

# 2021 SUMMARY REPORT



## FROM THE RECTOR

In 1958, a small group of visionary people gathered to begin St. Thomas. Now, in the aftermath of the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic, St. Thomas is Beginning Anew. We continue to discover new ways to worship, learn, and serve.

We present here a brief summary of 2021 and a preview of what we hope lies ahead in 2022. As you read, pray in thanksgiving for what we accomplished together, and pray in hope as we look to God's future.

Blessings,  
Rev. Grace



**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
*Columbus, Georgia*

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021



We worshipped online, at the labyrinth, on the lawn, in the parish hall, in cars, and spread out in the nave and chapel. Worship attendance remained steady – just different!



We enjoyed music from soloists and small groups early in the year. St. Thomas Choir returned to the loft on Pentecost Sunday – with red masks!



Boxwood Soccer U12 team received the Sportsmanship Award in the spring and went undefeated in the fall.



St. Thomas Youth made us laugh with a funny music video about how hard the pandemic has been.



Parishioners wrote daily reflections for Easter and Advent.



Episcokids recorded video pageants for Easter and Epiphany to tell the stories of our faith.



We celebrated graduates at a Pentecost Parking Lot Party.



Dr. Denny Clark joined our staff as “Parish Theologian.”



We provided lunches and snacks for staff at Brewer Elementary. We donated 2,000 kid-sized masks and lots of socks and underwear for students.



We created “Family Eucharist” to help very young children learn our patterns for worship.



Holle Tubbs became Diocesan Youth Missioner. Daniel and Lauren Mitchell filled in as Interim Youth Directors. We called Taylor Mack as Director of Youth and Young Adults.



We unveiled a new website and logo!



Seven “Journey Groups” explored Transforming Questions of faith.



Episcokids loved Wonderful Wednesdays – activity centers on the patio exploring a Bible story.



WNN Food Pantry opened on first Saturdays to accommodate working families. St. Thomas members served as WNN Shoppers to support the pantry.



Creation Keepers sponsored a boat ride on an outdoor classroom to remind us of the importance of water.



Wilson Ford volunteered as our Acolyte Director and patiently trained 26 acolytes.



Coffee hour moved outside, and we love it!



We heard beautiful music and poetry at a Carol Service and enjoyed a bento box Wassail Party.



The parlor got a new roof. Our grounds got extra care. Our Property Committee worked hard all year.



We prayed together online on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and more.



We welcomed 37 new members and celebrated the Confirmation and Reception of 22 people in December.



St. Thomas members gave generously, with total giving exceeding what was pledged and budgeted for 2021.



Pledges for 2022 increased by 15.8%.



St. Thomas members gave \$21,478 to CVEM for direct service support for our neighbors.

**Thank you for your faithfulness all year long!**

# ST. THOMAS FINANCES 2021-2022

OPERATING ACCOUNT	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Contribution Income	538,874.00	572,470.34	621,864.00
Other Income	182,649.00	141,793.65	186,311.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>721,523.00</b>	<b>714,263.99</b>	<b>808,175.00</b>
OPERATING ACCOUNT	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Admin/Payroll/Benefits	462,144.00	451,726.05	512,531.00
Christian Education	10,195.00	6,438.93	10,195.00
Diocesan Pledge & Exps	62,085.00	61,884.96	62,938.00
Evangelism	3,500.00	1,444.42	4,000.00
Outreach	40,892.00	40,908.25	48,351.00
Parish Life	3,600.00	4,276.67	12,100.00
Properties	98,300.00	114,677.71	107,000.00
Capital Reserve	23,000.00	23,000.00	20,000.00
Stewardship	2,000.00	1,990.73	2,000.00
Music	8,500.00	12,232.19	19,310.00
Worship	9,000.00	8,381.30	9,750.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>723,216.00</b>	<b>726,961.21</b>	<b>808,175.00</b>

DESIGNATED ACCOUNT	2021 Actual
Beginning Balance	249,196.24
Revenue	471,796.86
Expenses	(227,145.52)
<b>12/31/21 Cash Balance</b>	<b>493,847.58</b>
ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS	Dec.31 Balance
Unrestricted (Wilkins)	2,410,230.18
Restricted (Baird)	664,977.77
Outreach Collections	
African Mission	3,742.82
CVEM	21,478.00
Rector's Discretionary	10,417.00
WNN	7,641.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,278.82</b>

# UNDERSTANDING OUR FINANCE REPORTS

**Your pledges and gifts support all St. Thomas ministries.**

In 2021, the congregation gave **above and beyond** to support our shared work. Thank you!

Our 2021 budget **anticipated** limited activities. We set aside funds to use if we began meeting in person.

Program areas that appear over budget for 2021 were able to **resume in-person activities** and used some of those reserved funds. This is good!

Property expenses were over budget due to much needed maintenance. That is why we created the **Continuing Faithfulness Capital Fund** to address major repairs.

We are launching a **young adult ministry** in 2022. Due to staffing changes, we did not begin in 2021.

The increase in **payroll and benefits** for 2022 includes increases for staff, health benefits for a full-time sexton and kitchen manager, and funds for calling an assisting priest.

**Other income** includes reimbursements by groups using our campus, funds reserved to support meeting in person, and support from two endowment funds.

**Endowment draws** for 2021 were 3.5% of the average over the past three years, to encourage growth and keep up with inflation. Our endowments are to support St. Thomas in the future as well as now.

The **designated account** includes payments for the choir's Ireland pilgrimage in 2022, funds held in reserve, the capital fund, and special gifts for restricted use.

The **Outreach budget** is based on 10% of budgeted pledges minus our diocesan pledge. As pledges increase, our Outreach budget also increases."

# BEGINNING ANEW IN 2022



Youth ministries are resuming and young adult ministries are beginning!



Sunday Shine Time and other ministries with children are coming back online.



Our Journey Groups will read Manna and Mercy, a summary of the Bible – with pictures! Individual Adventurers may take part as well. We hope the whole congregation will participate and invite others.



The Parish Hall is getting an update thanks to a generous gift from Judy Harding.



Thanks to your support for the Continuing Faithfulness Capital Fund, we hope to replace more roofs and begin other needed maintenance.



We look forward to sharing meals together again, hopefully soon!



St. Thomas Choir and friends plan to sing in Ireland this summer. We hope to take youth and young adults on pilgrimage to General Convention in Baltimore and to Washington DC.



We know St. Thomas members will do whatever is necessary to worship, learn, and serve together faithfully. You have proven this over and over again!