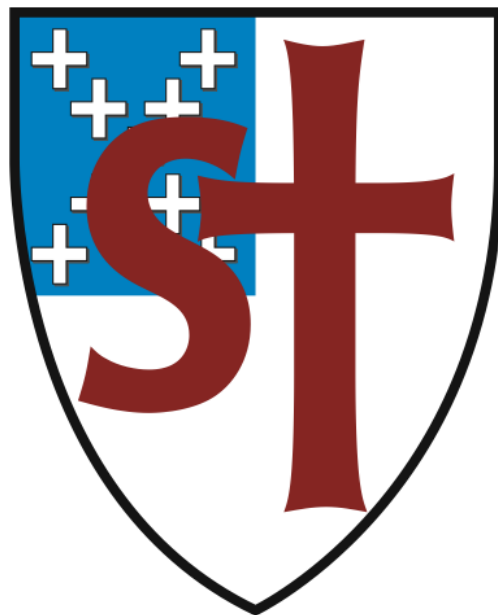


St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Sun Valley, Idaho

Annual Report 2015



Vision Statement

It is the continuing vision of the parishioners of St. Thomas Church to establish our church as a community center for diverse activities and programs for children, youth, and adults of all ages—a village church that is a hospitable haven providing comfort, peace, succor, and spiritual inspiration to all. We seek to be a worshipping community that calls all members into deeper levels of communion with Christ and each other and inspires them to go forth to seek and serve Christ in the world.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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YEAR IN REVIEW



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Sun Valley, Idaho

ANNUAL MEETING
January 25, 2015
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Father Ken Brannon at 10:38 a.m. in the Sanctuary of the church.

Father Ken began with silent prayer, followed by a verse of Psalm 62.

Judi Fuller was appointed Clerk for the Annual Meeting.

No additions to the agenda were offered from the congregation present.

Georgia Stewart moved and Page Klune seconded that the minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting be approved as written. The motion passed.

Heather Black, Senior Warden, expressed her gratitude for St. Thomas and the congregation. "Abundance" was her byword for St. Thomas; abundance of the many ministries and services, abundance of generosity of giving, and abundance of enthusiasm for existing and proposed projects. She highlighted past listening sessions and the upcoming Strategic Planning sessions.

Carolyn Wicklund, outgoing Junior Warden, reported on the repairs and improvements at the church and rectory this past year which included the sound system, the rectory open house, a church video inventory, kitchen improvements, and the automatic door opener. She also indicated that a solar light for the parking lot has been approved and will be installed in the spring.

Sara Pettit, Chair of the Nominating Committee, explained the selection process that was followed this year and presented the nominations for Vestry, Convention Delegates and Convention Alternate Delegates. She recognized members of the Nominating Committee (Carolyn Wicklund, Doug Cleven, Jessica Bejot and Mary Malkmus) and thanked them for their work. She expressed thanks to all the strong and able candidates for their willingness to serve. Father Ken led the elections, with Bob Kesting and Wally Morgus serving as Tellers, if needed. As there were no nominations from the floor, Sara Pettit moved and Judith Smooke seconded the nominations.

Nominees for vestry (David Caldwell, Margie Gould, Alyson Witmer) were elected by acclamation.

Nominees for Diocesan Convention delegates (Joel Bejot, Doug Cleven, Dydy Cleven, Judy Harrison, John Stevens, Tim Williams) were elected by acclamation.

Nominees for Diocesan Convention alternate delegates (Bev Boas, Ragna Caron, JoEllen Collins, David Harrison) were elected by acclamation.

Brett Moellenberg, Managing Director of the St. Thomas Playhouse, reviewed the programs in 2014, stressing the remarkable growth in the Company B programs. He announced the 2015 schedule and thanked the tremendous dedication and support from the Playhouse Charter Committee.

Marcia Liebich, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, reviewed the 2015 Annual Giving Campaign which fell short of their pledging unit target of 200 families, but exceeded their very ambitious goal of raising \$450,000. Marcia thanked the congregation for their generous support, Fr. Ken for his leadership and the vestry for their vision.

Doug Cleven, Treasurer of the vestry, presented a summary of the financial statements found in the Annual Report. He proceeded to review the 2014 figures which indicated a positive balance at the end of the year of \$13,398. He reviewed the fund balances and the performance of the Endowment Fund (3.1%). He reviewed the 2015 budget, highlighting the reduced use of the annual anonymous donor grant, a 1.7% cost of living increase for the clergy and staff, increased funding for cleaning expenses, and a first step in funding assistant clergy costs. There was a question about the low rate of return on our Endowment and Mid-Term investment accounts which will be reviewed by

(continued on following page)



YEAR IN REVIEW



the Finance Committee. Doug Cleven moved and Jima Rice seconded the acceptance of the proposed budget for 2015. The motion passed.

Father Ken, Rector, re-affirmed the sense of abundance mentioned by Heather. He also highlighted some issues.

- ♦ Volunteerism is strong but parishioners need to take responsibility for their own areas to free up staff to do the work that only they can do.
- ♦ The 1982 Hymnal is the foundation of our music program at 9:30 a.m. and will remain so, with other sources augmenting the musical selections; more musical experimentation takes place at the Après Ski Service on Saturday.
- ♦ He expressed his gratitude for the work that Vicki Riedel has done and said that the Pastoral Care Committee, volunteers, and he are poised to continue that work; it is unclear at this point if the coordinating role will be led by volunteers, lay staff, or clergy.
- ♦ He noted the new enthusiasm through the New Member's Committee to welcome and integrate newcomers to our community.
- ♦ The parish is looking forward to the Mutual Ministry Review (MMR) and the Strategic Planning Sessions to be held this year.
- ♦ He thanked the many people in leadership roles in our various ministries and committees and highlighted changes.

Father Ken Brannon awarded a Rector's Cross to Jeanne Cassell for her countless acts of love and service outside the public eye, exemplifying the passage from Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

There being no further business, Fr. Ken asked Joel Bejot to lead those gathered in the Doxology.

Marylyn Pauley moved and Marilyn Alcamo seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by acclamation and the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi Fuller, Clerk



The Blessing of a Marriage: Carter Hedberg Schmidt and Wayne Hedberg Schmidt, January 29, 2015.



Bishop Brian and Father Ken participate in the Trailing of the Sheep Parade, October 11, 2015.



Rector's Report by the Rev. Kenneth H. Brannon



...speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love (Ephesians 4:15-16).

We often say that God is love. This is an easy thing to say but a much harder thing to live out. And yet, as Church, this is our primary calling: to grow in love. Or specifically, as the apostle Paul says, "...to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ..."

We think we know what love looks like. Being nice...offering a helping hand...pitching in. And indeed, these are critical components of life together in community. But love gets more interesting when there are different ideas about how to reach a goal...when there is an experience of hurt and conflict...when our usual coping mechanisms become

insufficient to the task at hand. This is when we get stretched beyond our comfort zones and into the possibility of spiritual transformation.

As love incarnate, Jesus constantly invited his followers to move out of their comfort zones and into the rich possibility of God's future. He invited his disciples to leave their homes and families...he invited his listeners to imagine a world where the first shall be last and the last shall be first...he invited the religious leaders to connect the clarity of their teaching with the messiness of real life. Jesus continually called the people into greater awareness of God's love and was confident that this love would be revealed, even as he poured himself out on the cross.

It has been a full year. Rabbi Mirel and I led a three-part interfaith dialogue that was well attended by the entire community. We enjoyed the caring and seasoned leadership of two visiting priests: the Rev. Jesse Vaughan and the Rev. Andrew Mullins. St. Thomas leaders and I engaged in a Mutual Ministry Review, celebrating evidence of God's abundance and identifying areas where we can take greater risks.* Chip Mills was ordained to the priesthood. Our parish experienced a difficult ordination discernment process that tested the bonds of our affection. Georgia Stewart and I served as deputies to General Convention and I was elected to the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop. The Episcopal Church established marriage equality for all God's children and we began an honest conversation about the role that alcohol plays in our church and society. I led two inquirers classes that led to the confirmation or reception of 16 adults and teenagers. The Bishop appointed me to serve as Chair of the Commission on Ministry. And our parish addressed the topic of racism, asking how we might be blinded to this systemic sin by virtue of the fact that we are a largely white congregation.

The invitation to grow in love will continue in the new year. We will engage in a strategic planning process that doesn't start from scratch, but simply takes the next step on the Way of Christ. We will consider enlarging our circle with a diocesan conference for clergy and lay people entitled, "New Camino: A New Vision for Latino/Hispanic Ministries" on May 19-20 or May 20-21 at the Monastery of the Ascension in Jerome. We will experience the sacrament of healing when the Bishop comes for his annual visitation on October 30. And we will continue to do what the Church has always done: baptize, feed, confirm, marry, heal, ordain, and reconcile in God's name.

Thank you for being part of St. Thomas Church. Thank you for being part of the Body of Christ. I look forward to growing in love with you.

** A summary of the Mutual Ministry Review is available in the office.*



Senior Warden Report by Heather Black

“Discernment is said to function like the headlights of an automobile on a dark evening. They don’t show you where you will eventually end up. But they will illuminate the next part of the road.”¹

This year has been full of moments of discernment. Everything from the Mutual Ministry Review (where we learned what a strong, positive and affirming process it was, both for the Rector and the Vestry), pastoral care, the journeys of our postulants for Holy Orders, stewardship, music, and where some of our ministries are going...to when we might hold the strategic planning that was slated for 2015 has been under consideration. Because of these things, and more, that required time, the strategic planning session has been pushed back to 2016. As much as we had hoped to complete it in 2015, God does not always work on our timetable! We are looking forward to taking time out to clarify our vision and ask the big questions of purpose and identity because it will help us to maximize the resources of our congregation. As it says in the book I quoted above, “There is no power equal to a community discovering what it cares about.”²

Both the strategic planning and a newer project about which you will soon be hearing more will be top priorities for 2016. The new project has to do with planning for disaster in our church and in our community. Whether it be a natural disaster (i.e. wildfire, avalanche, widespread power outage) or damage to our building (flooding, fire, etc.), the National church has asked that all parishes put together a plan of preparedness in such cases, and the Diocese of Idaho has requested this happen by November 2016. We have a strong team making up the committee and they are working hard to get the best possible plan in place. Much more will be shared in the near future on this project.

Finally, I reflected back on my prior year’s Senior Warden report before writing this and I see that I spent a good deal of time reflecting on the gratitude I have for St. Thomas. I feel as strongly as ever that we are very fortunate to be where we are and have available to us a church community rich with the Holy Spirit. We are not perfect by any means, but we work hard to create an atmosphere of welcome, of generosity, of richness and of fulfillment for the souls who walk in our doors. Isn’t that what our task is from God? Not to be perfect, but to go forward in love. This is evident in our ministries and it becomes evident to our guests as we lead by example. On that note, I’d just like to remind you how important it is that everyone who is able, participates in our ministries in some way. As our wise parish administrator once said, “We [the congregation] are our church”. And we, the parishioners, make it the special place it is through the generosity of our time, resources and love. It can’t be done without you! Thank you!

¹*Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann, p. xxi

²*Ibid*, p. xxiii

Junior Warden Report by Ann Scales

2015 saw lots of accomplishments at St Thomas. The year began by removing the wooden slat blinds on the doors and windows to the Parish Hall and installing new semi-transparent honeycomb blinds, which match the blinds in the Fireside Room. At the same time, the trim around the same doors and windows was sanded and refinished. Next was replacing the trim around the front door after the automatic door opener had been installed. Over the summer, new carpet was installed on the stairs, in the office, the downstairs hallway and in the Fireside Room. In the fall, the church roof was inspected as well as the Rectory roof and both were deemed to be in good condition, minus some routine maintenance. Just before Christmas, new coat racks and shelving were put up in the Narthex. All great enhancements to our wonderful building!

What didn’t get done was the solar light in the parking lot. It really became a comedy of errors! First, we had to determine the correct location and height for the light, then our order was lost, then the light we ordered was discontinued and by the time we found a new vendor an early fall was upon us and freezing temps did not allow for the concrete base to be poured. And alas the year went by! Getting the light installed is still a top priority and should happen in 2016.



Treasurer's Report by Doug Cleven

The finances of St. Thomas continue to be on a sound footing and 2015 was no exception. Our income exceeded our budget and expenses were right on target, leaving us with a positive balance to carry forward to 2016.

Some notable items from 2015. Plate offerings rebounded this year to 107% of budget after falling behind budget in 2014. Pledge and STP income exceeded budget. On the expense side we were helped out by not filling the vacant Pastoral Care Coordinator position which helped make up for a large increase in repairs and maintenance at 139% of budget.

Our Endowment fund saw a negative return (-3.8%) in 2015 but not surprising given the overall market performance in 2015.

The 2016 budget takes into account the Pledges received for 2016 and the priorities outlined by Fr. Ken and the Vestry. Here are the highlights of the 2016 budget.

- ◆ Use interest earned from the Endowment and Cash Reserve funds as income.
- ◆ Reduce the use of the anonymous grant as income to \$32,000 (reduction of \$5,000 from last year).
- ◆ Use approximately \$15,000 of the anonymous grant for the Endowment and/or Capital Improvement fund.
- ◆ Keep a budget line for Pastoral Care position.
- ◆ Fund raises for clergy and staff.
- ◆ Fund a Vestry strategic planning session.
- ◆ Continue funding the Assistant Clergy fund at \$5000.
- ◆ Increase funding for Hospitality & Fellowship programs.

Thank you for your generosity. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at dougcleven@gmail.com.

Finance Committee by Roger Gould

The St Thomas Endowment Fund ended 2015 with a -3.8% return for the year compared to a custom benchmark of -2.6%. Total assets were \$424,918 at year end. The reason for the decline was due to the global disruption of commodities and emerging market economies caused by the decline of the Chinese economy.

Even though the St Thomas Endowment is conservatively managed by ClearRock Capital Management at up to 65% equities, the global economy, commodity pricing and the low interest rate environment impacted our returns.

In December, the Vestry approved a cash management program to increase yields while continuing to provide liquidity for our Operating Cash Reserves. A ladder structure of CD's and short term bond funds provided an income pickup to 1.4% from .7% while maintaining liquidity with an average maturity of .4 years and high relative quality.

The Finance Committee members are Roger Gould, Doug Cleven (Treasurer), Judi Fuller (Parish Administrator), and the Rev. Ken Brannon (Rector).



2015 IN REVIEW



Parish Register

MARRIAGES

January 29, 2015	Carter Milton Hedberg and Wayne Allen Schmidt (<i>Blessing of a Marriage</i>)
February 7, 2015	Kimberly Ann Webb and Daniel Edward Jagels
July 12, 2015	Timothy Edward Williams and John Andrew William Stevens
September 12, 2015	Ashley Williams Loeb and Dac Blassingame
October 24, 2015	Berit Katrina Cammpion and Dmytro Mamedov (<i>Blessing of a Marriage</i>)

BAPTISMS

April 4, 2015	Mays Monahan Aarmeen	Born September 11, 2013
April 4, 2015	Boden Arkell Price	Born April 30, 2008
April 4, 2015	Dillen Ellie Price	Born September 7, 2005
June 28, 2015	Huxley Stephen Schroder	Born June 24, 2013
August 23, 2015	Linnea Renée Zazie Chabot	Born April 6, 2014
November 1, 2015	Gary Keith Leeds	Born June 4, 1957
December 27, 2015	James Peabody More	Born July 29, 2002
December 27, 2015	Ballard Thomas Griswold	Born November 20, 2007

BURIALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES

March 17, 2015	Peter Hidalgo Flood	Departed March 8, 2015
July 5, 2015	Douglas Vernon Stewart	Departed April 20, 2015
October 28, 2015	Terence J. O'Reilly	Departed October 16, 2015

CONFIRMATIONS

October 4, 2015	Alyssa Joy Hershey
October 4, 2015	Jill Hitchin
October 4, 2015	Rachel Moore Webster
October 4, 2015	Vickrie Cutler White
December 27, 2015	Ruth Elizabeth Katherine Lindstrom
December 27, 2015	Isaac Miller Brannon
December 27, 2015	Jeremy Buey Grossman
December 27, 2015	Ridley Wade Lindstrom
December 27, 2015	James Peabody More

RECEPTIONS

October 4, 2015	Jessica Amy Bejot
October 4, 2015	Joel Stephen Bejot
October 4, 2015	Elizabeth N. Leach
October 4, 2015	Michael Hardin Leach
October 4, 2015	Peter Reynolds Lockwood
October 4, 2015	John Andrew William Stevens
December 27, 2015	Debi Juanita Guerricaeccievarria



FINANCIAL REPORTS



St. Thomas Operating Fund Profit & Loss Comparison

	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Proposed 2016
Income			
4000—Assessable Income			
4001—Plate Offerings	52,600	56,049	55,000
4003—Pledge Offerings	450,000	460,006	450,000
4005—Prior year pledge payments	15,000	12,181	10,000
4006—Interest earned		12,271	12,276
4020—Unpledged Grant	95,000	94,141	90,000
4527—Anonymous Grant ¹	37,000	37,000	32,000
TOTAL 4000—Assessable Income	649,500	671,648	649,276
4500—Non-Assessable Income			
4505 - Prior Year Carryover	13,398	14,301	25,453
4520—Event Income	1,500	1,057	1,500
4521—Community Use of Facility	12,500	15,545	15,000
4525—Special Offerings	1,500	6,684	1,500
4528—Misc. Income	0	602	0
TOTAL 4500—Non-Assessable Income	28,898	38,189	43,453
TOTAL 4700—STP Income	182,300	186,049	237,095
TOTAL INCOME	860,698	895,886	929,824
Expenses			
5010—Clergy Expenses			
Cash compensation (stipend, health/dental and Social Security reimbursements)	97,106	97,106	99,740
Clergy benefits (pension, professional expenses, equity allowance)	36,753	35,584	37,369
TOTAL 5010—Clergy Expense	133,859	132,690	137,109
TOTAL 5020—Assistant Clergy Expense	5,000	5,000	5,000
5030—Staff Compensation			
5031—Base Pay	216,438	202,332	222,915
5043—FICA & Medicare	16,558	15,478	17,053
5044—Staff Pensions	18,210	18,210	18,793
5045—Staff Medical Insurance	25,356	25,221	34,204
TOTAL 5030—Staff Compensation	276,562	261,241	292,965
5050—Program Expenses			
5051—Advertising	1,500	2,107	2,000
5052—Altar Supplies	3,000	1,799	2,000
5053—Nursery Care	1,595	977	1,250
5054—Children's Christian Education	3,335	3,489	3,335
5055—Convention Delegates	1,000	765	1,000
5057—Hospitality & Fellowship	2,500	3,476	4,500
5059—Music Supplies/Choir	2,750	2,914	3,000
5060—New Member Ministry	500	120	500
5062—Green Team	500	251	500
5063—Pastoral Care	100	0	500
5064—Professional Acct. & Audit	2,000	1,800	1,800
5066—Family Ministries	2,500	1,363	2,500
5068—Subscriptions	750	170	250
5070—Staff/Volunteer Training	2,500	2,500	1,500
5071—Special Events	1,500	1,203	1,500
5074—Vestry	2,000	195	5,000
5075—Stewardship	500	222	500
5076—Youth Christian Education	2,350	3,445	2,850
5077—Adult Christian Ed.	750	0	500
5077b-EfM	400	456	0
TOTAL 5050-Program Expenses	32,030	27,253	34,985



FINANCIAL REPORTS



St. Thomas Operating Fund Profit & Loss Comparison *(continued from previous page)*

	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Proposed 2016
5080—Church Operating Expense			
5034—Database/Bookkeeping	10,000	11,748	12,000
5041—Cleaning Staff	25,000	19,120	20,000
5056—Supply Choir Director	400	151	400
5067—Supply Organist	1,750	2,348	2,100
5069—Supply Clergy	2,000	1,866	2,000
5082—Cleaning Supplies	2,500	1,936	2,000
5083—Computer/Copier	11,000	8,260	9,000
5084—Insurance	9,000	8,856	9,000
5085—Lawn Care	4,000	4,706	4,000
5086—Office Supplies	3,500	2,705	3,000
5087—Repairs & Maintenance	18,500	25,772	20,000
5089—Telephone/Internet	4,000	3,781	4,000
5090—Utilities/Garbage Removal	16,000	16,331	16,000
5092—Website	250	535	750
5094—Snow Removal	1,500	2,415	3,000
5095 - Contract Services	500	738	750
5096—Bank & Merchant Charges	1,200	3,909	4,000
5097—Postage	3,000	3,357	3,000
6517—Flowers/Gifts	500	406	500
TOTAL 5080—Church Operating Exp.	114,600	118,939	115,500
5090—Misc. Expenses	0	153	0
6000—Rectory Expenses			
6002—Lawn Care	3,100	3,084	3,000
6002b—Snow Removal	500	420	1,000
6003—Misc.	650	662	650
6004—Repairs & Maintenance	2,500	1,575	2,000
6006—Utilities	5,500	4,805	5,000
TOTAL 6000—Rectory Operating Exp.	12,250	10,546	11,650
7000—STP Expenses	141,926	167,234	186,153
6510—Ministry Outside Congregation			
6511—Diocesan Assessment	135,440	138,469	136,348
6515—Rector's Discretionary Outreach	500	500	500
6516—Special Offering	1,500	3,769	1,500
6523—MDG	4,547	4,638	4,545
TOTAL 6510—Ministry Outside Cong.	141,987	147,375	142,293
TOTAL EXPENSE	858,213	870,432	926,254
NET INCOME	2,485	25,453	3,570

¹ The Anonymous Grant (Line 4527) is a gift we receive each summer in the amount of \$40,000-50,000. This annual donation is part of a 20-year, one million dollar gift begun in 2009. There are no restrictions on the use of this money, although the vestry prefers to place it in long-term funds when possible.



FINANCIAL REPORTS



Fund Balances - as of December 31, 2015

Operating	68,252.52	Library/Bookstore	1,192.03
Assistant Clergy	1,322.22	Memorials	9,067.42
Barry Keller Fund	3,259.67	Ministry Training	20,394.99
Capital Fund	112,951.48	Rector's Continuing Education	3,463.11
Cash Reserve	3,997.49	Sabbatical Fund	3,924.33
Children's Ministry Development	573.01	Shawl Ministry Fund	1,343.33
Columbarium	27,356.18	Speaker's Fund	3,279.22
Community Urgent Needs	10,603.11	Staff Training Fund	3,398.12
Designated Flower Fund	6,618.44	Thank Offering Fund	2,017.33
Designated Gifts	2,417.81	The Bilkey Memorial Fund	11,127.99
Endowment	438,169.06	The St. Thomas Playhouse Fund	12,613.08
Families	0	Youth Ministry Development	7,644.55
Haiti	1,701.57		
Labyrinth	0	TOTAL	756,961.06

St. Thomas Playhouse - Profit & Loss Comparison

	2015 Actuals	2016
<u>INCOME</u>		
Administration	23,425	22,500
Children's Tour	5,045	7,670
Company B	64,378	63,900
Company B 2	0	30,625
Company B—Winterized	7,400	6,650
Family Main Stage	16,338	22,250
Girlfriends' Lunch	18,450	23,650
SPACC	41,612	46,200
Summer Theater Project	7,550	13,650
TOTAL INCOME	184,198	237,095
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Administrative	16,551	18,020
Children's Tour	4,720	7,750
Company B	40,042	36,100
Company B 2	0	22,510
Company B—Winterized	3,569	4,525
Family Main Stage	32,760	32,713
Girlfriends' Lunch	7,374	13,350
SPACC	42,523	35,850
Summer Theater Project	15,791	15,335
TOTAL EXPENSES	163,330	186,153
NET INCOME/LOSS	20,868	50,942



FINANCIAL REPORTS



Annual Giving Campaign by Paul Ahern, Chair, Stewardship Committee

As of January 19, 2016

Number of families pledging:	183
Dollars pledged:	\$459,385*

Inspired by the “God the Giver” theme chosen for this year’s Annual Giving Campaign, your Stewardship Committee set the ambitious pledge goal of \$500,000. This goal was a substantial increase over last year’s record setting level, but as the poet Robert Browning famously declared: “Ah, but a man’s reach should exceed his grasp, or what’s a heaven for?”

We came up short of our goal, but not for lack of effort. Based upon approximately the same number of families pledging (183 this year versus 180 last year), total pledges as of the date of this report total \$459,385 - almost identical to the \$459,320 raised last year by this date.

At the outset of our effort last fall, I predicted that this would be one of our most joyful and gratifying annual campaigns. We definitely experienced a lot of joy during the campaign. I have particularly fond memories of (1) a very enjoyable note-writing party hosted by Maryanne and Jerry Whitcomb, (2) our celebratory gathering at the campaign’s formal conclusion, and (3) hearing from our volunteer speakers on Sundays – most memorably, our youngest advocate Holden Archie.

It was also a joy to watch increased pledges (over the previous campaign) outpace decreased pledges by a wide margin: 56 Up to 35 Down – and also to welcome the contributions of 16 new families pledging for the first time.

This year’s effort did achieve a most gratifying result in the end. Combined with the healthy amount of unpledged donations we received in addition to formal pledges, the combined total of this year’s annual giving campaign has permitted the Vestry to set a 2016 budget that includes funding for the major enhancements we had hoped to achieve: the first real raise for church staff above cost of living adjustments in two years as well as the additional funding needed to support our growing needs for pastoral care services. Praise be to God the Giver!

None of this could have been achieved without the impressive dedication of God the Giver’s helpers on the Stewardship Committee: Vice Chair Maryanne Whitcomb and Members John Ashton, Nancy Cord, Page Klune, Sandra Maier, Sara Pettit, and Patience Ziebarth. The parish also owes a great debt of gratitude to Father Ken and Judi Fuller for their extraordinary support of the campaign. Many Vestry members and other parishioners jumped in to provide special help as well. Finally, of course, the ultimate heroes of the campaign are all of you who chose to share some of the gifts that God has showered upon you with Saint Thomas and our larger community. Thank you very much.



* This amount includes actual pledge cards received as well as pledges made over the phone.



MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Altar Guild by Mary Malkmus

It is the job of the Altar Guild members to attend to all the “behind-the-scenes” tasks that make the Sunday services run smoothly, thus providing a meaningful worship experience for all. We also ready the altar for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Many thanks to our team: Catherine Carley, Judy Harrison, Delicia Reily, Mary Ann Syms, Anne Zauner, Patience Ziebarth, Shannon Besoyan, Betsy Ashton, Linda Staum, Beverly Boas, Sandra Willingham, and Lynn Campion-Wadell. We welcome new members: Debi Guerricaechevarria, Connie Hoffman, Sue Phillips, Barbara Shelton and Vickrie White. We were sad to say good-bye to Anne Zauner, who has been a faithful member for so many years.



If this kind of service to St. Thomas appeals to you, please contact Father Ken or Mary Malkmus (622-3949).

The Green Team by Linda Bergerson

The Green Team is a small ministry of the church with an almost unlimited scope of projects intended to protect our planet Earth, given to us by God to use and preserve.

We continued our education of the congregation with our weekly tips in the Sunday bulletin and the battery recycling basket is still by the front door of the church to encourage safe disposal. The recycling containers remain in the back hall of the church to help the church recycle and provide encouragement for all of us to do the same in homes and offices. With the support of our congregations, St. Thomas and Emmanuel twice cleaned our highway section and will continue this ministry to the valley.

This year the children celebrated Earth Day by learning about the good that trees do to our environment. Each child got a seedling to take home and plant. The adults learned about the new bicycle “Ride Share” program in Ketchum. St. Thomas sponsored the bicycle hub and check out rack in front of the Visitor Center. With the church logo, we put “for the beauty of the earth” on top of the rack.

The vestry has adopted our project of a solar light in the parking lot and we hope to have it installed in the spring. The Green Team also continues to investigate alternate lighting inside and outside the church to save energy and show us all what can be done.

Shawl Committee

We have just approached our eight-year anniversary and have completed well over 200 hand knit shawls from our ministry. We continue to knit and deliver shawls to show God's love and caring to people who are experiencing special needs or events in their lives.

We are always looking for new knitters and all knitting instructions are available. Beginners are definitely welcome! We meet the second Wednesday most months in our Fireside Room at 4:00 P.M. Not all are always able to attend but we continually have “knitters at home”, knitters in the passenger seats on trips and knitters far and away.

Our blessing is continually hearing back from the recipients revealing their gratitude in receiving such a meaningful gift. Please join us!



Highway Clean-Up Day, October 17, 2015.



MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Columbarium

by Norah Bretall

The committee, comprised of Norah Bretall, Beverly Boas, Dave Hitchin, Sally Horn, Carol Karner, and Father Ken, administers the maintenance and use of the Columbarium and recommends policy to the vestry. Our committee also sponsors the annual "Hole-in-the-Wall" celebration of life party, hosted in July, 2015 by Beverly Boas. Also, new this year, the Committee set aside a congregational walk-through of the Columbarium after the 9:30 service on June 14 followed by a coffee hour hosted by the Committee.

The Committee continues to provide publications which assist with end of life planning, which include the Episcopal Foundation publication, *Planning for the End of Life*, which is available for \$5.00 in the church office. We also have available copies of the Idaho End of Life Coalition book, *The Right Choice at the Right Time*, which are available on loan or may be purchased for \$25.00. This book gives details about the Idaho registry for individual health proxy and advance directive decisions. It also provides other advance planning tools.

St. Thomas' Columbarium, created in 2003, is an appropriate alternative to a church cemetery. It is a beautiful consecrated garden setting where an enclave of niches and urns holds the ashes of deceased communicants. In addition to housing 94 niches, the Columbarium includes a Memorial Plaque with space for 56 nameplates. This Plaque is provided for communicants who wish to have their ashes scattered or interred elsewhere.

As of December 31, 2015, the balance in the Columbarium Fund was \$27,356.18. During 2015, reservations were made for 3 niches. At present, only 13 nameplates are available for \$300 each, 24 niches are available for \$1,000 each, and 9 larger niches for personal-sized urns are available and may be reserved for \$2,000. There are no additional expenses or annual maintenance fees. An additional nameplate board has been purchased after approval by the vestry and will be installed later. Father Ken Brannon can help families evaluate appropriate Columbarium alternatives and memorial services.

Please visit the Columbarium which currently is being maintained beautifully and seasonally by Beverly Boas. The garden is located adjacent to the main entry of the Church. All members of the Committee are available to review the process for reservations or to answer any questions.

Flower Guild

by Betsy Ashton

The Flower Guild is responsible for the two altar arrangements every Sunday. There is no obligation for how many Sundays we work – we're very flexible. We work alone or in pairs. We buy the flowers from various sources in and around Ketchum or from a Boise wholesale florist that delivers to the church. In the summer months, we try to use flowers from local gardens.

The flowers are bought with monies from the Flower Fund that is supported by donations. We welcome memorials and dedications for weekly flowers and will mention them in the Sunday church bulletin.

Our talented and dedicated members are: Laurie Ahern, Toni Breck, Lynn Campion, Mary Colhoun, Pat Davies, Randi Filoon, Pat Jorgenson, Page Klune, Sandra Maier, Mary Malkmus, Becka Pettygrove, Sue Phillips, Becky Smith, Georgia Stewart, Dookie Tingle, Chris Vik, Candy Walton, Vickrie White, Sandra Willingham, Sheila Witmer, and Patience Ziebarth. There are no requirements for joining the Flower Guild – just a willingness to enhance our Sunday service. Please think about joining us! It's a very small time commitment with a very big payoff! Betsy Ashton, 726-7611 or taadah@ashton.fm

Healing Ministry

by Judy Harrison

Healing is as available today as it was when Jesus walked the earth and performed miracles. Come join us each Wednesday at 1 PM and pray for yourself or others in need of Healing. We pray "without a doubt in our heart" that the Lord God will hear our prayers and answer them in His own time. We gather to pray for those on our parish prayer list and those in need of spiritual or physical healing and to partake of Holy Communion.

The door to the Healing God is open. We invite you to join this powerful healing community of prayer and pray for yourself or others in need of healing.



MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Adult Education Committee

by Don Liebich, Chair,

The 2015 Adult Education program featured a diverse selection of programs designed to promote discussion and exploration of topics reflecting contemporary faith and cultural issues. St. Thomas Forum discussions topics included:

Spiritual, But Not Religious

Religious Persecution

Celtic Christianity

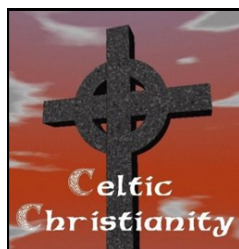
Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?

Biblical Interpretation

Racism

In addition to St Thomas Forum the Adult Education program included sessions on music and liturgy, General Convention issues and topics, and stewardship.

As we plan for 2016, we welcome suggestions of topics to be covered and any volunteers willing to plan and lead session. If you are interested, please contact Don Liebich. (donliebich@gmail.com)



Garden & Grounds

by Kaye Kearns

It was a banner year for the gardens at Saint Thomas in 2015! Many of the shrubs and perennials, added in the last 3 years, were at their most beautiful now that they are established. We contracted the services of a landscape company for the first time this year which was really helpful in keeping the lawn healthy and well maintained. The company works on the lawn (mowing, aerating, fertilizing, edging & monitoring the irrigation) at both at the church and the rectory. Our committee continues to maintain the flower beds and make improvements to the garden design. In addition, the Garden Committee communicates with and oversees the projects of the landscape company.

One of the accomplishments of 2015 was to clean up two beds adjacent to the parking lot. This included updating the irrigation to the trees along the sidewalk, putting down a weedcloth barrier and finishing the beds with a covering of rock for low maintenance and a neat appearance.

During the Ministry Fair, the Garden Committee gained several new volunteer sign-ups! A very exciting and welcome development. With more help, the tasks can be rotated and we have more fun with less time involved. Many thanks to all of our volunteers! We will get off to a great start in the spring as there is always lots to do in the growing season. Please call me, Kaye Kearns, (208 788-1881) if you would like to join our committee.

Art Committee & Community Labyrinth

by Judith Smooke

Yes, we do have an Art Committee, evidenced by the lovely piece donated by Sidney and Richard Brooks in 2015 that is displayed in the columbarium. If you would like to make a donation for a memorial or an honorific, please see Judith Smooke. If you would like to make a gift of art to St. Thomas for any reason please also see Judith Smooke. We need to assess appropriateness and display potential. We do have some pieces in mind that we would like to purchase if you would like to make a donation to the Art Committee.

John Sweek has been maintaining our lovely labyrinth twice a year by filling in cracks that develop. At some point the labyrinth will have to be redone completely. If you have enjoyed walking it and feel it is important for our church and community, we would welcome any donations toward its refurbishing. Please see Judi or me regarding this. And, please begin your new year by walking the labyrinth any time. It is available all the time, weather permitting.

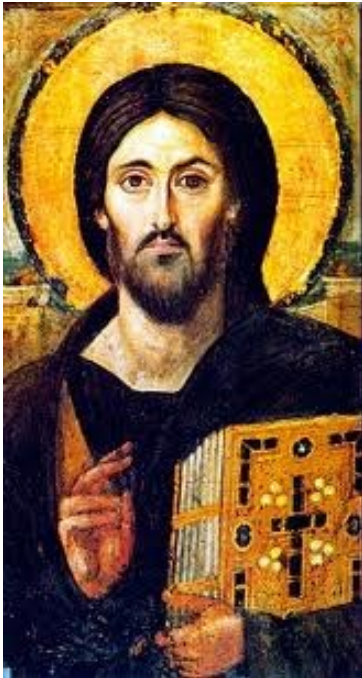


MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Taizé

by Georgia Stewart



The weekly Taizé services held at St. Thomas during the winter months are now fully established in our yearly calendar. The services in this series began in Advent of 2014, and continued in 2015 until the beginning of Lent in mid-February. These beautiful candlelight services of song, silence, and prayer were conducted on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the nave. This year we experienced increased interest and participation from the interfaith community in the Valley.

The contemplative prayer form that has become known as “Taizé Prayer” takes its name from the Taizé community of France, founded in the early 1940’s by Brother Roger. For more than 60 years, until his death in 2005, Brother Roger worked tirelessly to open ways to heal the divisions between Christians and among people in general. The Taizé community is made up of more than 100 brothers from Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox backgrounds who come from 25 countries. Every year thousands of young adults from every continent go to Taizé to pray and to prepare themselves to work for peace, reconciliation, and trust.

The St. Thomas service is crafted around the worship style of Taizé. It includes music from the Taizé community as well as other music in the style of Taizé. It incorporates two distinguishing marks of Taizé-like worship: repetition and silence.

St. Thomas Book Group

by Laurie Ahern

Started at least ten years ago by Jeanne Cassell and Judith Smooke, the St. Thomas Book Group is thriving. The group continues to be open to anyone in the Wood River Valley, member of our church or not. We feel this is a vital outreach by our church to the larger community. Our email list includes 22 members and we have been averaging 12 per meeting.

This year we are reading fiction and non-fiction on a variety of topics. Members choose the upcoming books as a group, with one member responsible for research of the authors and leading the discussion. Notice of our meetings are sent to members by email and are advertised in the Sunday bulletin. We meet every second Monday of the month at 1:30 in Classroom 1, except for our break during the busy summer months. All are welcome!

New Member Ministries

by John Stevens

The Newcomer Committee is currently collaborating with the Hospitality Committee on a variety of outreach efforts to effectively welcome and engage new visitors at St. Thomas, encourage church membership, and provide information and opportunities related to various church ministries. For more information or to get involved, contact John Stevens, john@stevenswilliams.com.



MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Music Ministry

by Joel Bejot

I was hired as the Organist and Music Director and began work at St. Thomas in December 2013.

Organist: In 2015, I played for 66 Eucharist services (including weddings and funerals), and 29 other services or events. I practice regularly, and attempt to balance supporting congregational singing with creative hymn accompaniments, as well as to offer one recital per year, which I gave on July 12.

Music Director:

Parish Choir: We have done great work this year! In addition to singing hymns and anthems nearly every week, the choir does yeoman's work over the holidays. I felt as though their work on Christmas was especially nice. 42 folks have sung with the choir this year, with an average of 16. I am always happy to meet and encourage new singers. Are you our newest chorister?

Children's Choir: The year began with having few children available to sing for the Après-ski services. However, we rebounded and ended the year with singing for Easter and "Kids Up Front" day in May. We use the RSCM "Voice for Life" curriculum, and four children were able to move up to the next ribbon. In the fall, several children checked out our first couple of rehearsals, and 10 have stuck with it. In March, we will perform at the Twin Falls Music Club festival in Hailey. These kids learn so much, and have so much to offer the church and the community.

Evensong Choir: This year, we decided to have choral evensong toward the end of the month, on Sundays at 5:30. Our choir of around ten people worked on a lot of great music. I'm especially proud of their work doing Anglican Chant. Several different priests and laypeople officiated at the service on a rotating basis. Forty people attended our final service. In 2016, our evensong services will be held April – December on the fourth Sundays of the month, or the Sundays before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Other: In January, I collaborated with Jessica, Sara, and Fr. Ken with our first-ever "Messy Church."

In February, I recruited acts and accompanied the annual Shrove Tuesday Talent Show.

In March and April, we observed Lent, and celebrated Easter, as well as Earth Sunday.

In May, I hired a string trio to help us celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.

In July and August, I hosted 4 recitals at St. Thomas, as part of the concert series "Songs of Devotion and Exaltation." Thanks to the many who donated, 2015 was a financial success! We ended the year with enough to continue the concert series in 2016.

In September, I co-hosted the music booth at the Ministry Carnival.

In November, I traveled to Burley as the staff delegate to Diocesan Convention. While there, I also helped out by accompanying several of our worship services.

St. Thomas Playhouse:

I was a singer in one of the numbers at the Girlfriend Lunch. For Company B, I helped teach songs to the kids as a Music Teacher. For *Children of Eden*, I was the Children's Music Director. It was an honor to be asked to teach music to the kids this year. I continue to collaborate with Brett and Sara in the office and in our regular staff meetings. I look forward to being the Music Director for "Aristocat Kids."

Thank you all very much for the opportunity to live and work here. It has been a wonderful year, artistically, and I owe so much of that to "St. Thomas and its good people."

Joel Bejot



Haiti Relief Team by Helen Morgus and Art Dahl

In many parts of the world, 2015 was a tumultuous time. In Haiti this was especially the result of political unrest surrounding national elections. By the grace of God and through the heroic efforts of Father Joseph Constant, his mother Marie Therese Charite and all the folks on the ground in Mirebalais, the safety and development of the children of the Haiti Micah Project (HMP) continued apace.

HaRT's 2015 Milestones

April ~HaRT kicked off the annual sponsorship renewal for our dear Haitian children. At coffee hour Bobbie Dahl offered a story and slide show of the HMP experience from the perspective of a typical child saved by the program.

May ~Parishioners responded generously. About 80 individuals, couples or groups sponsored 78 Micah children. One new sponsor was the Vestry of Emmanuel Church in Hailey. You at St. Thomas have sponsored most of these children since 2010, sustaining HMP's work through times of turmoil.

~JoEllen Collins organized a sewing bee, held at Marcia Liebich's house. Seven volunteers made dozens of dresses and skirts for the Micah children and caregivers. Children modeled skirts and Father Ken blessed the clothing in July.



June ~Initial parliamentary elections in Haiti seemed to go smoothly but storm clouds gathered on the horizon.

August ~ A 15 year old Micah child died of leukemia, only the second death since 2010. Remarkable health of the HMP children is attributable to the safety, health care, good diet and clean water HMP provides
~ Helen Morgus and Art Dahl shared a joyous lesson with Sunday School children, showing pictures and telling about what St Thomas and HMP are doing for the Micah kids in Haiti.



September ~ HaRT members Pat Davies and Susie King spearheaded a back-to-school shoe drive for Micah kids. HaRT shipped 30 pairs of shoes to HMP.

October ~ Initial presidential elections in Haiti were followed by waves of civil disruption. HMP feeding program stopped for a few days then continued. Safety of the children comes first.

November/December ~ Civil unrest continued; presidential runoff election was postponed. Father Joseph and a disappointed HaRT contingent postponed a visit to Mirebalais that was planned for January. HMP's work for the children continued without pause.

Today ~ As the Haiti Micah Project celebrates 10 years of serving the poorest children of



Mirebalais, its first children have begun to graduate from high school. A brand new vocational center is nearing completion to serve their needs. Sophie Craighead, a friend of HaRT member Sandra Willingham, has been its major underwriter, and is honored to have Father Joseph call the facility "Kay Sofi," which is "Sophie's Place" in Creole. When Father Joseph was asked at year-end how the unrest is impacting HMP, he said, "With hurricane, earthquake and civil unrest there is no choice but to keep on going." The people of St. Thomas are helping keep the Haiti Micah Project going, no matter what. God bless you.



Youth Ministries

by Sara Gorby

WINTER: Youth volunteered for Ketchum Community Dinners and at stations during Messy Church. Messy Church was a really exciting and fun new addition to Saturday Après Ski Services. It was also really special to be together and worship during the services versus having children and youth leave for Sunday School or Youth Group. Highlight: Middle School Lock-In was a blast; we made dinner together, played games, watched a movie and deepened our relationships with one another. We burned palms together to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent show were very special. To see our children, youth and adult come together for a truly intergenerational time of fellowship was inspiring! Having Father Jesse Vaughn with us for part of the season was refreshing and wonderful.



SPRING: Easter brought record numbers of youth to church, both to volunteer and to share in worship and fellowship. Middle School youth worked on a project for several weeks using masks, "The Mask We Wear." On the outside of the mask, we decoupled pictures, colors and words that describe how others see us. On the inside, we decoupled how we see our inner struggles and ourselves. This hands-on project opened new conversations for us. It was a great reflection on what we can work on to better ourselves and also reflect on the areas of confidence and right balance in our lives. Highlight: We honored our 8th-graders moving onto High School Youth Group and 5th-graders moving into Middle School Youth Group with *Rites of Passage*. We honored our graduating seniors with an emotion filled moment during the service

with gifts and blessing for transitioning into the next phase of their lives. It is delightful to celebrate with all our children and youth as they grow in faith and life.

SUMMER: Many youth participated in St. Thomas Playhouse programs over the summer both as actors and as interns. The opportunity for leadership training and artistic expression that our youth experience through St. Thomas Playhouse programs and productions is unusual and sets St. Thomas Church apart from other parishes. It is truly a unique ministry that speaks to children and youth as they explore spiritually in an ever-changing world. Telling stories together, singing together and dancing together are only part of what you see. There are the conversations in the kitchen around a bowl of popcorn and left over treats from coffee hour. There are the breakthroughs, not only artistic, but also spiritual as the individual actors create community with their fellow actors. We may not all agree and see eye to eye, but we love and respect one another. Highlight:



We had several youth go to dinner and then attend The Spots production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. We left the space feeling uplifted. The honesty of each perspective and human nature of each spelling bee competitor were refreshing. We all enjoyed the show and our time together.

FALL: Wagon Days is always a bit hit. The Youth Group and I would like to thank everyone who supports this fundraiser! The Ministry Fair was a great kick off to the start of the school year. Blessing the backpacks. Jessica also made sure the youth were included in these new offerings. Thank you Jessica! We have three new Middle School Youth join us this fall. We love it when friends from Playhouse join the church and we love to have

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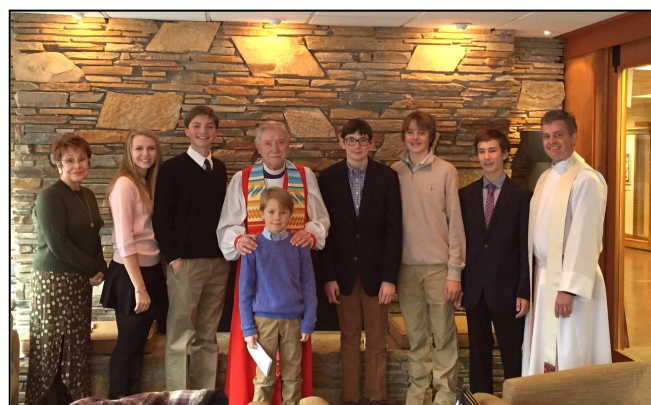
Youth Ministries

by Sara Gorby



parishioners invite friends who find comfort, peace and fun in our group. Middle School and High School youth all went to Bald Mt. Pizza and then bowling at the new beautiful Sun Valley Lodge Bowling Alley. We had a blast together!

Throughout the year youth served as Acolytes, Nursery care workers, Oblation Bearers, Collectors, Lectors, Greeters, Psalmist and shared their talents musically. They wrapped, sorted labeled and delivered gifts.



It was very exciting to have a Teen Confirmation Class led by Father Ken. Five youth were confirmed into the Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 27th by Retired Bishop of Idaho John Thornton. Father Ken also baptized one of those young people prior to being confirmed. It was a highlight of the Christmas season!

Youth Ministries has a lot of room for growth. In 2016 I hope to have the adults offer support, not just with prayers and kind words when you see a young person at church, but by giving your time to our youth group; they need your presence. We are also very excited about the Formation website for St. Thomas that will offer teachers and parents online resources for ministry. You can find it at www.formation.stthomassunvalley.org.

I would like to thank our mentors! They are so faithful and dedicated: Page Klune and Sara Pettit, “thank you, Bobbie Dahl, for your time spent with our youth”, Helen Morgus with Ketchum Community Dinners. and we welcome JoEllen Collins as a new mentor. **WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR MORE YOUTH MENTORS!**

Pastoral Care

by Father Ken

In 2015, in the absence of a designated pastoral care coordinator, I served as chair of the pastoral care team. We took a close look at this ministry and discussed how we might be more effective in the future. We met monthly to pray, train as pastoral caregivers, review the parish prayer list, and discuss specific ways to help those in need. The proposed budget for 2016 includes monies to hire a part-time pastoral care coordinator, but we are still defining the position and considering how best to proceed.

As members of the parish, here is how you can do your part on behalf of pastoral care:

- ♦ Pray for those in need.
- ♦ If you would like to add someone to the parish prayer list, please fill out a green card in the office or call Judi Fuller. You must have the person's permission or the permission of the primary caregiver if the person can't give permission for him or herself. Let the office know if someone can be removed from the parish prayer list or if the person's condition has changed.
- ♦ Even if you do not want to be on the pastoral care team, let us know if you are available to provide a meal, offer a ride, write a card, or pay a visit.
- ♦ Remember that members of the pastoral care team are available to talk, pray, and offer simple assistance during a difficult time. Members of the team are not a replacement for family, friends, clergy, or other professional caregivers.



MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Children and Families Ministries

by Jessica Bejot

What a wonderfully full year we've had. Something big was happening nearly every month. As I write this report I'm reflecting on the many blessings we were given. To God be the Glory!

- January Epiphany Services - This year they continued a family -friendly worship beginning on the labyrinth with a bonfire, apple cider, the burning of our Christmas tree boughs and ending inside with candle light Eucharist.
Après Ski Services - Sunday School lessons were suspended in favor of a smaller, more intimate Family Worship style complete with interactive sermons and plentiful opportunities for all ages to serve during the service.
Messy Church - Three of the Après Ski Services were celebrated with Messy Church a creative approach to worship, allowing participants to experience the lectionary readings through craft, meditation, drama and song.
- February Shrove Tuesday- Another year to celebrate the beginning of Lent with our annual Pancake Dinner and Talent Show. This year accommodated dietary needs which allowed for a larger participation.
- April Easter - In spite of the snow, approximately 80 children arrived to celebrate on Easter morning. With double the kids and zero access to the outdoors, our egg hunt was met with some quick thinking and welcome creativity!
- May Rite of Passage - During the Spring Kids-Up-Front Day, children who were making a transition to new Sunday School classes were prayed for and given a gift to mark their transition.
Mother's Day - Pansies were passed out to all the mother's by the children in celebration.
- June Artist in Residence - The book, *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney, was the focus for our Artist in Residence program this year. The children learned about God's giving love, while perfecting their skill in retelling a story.
Father's Day - We invited 208 Photo Booth to take silly pictures of families in celebration.
- July Grand Days of Summer - 9 Grands in our parish shared their God-given talents with the elementary Sunday School children on summer Sunday mornings. The gifts shared ranged in talents from architecture, hospitality, to Idaho flowers and weeds.
- August Redfish Lake Day - Our summer parish beach-side Eucharist and water play day was warm, sunny, and sweet. The Rev. Pamela Dolan led our service after a day paddle boating, sun bathing, and pot-luck lunch.
- September Ministry Carnival - The Children and Family Ministries Committee hosted the parish wide ministry fair and registration carnival. Nearly every ministry was represented with a booth and representative. The event was a great success with plans to do it again this year.
Blessing of the Backpacks - Children starting school were invited to bring their backpacks to the 9:30 service to receive a blessing on their supplies and the school year. They were given a small token to remember their parish family would be praying for them throughout the year.
Building Faith Brick by Brick - Our 2nd and 3rd graders were blessed with a new Sunday School curriculum featuring story telling with Legos. It has been our best attended class so far this year.
- October Sunday School Teacher Training - A community teacher consultant was brought in to do a training on classroom management for our Sunday School Teaching Staff. The training has made a positive impact on our classes.
- November Formation Website - Our St. Thomas website was expanded to add a new Formation section. Anything related to formation from birth through adulthood is featured there. You can access it directly by clicking on any of the formation ministries or on our website at formation.stthomassunvalley.org.
- December St. Nick Sunday - Children of all ages were delighted to have St. Nicolas join us for his annual visit.
Nativity Pageant - This past Christmas felt so full, warm and familiar. We had a record number of angels at the 4 p.m. service, an all female cast of the wise magi at the 2 p.m., and the youngest and most willing sheep in both services. It's always such a joy to give the children important roles in remembering the story of Christ's birth.



MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



St. Thomas Playhouse by Brett Moellenberg

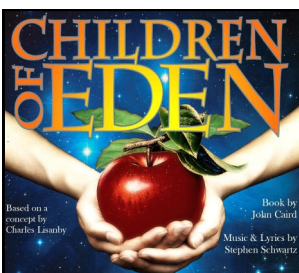
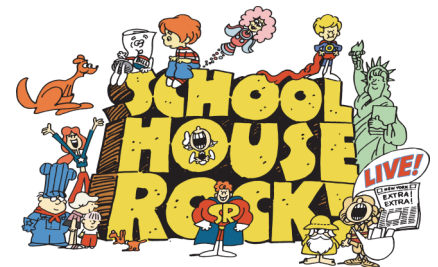
It was another year of progress for St. Thomas Playhouse! With our programming for children nearing max capacity on all fronts, Playhouse is adding a completely new day camp in August of 2016 which will provide more income, employment opportunities and, of course, another show for the kids to perform in! While our 2015 season took risks in its artistic content, both *Urinetown* (our Summer Theatre Project for Young Adults) and *Children of Eden* (our Family Main Stage) continued to broaden our audience and restored a professional and collaborative atmosphere for Playhouse, which led to an increase in donations and acclaim for our work. For that, we are so proud. As always, thank you to Travis Reed, Paul and Jane Hansen and all of our treasured patrons and donors for their major contributions and everlasting support of St. Thomas Playhouse. Another huge thank you to the Playhouse Charter Committee, led by Rebecca Waycott and Heather Black for assisting us in all we do and generously donating their time to us.

Our year began with our annual GIRLFRIEND CABARET LUNCHEON, which was attended by 100 generous women who had a delicious “Eden” inspired lunch, enjoyed our cabaret entertainment and helped us raise funds for our scholarship programs and annual fund.

That event is always quickly followed by the CHILDREN’S THEATRE TOUR, which reaches nearly every child in the Wood River Valley, as well as Camas County. *A Little Bit of Magic* was the show this year and we explored the word “unique” with the children. The tour is always generously sponsored by The Papoose Club.

Moving into the summer, we had our ever-popular COMPANY B PERFORMING ARTS DAY CAMP with over 120 children who had a fun and educational time presenting *Schoolhouse Rock Live Jr!* A really exciting feature of this camp was that every single member of our SUMMER THEATRE PROJECT production of *Urinetown* worked with the Company B kids during the day. This has never happened before, and we all loved being together all day.

We finished the summer with SPACC, our sleepaway camp, which nearly topped 50 kids from 6th Grade to High School.



The fall always brings our FAMILY MAIN STAGE, and this year’s production of *Children of Eden* left everyone in tears, as it told the story of family, perseverance and forgiveness. Our dynamic “in-the-round” seating ensured everyone had a great intimate experience. *Eden* was a major highlight of the year.

Finally, we concluded the year with a record 38 kids in our COMPANY B WINTERIZED CAMP, which featured the music of the late 1990s.

Playhouse is supported by the H. Edward Bilkey Memorial Fund, which benefits children who are in need of tuition assistance. We also receive a number of private grants, as well as support from the Campfire Foundation of Boise.

Sara Gorby and I thank St. Thomas Episcopal Church, the Playhouse Charter Committee, Father Ken, and the vestry for giving us the opportunity to reach out to the broader community through this ministry. We thank Judi Fuller and the rest of the St. Thomas staff for their help and support; and, we look forward to another theatre-filled year in 2016.



Neighborhood Walk

by Wally Morgus

St. Thomas Church conducted its Neighborhood Walk on Sunday, September 20, 2015, immediately following our 9:30am service. The Walk, including pre-walk organizing activities, walking, and post-walk lunch and discussion, comprised about three hours, with the actual walking accounting for about half of the time spent. The weather was beautiful – sunny with nary a cloud in the sky and the temperature around 70 degrees – an ideal day for our Walk.

Diocesan leadership – Bishop Brian and Canon Lucinda – asked each parish to undertake a Walk so that we might have greater knowing and understanding of our community. To be a happy, engaged, integral member of the community – and we like that! – knowing and understanding our community is key. This is where the Walk helped out; it was step (or many of them) towards raising our awareness of what, in all its nuance, lies on our doorstep. With this knowledge in hand, St. Thomas will be better-equipped to identify, serve, and enhance our opportunities – big and small – for ministry, collaboration, and engagement within our Ketchum/Sun Valley community. Our Walk yielded context and understanding that can inform and undergird decisions, actions, and ministries.

Approximately 30 people, composed of parishioners, staff, and clergy, ranging in age from ~4 years to 80+ years, participated in the Walk.

Before setting out on the Walk, the walkers met in the Church sanctuary. There, we:

- Divided up into 3-person teams. This was done mindfully, partnering people with others whom they did not know extremely well...i.e., “make new friends.”
- Assigned each team a unique route. Each team received a street map of Ketchum/Sun Valley with the team’s route – out a mile and back – highlighted on the map.
- Reviewed the questions – the “standard questions” from the Diocesan Office – that we wanted to answer while on the Walk.

The 3-person teams conducted the Walk along their assigned routes. The walkers re-convened at the Church, where they ate a catered lunch and discussed, within each team, the Walk...what was observed, opportunities for ministry, etc. The entire group re-convened in the sanctuary and shared their findings and observations.

A sampling of “discoveries” from the Walk:

- Walkers enjoyed the fellowship with one another on the Walk...this may have been the biggest benefit of the Walk.
- We discovered quiet, meditative spaces – for example, a pocket park beside a creek – within the city limits.
- On practically each route, walkers were struck by the paucity of people encountered (Sunday midday).
- We observed stores, restaurants, bars, a police station, a fire station, churches, a library, schools, parks, and many (mostly empty) residences (condos) – a broad mix of structures.
- We wondered whether the times of our Sunday services were appropriate (best accommodating) for the people in our neighborhood.

Ministry opportunities:

- Establish the Walk Ministry. Do a Walk periodically to observe our surroundings and share what we find with the congregation. The goal would be that other/additional ministries/community outreach would emanate from the observations made during Walks. The “Walk Ministry” would be a lever to other ministries.
- Some type of outreach to young, service workers, aka waiters, waitresses, bartenders.
- Fresh air. Friends. Fun. Fitness. Findings. Faith. No foolin’! That’s what’s in store for the fervently faithful who get their fannies functioning and find a way to join us.



MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Disaster Preparedness Committee by Heather Black

In the fall of 2015 a Disaster Preparedness Committee was established to address the request by the National Episcopal Church that all churches create a Disaster Preparedness Plan. The Diocese of Idaho has requested this plan be completed by November of this year. The “team” includes Chair Jon Thorson, Linda Thorson, Randy Hall, Angela Brady Hall, Mike Leach, Ken Brannon, Judi Fuller and from the Vestry: Heather Black, David Caldwell and Margie Gould.

The intention of the Disaster Preparedness Plan (DPP) is to inspire, connect and equip leaders of the Episcopal Church to prepare for hazards that might affect their communities, as well as mitigate the impact of those disasters and help the vulnerable make a full and sustained recovery.

A number of the committee members are directly involved with disaster preparedness for Blaine County and bring a wealth of knowledge to our meetings. We also have been working with a planning guide provided by the Episcopal Church so that we can make our plan relevant to St. Thomas. The situations for which we will be preparing include things that might happen to our facility (ie, flooding, fire, etc), our parishioners in the event of a widespread emergency (ie, wildfire, power outage, avalanche, etc.), as well as provide assistance to the community as resources allow.

In the near future every parishioner will be receiving a questionnaire that will provide us with vital information that will allow us to know who might be able to step in and help in an emergency and also what kind of assistance might be required of our parishioners in the event of an emergency. We highly recommend you complete the questionnaire when it arrives as it will help us to help you. You will be hearing more about the DPP over the course of this year but in the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one of the committee members to learn more.

Diocesan Convention by Tim Williams

Diocese of Idaho ~ 48th Diocesan Convention

November 6-8, 2015 ~ Best Western Hotel and Conference Center, Burley, Idaho

Delegates: Fr. Ken Brannon (Rector), Heather Black (Senior Warden), Ann Scales (Junior Warden), Joel Bejot, Beverly Boas (for Judy Harrison), Doug and Dydy Cleven, John Stevens and Tim Williams.

2015 Convention was held in Burley, Idaho on November 6 – 8 and was attended by 8 delegates from St. Thomas and Father Ken. Over the course of the weekend we participated in three break-out sessions entitled ‘Gather,’ ‘Transform,’ and ‘Send.’ In addition we participated in the passing of two resolutions one of which involved changes and additions to the national alcohol policy that was passed at the national convention last summer. We also participated in the elections and the approval of the diocese’s annual budget.



ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION



AGENDA

Sunday, January 31, 2016, 9:30 a.m.

The Rector is Chair of the Annual Meeting.

Every baptized person not less than 16 years of age who has been enrolled in the parish register for the three months preceding the annual parish meeting and has been a regular communicant of the parish shall be a voting member of the parish and may vote at parish meetings (St. Thomas Church Bylaws, adopted January 11, 2010.)

Holy Eucharist

(Brief break)

Call to order

Appointment of clerk

Additions to agenda

Approval of minutes from last year

Rector's report

Father Ken

Appointment of Senior Warden

Father Ken

Senior warden's report

Heather Black

Junior warden's report

Ann Scales

Nominating committee report

Helen Morgus

Elections

Appointment of tellers

Election of three new vestry members for three year terms

Nominees: Garry Pearson, Georgia Stewart, Vickrie Cutler White

Nominations from the floor (if any)

Distribution of ballots (if necessary)

Election

Election of six delegates and four alternate delegates to diocesan convention
(November 11-13, 2016, Red Lion Inn, Pocatello)

Nominees for delegate: Beverley Boas, Judi Fuller, Wendy Jaquet, John Stevens,
Tim Williams, Sheila Witmer

Nominees for alternate delegate: Tom Archie, Pat Jorgensen, Mike Leach, Lisa Leach

Nominations from the floor (if any)

Distribution of ballots (if necessary)

Election

Playhouse report

Brett Moellenberg

Annual giving campaign report

Paul Ahern

Treasurer's report for 2015

Doug Clevén

Presentation of budget for 2016

Doug Clevén

Announcement of election results (if necessary)

Presentation of Rector's Cross

Father Ken

Doxology

Joel Bejot

Adjournment

Brunch

*Many thanks to the Hospitality Committee for preparing the brunch today.
Volunteers are invited to help the vestry clean up afterwards.*



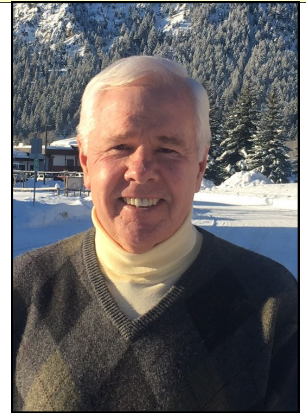
ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION



Nominations to the Vestry (2016-2019)

Garry Pearson

I was born, raised and educated in South Africa. Upon graduation I left for Europe and then on to Canada where I married my wife Suzie and we had two wonderful daughters, Candice (a member, with her family at St Thomas) and C.J. who resides with her family in London and members at Holy Trinity, Claygate. We spent 13 years in Toronto where I was CEO of a large Canadian printer before moving to Los Angeles in 1983 where I became a partner in Anderson Lithograph Company. We sold the company in 1996 and since that time I have been a private investor with businesses primarily on the West Coast. We purchased a second home in Sun Valley in 2006 after having visited for many years and moved here permanently in 2012. I invested in the successful magazine, SVPN, on arrival here and enjoy the exciting social, outdoor and business life that our Valley is so famous for. I look forward to the possibility of serving on the Vestry at St Thomas' and would hope to continue the growth of our church, providing a beacon of hope to our valley and a shining example for all residents and visitors to this remarkable place that we are so blessed to call home.



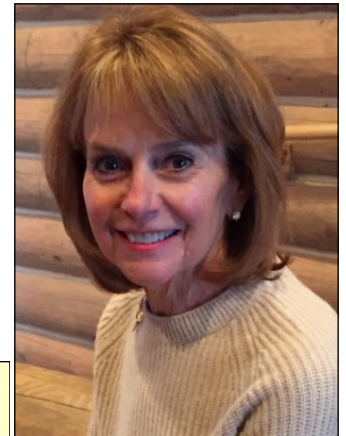
Georgia Stewart

I was born in Dillon, Montana, but my family relocated to Iowa when I was a small child. After finishing college in Missouri, I moved to New York City, where I worked first for the National Council of Churches and then for the College Board. In 1980 I married Todd, who was with the State Department, and moved to Washington, DC. There I worked for the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs when we weren't living abroad. We retired to Sun Valley in 2004 after having vacationed here for several years. Between us we have three children and four grandchildren, all of whom love the fact that we live in Sun Valley. One of my great life experiences was attending the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City last summer. I feel so good about our church, both nationally and locally.



Vickrie Cutler White

I was born and raised in Idaho, attended the University of Idaho and DePaul University, undergraduate, and the University of Chicago graduate school. I worked for Goldman Sachs in Chicago and briefly in New York. I have owned a home here since 1995 and after retiring from Goldman in 2006, I moved here and made this my primary residence. I started attending St. Thomas just a few years ago and was confirmed in October of last year. I am involved in altar guild, flower guild and paper angels. I am excited to serve on the vestry at St. Thomas and look forward to learning about and contributing to the church.



Nominations for 2016 Diocesan Convention Delegation

Each year, the Idaho Diocese of the Episcopal Church holds a convention; this year the convention will be held November 11-13, 2016, at the Red Lion Inn in Pocatello.

The nominees for delegates to Convention are:

Bev Boas

Judi Fuller

Wendy Jaquet

Sheila Witmer

John Stevens

Tim Williams

The nominees for alternate delegates to Convention are:

Tom Archie

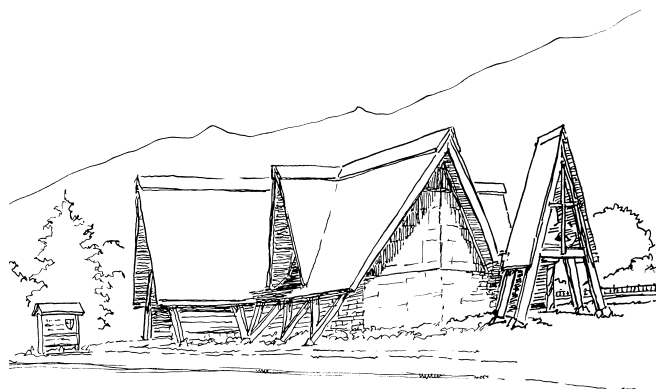
Pat Jorgensen

Mike Leach

Lisa Leach

In addition, the Rector, Senior Warden and Junior Warden serve as non-elected delegates.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



BISHOP	The Rt. Rev. Brian J. Thom
RECTOR	The Rev. Kenneth H. Brannon
VESTRY OFFICERS	Heather Black, Senior Warden Ann Scales, Junior Warden Doug Cleven, Treasurer Judi Fuller, Clerk
VESTRY MEMBERS	David Caldwell, Ragna Caron, Margie Gould, David Harrison, Page Klune, Wally Morgus, Mardi Shepard, Alyson Witmer
ADMINISTRATION	Jessica Bejot, Children and Family Ministries Director Joel Bejot, Music Director and Organist Judi Fuller, Parish Administrator Sara Gorby, Youth Director & Playhouse Education Director Brett Moellenberg, Playhouse Managing Director

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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