spiritual, or moral perspective. Doing so is one way that we hope that we can *Build Upwardly*, thereby building a closer relationship with God. In 2018 we began to meet more frequently at Saint Thomas, on Wednesday afternoons at 3:30, affording the attendees the opportunity to attend the 5:30 Eucharist in the Chapel of Reconciliation at Saint Thomas. We still continue to schedule some meetings at other locations and times, as we attempt to accommodate as many persons as possible. We follow the school calendar from late Summer to May. During 2018, we hosted a number of guest speakers, including an outstanding Columbus educator, Sheryl Green, and Saint Thomas parishioners Malone Moore, Meg Olive-Allison, and Tom Wade. Each one provided insights into the readings and made our gatherings even more memorable.

Although the Saint Thomas Book Group is mainly composed of parishioners, there are numerous regular attendees who are not members of our church and some who are not Episcopalians. We have a wide range of ages and everyone is welcome. We encourage anyone who is debating whether or not to join a book group to attend one of our discussions. It is our goal to *Build Inwardly* and to strengthen our relationship with one another and with our church. Our attendance has reached over twenty persons at our discussions and we recognize the growth as a blessing. Many of our readers are involved in ministries at Saint Thomas: altar guild, office volunteers, prayer group, Saints and Sinners, labyrinth stewardship, VBS, and more. They also volunteer in the community, serving with the Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry, the Wynnton Neighborhood Network, the Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library, and numerous other agencies throughout the area. The backgrounds and experiences of our readers greatly enrich the group and our atmosphere of fellowship.

The Saint Thomas Little Library, located at the rear of the building and near the entrance to the Wynnton Neighborhood Network, has thrived in 2018. All are welcome to utilize the library, the idea being to "take a book

and leave a book". This encourages the collection and circulation of books for all age groups. Members of the Saint Thomas Book Group donate and maintain the "Little Library" and we encourage parishioners to donate. In the "Little Library" a reader may find Bibles, children's and teen books, romance and mystery novels, cookbooks, and nonfiction selections, We hope that the Saint Thomas Little Library will provide no-cost reading materials to many persons: patrons of the WNN, volunteers who serve there, Saint Thomas Day School personnel and families, and members of our own parish family. By continuing to promote literacy in our church community and beyond, we hope to *Build Outwardly*.

The reading list of the Saint Thomas Book Group for 2018-2019 includes

*The Beloved Invader* by Eugenia Price

*All Saints* by Michael Spurlock

*A Mistletoe Murder and Other Stories* by P.D. James

*Letters from Skye* by Jessica Brockmole

*Ethan Frome* and a short story, "Xingu" by Edith Wharton

\**After the Flag Has Been Folded* by Karen Spears Zacharias

\**Warm Springs: Traces of a Childhood Spent at FDR's Polio Haven* by Susan R. Shreve

\**The Songs of Willow Frost* by Jamie Ford

*Workin' Our Way Home* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore

\* Proposed

We encourage fellow parishioners, as well as regular attendees to the discussions, to suggest titles and our "kick off" gathering in August is an opportunity to share with one another books that we have enjoyed as individuals. For further information regarding the Saint Thomas Book Group contact the convener, Sonya Boyd, at janjulau@aol.com or 706-718-5592.

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## ST. THOMAS YOUNG ADULTS

Taylor Burton-Edwards, Convener

### **What does this ministry do?**

St T's YAs is a group of (mostly) younger adults that tends to meet on Sunday evenings for prayer, community building, and study. Our core work is to support each other in living out the vows of the baptismal covenant. We choose resources for study and conversation that help us do that, and we also have occasional get togethers just for fellowship.

### **Who participated in 2018?**

We've seen three of our group move away this year (Bridget and Majorie Lutz to El Paso, Freeman McCluskey to Mercer Med School), welcomed a new birth (Luke Mitchell), and a newcomer to St Thomas (Laura Ellis). We are always delighted to welcome and walk with those who chose to come among us for this baptismal journey.

### **Highlights from 2018**

During 2018, we read *Holy Stuff of Life* (Heather Murray Elkins), *Justification* (NT Wright), *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* (James Cone), *Toxic Charity* (Robert Lupton), and *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Howard Thurman). We share leadership for sessions among group members.

### **How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

We build inward and upward through study and prayer, and outward through fellowship and social witness, particularly during sessions of the Georgia legislature.

# USHERS

Danny Ginter

## What does this ministry do?

The ushers hand out bulletins and greet everyone who comes to worship. We also try to answer questions about the restrooms and any other questions people have. We take up the offering and one usher is usually the second counter. We assist in Communion. We tidy up the pews including putting our books back into correct place.

## Who participated in 2018?

In 2018, we lost Jack Tice, Marcel Meijer, and Rin Van Kley due to other conflicts, but added 8 new members.

David Brandenburgh	Barbara Brandenburgh	Michael Dempsey
Craig DuPriest	Skip Farrow	Neal Fenter
Dan Ginter	Allen Gordy	Beverly Gordy
Mitch Grossman	Greg Herring	Lisa Herring
Tommie Hunter	Perry Lopez	Bob McAneny
Renee McAneny	Mike McFalls	Marcel Meijer
Robert Moore	Malone Moore	Steve Scott
Deborah Scribner	Spence Sealy	Malinda Shamburger
Ceci Shirley	Christine Slusher	Sonny Tauton
Jack Tice	Dan Van Kley	Rin Van Kley
Kevin Waldrup		

## Highlights from 2018

The usher leadership underwent a change when Jack Tice was moved to give up the Chairman position due to medical reasons. Jack served St. Thomas well and ensured that ushers were present for every function. Dan Ginter joined the usher group and was asked to assume the Chairman position. Jack continued to be a called-upon asset to ensure a smooth transition. Dan held a meeting to discuss the duties of the ushers and printed the duties for reference along with each month's duty roster which is kept in the cabinet at the rear of the Nave. Other than the assigned duty, ushers volunteered for unannounced events such as funerals and other special programs.

## How is this ministry and example of building upward, inward, and outward?

We build "upward" and "inward" by making everyone feel welcome to worship God with us.

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# VALLEY INTERFAITH PROMISE

Malinda Shamburger

## What does this ministry do?

Valley Interfaith Promise's purpose and goal is to provide hospitality to homeless families while they transition to sustainability.

## Who participated in 2018?

In 2018, we were fortunate to have a wonderful core of volunteers, John and Vicky Partin, Pauline Marth, Sherry Wade, Jennifer Fletcher, Tanya Edwards-Jones, Margo Easterbrook, and Roger Redden, preparing meals, spending the night, transporting the VIP trailer, and setting up rooms and putting them back together.

## Highlights from 2018

St. Thomas youth participated in VIP's annual fundraiser, the bed race. Thanks to Tiffany Bonaker and Erin Redden for leading St. Thomas' Teens in this annual event.

## How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?

*Upward*, "Love your neighbor as yourself", when we follow this commandment we honor God.

*Inward*, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." The people were confused, they asked, "When did we do that?" Jesus replied,

“Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” St. Thomas makes this real every time a VIP family walks through our doors. *Outward*, “Go into the world and spread the Gospel” Providing Homeless families the opportunity to rebuild their lives, so that they become productive members of our community, honors our community.

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## VERGERS

Report by Meg Olive-Allison

### What does this ministry do?

While the verger takes on a visible role in making sure a worship service moves smoothly, much of the verger’s work is done behind the scenes and prior to the start of the service.

A partial checklist a verger goes by at St. Thomas looks something like this:

- Touch base with lectors, lay Eucharistic ministers (LEMs) to make sure they are in attendance and are prepared for the service; if not, assign replacements.
- Check the readings to make sure they are properly marked.
- Activate the sound system and make sure the microphones are working.
- Light the candles on the altar.

The work of our vergers allows Rev. Grace time to greet parishioners, make announcements, and prayerfully prepare the parish for worship.

While preparing the church for worship, vergers, as part of their ministry, also offer words of greeting and welcome to newcomers and visitors.

### Who participated in 2018?

Michael Ankerich, Paul Hostetter, Joe Mills, Perrin Nicolson, Michael Owen, Malinda Shamburger, Rin Van Kley, Travis Wade, and Jonathan Walz each served as Vergers during 2018. Meg Olive-Allison took over scheduling Vergers this year.

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## WELCOME COMMITTEE

Pam Feagle

### What does this ministry do?

The Welcome Committee’s purpose is to follow up with visitors, particularly those who complete visitor cards. We contact them, offering information, help, encouragement, and answers to their questions. We hope eventually to welcome them into St. Thomas as their new church home.

Our goals are to help the church membership grow by immediately welcoming and to provide open arms to those who cross our path.

### Highlights from 2018

- We held two Newcomers Parties this past year. The purpose of these parties is to let new members and visitors get to know leaders in our church, staff, Welcome Committee members, and each other. Our Spring party was held in April at the home of Charlie Snipes and Michael Ankerich. We had a total of 48 attendees, including 17 visitors/new members. The Fall party was held in November at the home of Tanya and Tom Jones. There were 51 in attendance, of which 23 were new members/visitors.
- The committee assisted the church in gaining a total of 49 new members.
- We have a sub-committee of 11 volunteers who bring snacks for the social time following the 10:30 worship service. They are Sandy Dawson, Donna Dooley, Pam Feagle, Sara Ginter, Jenny Holder, Linda Van Kley, Paula Evans, Beverly & Allen Gordy, Lisa Herring, Libby McFalls, and Evelin Yardley. This has proven

to be a very successful way to encourage visitors and members alike to linger, visit, and get to know one other better.

- We also have another sub-committee tasked with organizing the pew cards in the Nave. This group keeps the doodle cards, visitor cards, envelopes, and pens replaced and straightened each week. This is very important as it presents an organized reception to our visitors, as well as an attitude of hospitality and gratitude for their attendance. Serving in this capacity are John Partin, Sara Ginter, Evelin Yardley, Steve Slater, Martha Robert, Kevin Waldrup, and Pam Feagle.
- Deborah Tucker continues to keep the nametag board organized. Making the wearing of nametags easy for members is very important and helpful to our visitors and members alike.
- Nancy Holland, Rinda Brewbaker, and Craig DuPriest also served on the Welcome Committee early in 2018.

### **How is this ministry an example of building upward, inward, and outward?**

This ministry, by its very nature, encourages and assists newcomers to St. Thomas to build upward (find God), inward (strengthen the body of Christ), and outward (welcome those in the community who are seeking a place of worship which is open and welcoming to all).

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## **WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK**

Jennifer Fletcher

### **What does this ministry do?**

At Wynnton Neighborhood Network, Christian and Jew, black and white, young and old work side-by-side to provide emergency food and utility support to needy citizens from every part of Muscogee county. An all-volunteer organization, WNN operates with very minimal overhead so that resources can go directly toward serving the needs of individuals and families.

2018 was a record-breaking year at Wynnton Neighborhood Network. Our food pantry served 4,549 households comprised of 11,912 individuals, 5451 of whom were children under eighteen. That total tops 2015, our busiest year to date, by 647 individuals.

Of the households we served, 67% came to us just once, 21% came twice, 7% came three times, and only 5% came four times, which is the maximum allowable under our by-laws. About sixty percent of the families we served in 2017 did not visit us in 2018.

These statistics prove that WNN is fulfilling its mission as an EMERGENCY food source. Since each client visit requires a referral from another helping agency, we know that we are working in harmonious partnership with others of various strategies, races, and creeds.

Additionally, WNN provided utility assistance to up to forty-five households each month during 2018. Clients seeking assistance with past due Georgia Power or Liberty Utility Bills self-refer, but since we offer assistance just once every twelve months, we know, once again, that we are a resource that is utilized for truly emergency situations.

Staffed solely by volunteers, WNN prides itself on treating all clients with the utmost respect and dignity. Open Monday through Friday, we remain the only five-day-per-week food and utility resource in the greater Columbus area. Our officers and Board of Directors are excellent stewards of our resources, and we are on excellent footing to fulfill our mission in 2019 and beyond.

# 2019 Pledgers

**2019 PLEDGES: 155 pledges; Total = \$471,936**

Joe & Messina Akyempong	Mitch Grossman	Michael Owen
Debbie Anderson	Deanna Grube	Celia Page & Jenny Holder
Michael Ankerich	Lynne Hahn	Nelia Partain
Royce & Tamara Ard	Kenny & Mickie Hall	John & Vicky Partin
Steve & Julie Barbaree	Chris Harman	Bill & Sandi Pauli
Diane Berson	Sam & Linda Harmon	Carlene Pawlowicz
Barbara Billings	Isiah Harper	Jan Pittman
Deidre Bohannon & Lauren Copes	Greg & Lisa Herring	Linda Prince
Gerry & Sonya Boyd	Carole Hill	Maryann Rahm
David & Barbara Brandenburgh	Steve Hodges & Pat Daniel	Roger & Erin Redden
Rinda Brewbaker	Roland Holt	Marianne Richter
Ann Burr	Paul & Elizabeth Hostetter	Martha Robert
Grace & Taylor Burton-Edwards	Ena Hunt	Joe & Libba Russell
Raymond Campbell	Tommie Hunter	Brian Schwartz
Ray Capo	Robert Hutchinson	Steve & Adley Scott
Paul & Jo Cates	Seyi & Nike Isijola	Spencer & Susan Sealy
Jack & Nicole Ceccato	April Jacobs	Justin & Elizabeth Selway
Denny Clark	Lowell & Norma Jergens	Malinda Shamburger
Dennis & Karen Cook	Paul & Ann Johnston	Donna Sharp
Paul Dahlgren & Ellen Free	Shane Jolley	Mark & Marianne Sheehan
Angelia Davis	Joseph Jones	Ceci Shirley
Dan & Sandy Dawson	Kelli Leak	Jim & Kristie Sholtis
Cary Degon	Keith & Susan Leigh	Steve & Julia Slater
Michael & Hunter Dempsey	Karen Lord	Chris & Patty Slembariski
Bill & Kassie Diehl	Janet Mapel	Darius & Christine Slusher
Larry & Donna Dooley	Bob & Renee McAneny	Michael Smith
Wayne Durden	Martin & Sandy McCann	Charlie Snipes
Norm & Margo Easterbrook	Mike & Libby McFalls	Bernie Sutter
Mike Edmondson	Rick & Marquette McKnight	Clifford & Bobsie Swift
Tamara Edwards	Charles & Pat McMahan	Sonny Taunton
Tom Jones & Tanya Edwards-Jones	Marcel Meijer	Dick & Debbie Tompson
Laura Ellis	Joe Mills & Jim Rutland	Deborah Tucker
Frank Eslinger	Daniel & Lauren Mitchell	Louise Tulloh
Darlene Everritt	Robert & Malone Moore	Dan & Linda Van Kley
Jon & Jessica Ezzell	Mike & Eliza Morrill	Julie Van Meter
Frank & Pam Feagle	Tom & Michelle Mullen	Margaret Vollrath
Neal Fenter	Kerry & Amy Nelson	Tom & Sherry Wade
Joe Fischer	Henry & Nora Ngo	Travis & Mitchi Wade
Art & Kathy France	Les & Jan Nichols	Kevin Waldrup
Roger & Mary Free	Mike & Ruth Nichols	Ralph Wimberly
Michele Shumpert Garcia	Perrin & Becca Nicolson	Ron & Susan Wirt
Jim & Beth Gilbert	Virginia Nixdorf	Gardner & Judy Wright
Dan & Sara Ginter	Sue O'Dell	Molly Wright
Cindy Godwin	Mandy Ochoa	Matthew & Evelin Yardley
Allen & Beverly Gordy	Meg & Susie Olive-Allison	Rob Wubbena
		+ 20 Anonymous

# 2018 ST. THOMAS FINANCES

OPERATING ACCOUNT	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>Contribution Income</b>			
Pledges	402,303.00	383,557.93	453,058.00
Gain/Loss - Stock Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Member Givers	50,500.00	70,127.36	58,540.00
Post-Campaign Pledges	0.00	12,100.00	5,000.00
<b>Total Contribution Income</b>	<b>452,803.00</b>	<b>465,785.29</b>	<b>516,598.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Transfer From Designated	0.00	1,412.01	0.00
Endowment Draw -Unrestricted	89,199.00	90,893.02	88,985.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	468.64	0.00
Use of Building	500.00	350.00	0.00
Baird Draw	24,105.00	24,106.40	22,935.00
Desig.funds transfer-Boxwood	0.00	1,008.39	0.00
Desig.funds transfer-Cont.Ed	0.00	0.00	0.00
Desig.funds transfer-Children	0.00	2,642.20	500.00
Desig.funds transfer-Flowers	4,000.00	3,375.00	3,500.00
Desig.funds transfer-Music	3,000.00	8,000.00	4,000.00
Desig.funds transfer-Outreach	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
Desig.funds transfer-Youth	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>124,804.00</b>	<b>132,255.66</b>	<b>119,920.00</b>
<b>Special Income</b>			
Day School	19,162.00	17,565.24	25,596.00
Utility Reimbursement	8,000.00	6,390.00	7,000.00
<b>Total Special Income</b>	<b>27,162.00</b>	<b>23,955.24</b>	<b>32,596.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>604,769.00</b>	<b>621,996.19</b>	<b>669,114.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Admin/Payroll/Benefits</b>			
Administration	30,480.00	30,713.80	35,490.00
Payroll/Benefits	313,567.00	310,179.33	338,513.00
<b>Total Admin/Payroll Benefits</b>	<b>344,047.00</b>	<b>340,893.13</b>	<b>374,003.00</b>
<b>Christian Education</b>			
Adult	1,000.00	1,351.78	2,000.00
Children	4,000.00	7,297.62	5,000.00
Youth	6,000.00	4,176.12	5,000.00
<b>Total Christian Education</b>	<b>11,000.00</b>	<b>12,825.52</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>
<b>Diocesan Pledge &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>57,679.00</b>	<b>57,679.00</b>	<b>60,750.00</b>
Evangelism	1,400.00	2,488.27	1,900.00
Outreach	40,230.00	40,102.13	39,411.00
Parish Life	7,500.00	6,965.61	7,000.00
Properties	106,500.00	123,533.23	114,500.00
Capital Reserve	15,000.00	15,000.00	13,000.00
Stewardship	1,300.00	1,350.78	1,300.00
Music	19,430.00	27,211.26	22,000.00
Worship	11,250.00	12,141.43	23,250.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>615,336.00</b>	<b>640,190.36</b>	<b>669,114.00</b>
<b>(OVER) UNDER ACTUAL</b>	<b>(10,567.00)</b>	<b>(18,194.17)</b>	<b>0.00</b>
12/31/18 Operating Cash Balance		17,134.86	

<b>DESIGNATED ACCOUNT</b>			
Designated funds include contributions to African missions and other parish, community & world ministries. By the canons (rules) of the church, all designated gifts are used for the purposes for which they were designated. The Vestry is charged to oversee all financial transactions of the parish.			
<b>DESIGNATED ACCOUNT</b>			
<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>Special Outreach Collections</b>		
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	175,080.43		
Revenue	420,584.57	African Mission	10,660.00
Expenses	(446,085.14)	Appleton	77.00
<b>12/31/18 Cash Balance</b>	<b>149,579.86</b>	Bishop's Fund	569.51
		CVEM	5,877.10
		Episcopal R&D	600.83
		Rctr's Discr.	6,066.37
		WNN	3,044.62
		<b>Total</b>	<b>26,895.43</b>
<b>ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS</b>			
	<b>12/31/18 Balance</b>		
Unrestricted (Wilkins)	1,751,380.61		
Restricted (Baird)	480,656.82		
<b>60th Anniversary Property Improvement Plan - 12/31/18</b>			
<b>REVENUE</b>		Property improvements completed in 2018 from 60th anniversary funds include repairs to the parking lot, updates to the nave, a repair to the roof over the choir room, HVAC repair, and improvements to the nursery. Projects anticipated in 2019 include a new sign on Hilton, upgrades to bathrooms, and painting in the office corridor.	
60th Ann. Gifts for Property	92,943.00		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>92,943.00</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Project Expenses	66,148.00		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>66,148.00</b>		
<b>Gifts anticipated to receive in 2019</b>	<b>27,680.00</b>		

# Minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting

Saint Thomas Episcopal Church Annual Meeting and Dinner  
January 26, 2018

After a time of social gathering and appetizers, Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards gave a welcome and called the meeting to order. A blessing was offered and those in attendance proceeded to the buffet line.

Sherry Wade next introduced a video interview with long serving past rector, Charlie Roper. Rev. Canon Charlie Roper and his wife Betty are honorary chairs of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee in honor of their service to St. Thomas. A transcript of the interview was given out while the video was shown.

Joe Mills and Jim Rutland next led the congregation in a sing-a-long of Broadway hit songs from the earlier years of the parish's founding. Songs from Westside Story, My Fair Lady, and the Music Man were sung and concluded with Climb Every Mountain from the Sound of Music.

Mike Owens then gave a brief history of Saint Thomas with a slide show of pictures.

Treasurer Travis Wade spoke on his experiences growing up at Saint Thomas and the importance of the endowment to our ministry. He introduced the endowment campaign as a tool for preparing for the next 60 years and endowment brochures were distributed.

Next the logo and theme for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year were announced, "60 Years of Building Upward, Inward, Outward," and the significance of the three elements explained.

Building Upward: Sherry Wade detailed the activities planned in recognition of this anniversary year.

Building Inward: Frank Feagle shared property and facilities plans for 2018-19.

Building Outward: Norm Easterbrook talked about the Easter season anniversary offerings that will support outreach and facilities.

Treasurer Travis Wade reported on finances.

The rector led the parish in a time of thanks for the blessings of 2017. Dawn our kitchen manager was thanked for the excellent country captain dinner and the parish life committee recognized for their part in organizing the event, Nelia, Ann and Debbie. Deborah Tucker was thanked for assembling the packets for the annual meeting. Thanks to Jergens for their gift for the chapel renovations and property committee members Ann Johnston and Frank Feagle who oversaw the project. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee were introduced and thanked for their work.

Outgoing Vestry members Celia Page, senior warden, Perrin Nicolson, and Dan Van Kley were recognized for their service.

Staff members were called by name and recognized for their service to the parish.

The nominees for Vestry class of 2018 were introduced: Ray Capo, Tanya Edwards-Jones, and Mike Smith. The rector asked if there were any other nominations from the floor, and when none were received, called for the vote. The votes were tallied by senior warden Celia Page and clerk of the Vestry Louise Tulloh. 85 votes were recorded; and the slate of nominees elected to serve for a three-year term beginning February 2018.

The rector announced Mitch Grossman as the senior warden of the Vestry for 2018. Mitch Grossman led the attendees in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Tulloh, Clerk of the Vestry

# St. Thomas Welcome Statement

You are welcome here at St. Thomas!

We are a church of loving, committed and searching Christians who value diversity and cherish the gifts of young and old alike. We welcome ALL God's children into our sacramental community, respecting the dignity of every person as we are called to a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. You are welcome here as God's own.

We are a community of faith who will welcome you as you are, wherever you are from, and whatever your background.

We invite you to join us as we worship God and proclaim the Good News of God's Love. We take joy in sharing Communion with all Christians who gather around God's table. Together we share a journey of learning and prayer; we believe in selfless serving; we advocate for justice and peace; we work to safeguard God's good Earth; and we offer humble acts of hospitality to our neighbors and the greater world.

You are welcome as a Child of God.

