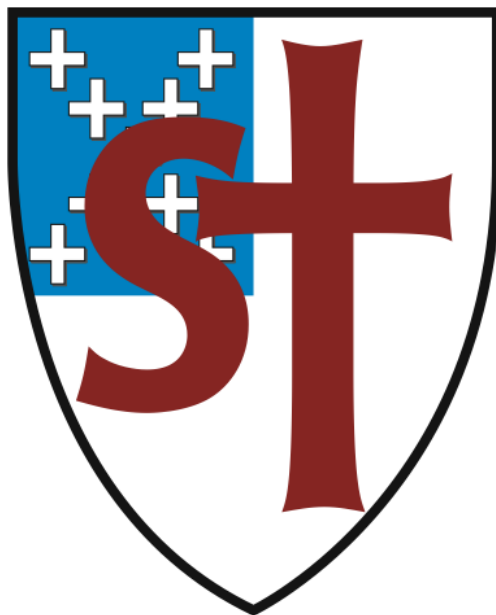


St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Sun Valley, Idaho

Annual Report 2016



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

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

~ TABLE OF CONTENTS ~

I. Year in Review	PAGE
Minutes of Last Meeting	4-5
Rector's Report	6
Senior Warden's Report	7
Junior Warden's Report	8
Treasurer's Report	9
Parish Report	10
Financial Reports	11-13
Annual Giving Campaign	14

II. Ministries, Programs and Activities

Altar Guild	15
Green Team	15
Disaster Preparedness Committee	15
Columbarium	16
Adult Education	17
Gardens and Grounds	17
Art Committee	17
Labyrinth Committee	17
Taizé	18
Book Club	18
Flower Guild	18
Music Ministry	19
Youth Ministry	20-21
Pastoral Care Committee	21
Haiti Relief Team	22
Children's Ministry	23
St. Thomas Playhouse Outreach	24
Diocesan Convention	25
Shawl Ministry	25

III. Annual Meeting Information

Agenda	26
Nominations to the Vestry	27
Nominations to Diocesan Convention	27



YEAR IN REVIEW



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Sun Valley, Idaho

ANNUAL MEETING
January 31, 2016
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Father Ken Brannon at 10:40 a.m. in the Sanctuary of the church.

Father Ken began with A Prayer for Quiet Confidence.

Judi Fuller was appointed Clerk for the Annual Meeting.

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

Judith Smooke moved and Marylyn Pauley seconded that the minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting be approved as written. The motion passed.

Father Ken quoted the passage from Saint Paul (Ephesians 4:15-16), saying that it has been his guiding passage for the past year. It was his hope for our church to grow to Christ in love. He and the congregation listed many things in the church that seem to be flourishing and working well; the welcoming nature of the services, a growing music program, the flourishing playhouse ministry, the strong Children, Youth and Family ministries, the solid financial status, the talented staff, the committed vestry. Likewise, areas for growth were mentioned; concern for people we haven't seen for a while and our job to reach out to them, ongoing resolution of the conflict with our former postulant, the future of the Pastoral Care team and program, building of the Endowment Fund, development of youth mentors and Paper Angels, and greater parish-wide attendance at Family Ministry events. He also mentioned that 2016 would be a year for engaging in a Strategic Planning process.

Father Ken announced his appointment of Heather Black as Senior Warden for the coming year.

Senior Warden Heather Black expressed her gratitude for the many blessings at St. Thomas. She pointed out that the Strategic Planning which was planned for 2015 was delayed by other priorities but will take place in the coming year. 2015 did, however, see the successful completion of the Neighborhood Walk and the establishment of our Disaster Preparedness Committee that will complete its work by Diocesan Convention this November. She thanked everyone for their support and thanked the rector for his guidance. She offered a challenge to all the church members to give generously of their time and talents to the many and varied ministries at St. Thomas.

In the Junior Warden's absence, Judi Fuller read Ann Scales report which included the accomplishments at the church and rectory this past year which included new blinds in the Parish Hall, the refinished trim around several windows and doors, the new coat racks, and the roof inspections at the rectory and church. Still to come is the solar parking lot light.

(continued on following page)



YEAR IN REVIEW



Helen Morgus, 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 (Ragna Caron, Ann Scales, Mardi Shepard, and Marylyn Pauley) and thanked them for their thoughtful work.

Father Ken led the elections, with Judy and David Harrison serving as Tellers, if needed. As there were no nominations from the floor, Father Ken suggested the slates be accepted by acclamation.

Nominees for vestry (Garry Pearson, Georgia Stewart, Vickrie White) were elected by acclamation.

Nominees for Diocesan Convention delegates (Bev Boas, Judi Fuller, Wendy Jaquet, John Stevens, Tim Williams, and Sheila Witmer) were elected by acclamation.

Nominees for Diocesan Convention alternate delegates (Tom Archie, Pat Jorgensen, Mike Leach, and Lisa Leach) were elected by acclamation.

Brett Moellenberg, Managing Director of the St. Thomas Playhouse, reviewed the programs in 2015, stressing the artistic growth of each production. He announced there would be a second Company B added to their activities in August. He presented the 2016 schedule and thanked the tremendous dedication and support from the Playhouse Charter Committee.

Paul Ahern, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, referred the congregation to his written report for specifics numbers about the 2016 Annual Giving Campaign, "God the Giver." He was pleased with the tone of the campaign and, indeed, God gave the church what it needed. He did point out that there were many first-time pledging families and he was specifically pleased to see so many increased pledges over past years. He thanked his committee, Father Ken and support staff.

Doug Cleven, Treasurer of the vestry, presented a summary of the financial statements found in the Annual Report. He proceeded to review the 2015 figures which indicated a positive balance at the end of the year of \$25,453. He reviewed the fund balances and the performance of the Endowment Fund (-3.8%). He presented the proposed 2016 budget, highlighting the reduced use of the annual anonymous donor grant (balance of the grant to be directed to possibly either the Capital Improvement Fund or the Endowment), a 3% raise for the clergy and staff, and the addition of a Pastoral Care part-time staff position. Roger Gould offered specifics on the Endowment and Cash Reserve accounts. There was a question from Jima Rice if our investments would continue to include companies with carbon based products. Doug Cleven moved and Doug Taylor seconded the acceptance of the proposed budget for 2016. The motion passed.

Father Ken Brannon awarded a Rector's Cross to Betsy Ashton for her steady, gracious, and un-sung efforts with the Flower Guild.

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

Wendy Jaquet moved and Marylyn Pauley seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by acclamation and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi Fuller, Clerk



2016 IN REVIEW



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



There is much to be grateful for in 2016!

- ♦ The visiting priest program continues, with the Rev. Jesse Vaughan joining us from March 3-April 12 and the Rev. Bill Harper providing coverage on select Sundays throughout the year. Both Father Vaughan and Father Harper will continue their involvement at St. Thomas in 2017.
- ♦ Helen Morgus received the Excellence in Mission Award from the Idaho Episcopal Foundation and a number of us were able to attend the Bishop's Banquet in Boise on May 14, when Helen spoke and received the award.
- ♦ The vestry went on retreat at the Monastery of the Ascension on May 3-4 and explored the theme, "Circles of Trust," with the Rev. Dan Hines facilitating.
- ♦ After much prayer and research, the pastoral care committee recommended, and the vestry approved, enrolling in the Stephen Ministries program, a one-to-one program of pastoral care. Father Ken, Maryanne Whitcomb, Helen Morgus, and Marcia Liebich will travel to Anaheim in early February to be trained as Leaders and they, in turn, will return to St. Thomas and train Ministers over the next year.
- ♦ Bishop Brian made his annual visitation to St. Thomas on Sunday, October 30, and led us in a service of healing, a theme which he explored with all the parishes of the Diocese during 2016.
- ♦ Diocesan Convention was held in Pocatello on November 11-13. Eight delegates from St. Thomas attended and had an opportunity to collect supplies for refugees (with help from Anne Zauner and the "Persecuted Christians" ministry), attend leadership workshops, conduct diocesan business, and enjoy fellowship with friends from around the Diocese. St. Thomas Playhouse received a grant from the Idaho Episcopal Foundation and Father Ken was elected as Chair of the Idaho Deputation to General Convention in Austin, TX in July, 2018.
- ♦ St. Thomas Church hosted the Wood River Interfaith Association for a Jewish-Christian Dialogue, the Blessing of the Animals, and the Thanksgiving celebration;
- ♦ The vestry began a strategic visioning process by hiring a consultant from the Episcopal Church Foundation, Erin Weber-Johnson. The steering committee has held a number of conference calls with her and the process will begin in earnest in early 2017. A questionnaire will be sent to all members of the parish in early February and Ms. Weber-Johnson will join us for in-person discussions on February 25-26. Mark your calendars and plan to attend one of the listening sessions. The formal process will wrap up in late May.
- ♦ We have made plans for a new worship service called "Sacred Space." The service will be held on Sunday evenings at 5:30 P.M. from January 15 – March 12 and will feature new music, poetry selections related to the gospel lesson, a shared approach to the sermon, and opportunities for silence and reflection.
- ♦ I am grateful for all the staff and parish leaders who make this good work possible. I am particularly grateful for Heather Black, who is stepping down as Senior Warden after serving for three years, and Jon Thorson, who has agreed to fill this role in the new year. And of course, I give thanks every day for my family – Rachel, Lucy, and Isaac – who ground me, challenge me, and bring me much joy.



Senior Warden Report by Heather Black

As an outgoing senior warden, I hope you will indulge me in a little personal reflection. In my 16 years at St. Thomas, I have filled many roles. From choir (as well as Evensong and bell) to working in the office for six months as the interim managing director of St. Thomas Playhouse (and currently serving as its' co-chair), or serving at the altar as acolyte, Eucharistic minister and lector and serving on the Vestry for six years, three of which were as senior warden... I have been greatly enriched by my time exploring so many of St. Thomas' exceptional ministries. To top it all off, my family recently has been on the receiving end of care and compassion from our church community. I feel I can say with authority through experience that the state of our [church] union is very sound.



I am happy to tell you that this church, thanks in large part to your contributions of time and resources, is both financially and spiritually healthy. Every time I attend the Diocesan convention, I am reminded of how very fortunate we are at St. Thomas. So many other parishes not only in Idaho, but across the nation, are struggling to find their way in this day and age and it comes at a time when so many in our communities need love and spiritual support. We, at St. Thomas are blessed to be able to offer this and to fulfill our Vision Statement.

The other reason St. Thomas is doing so well, it is most important to note, is not because of any one person, but the collective body. The Vestry and Stewardship teams certainly do their part, our volunteers and committees do their part, but truly it is the day-to-day work that happens here that makes this church's world go around. We would not be where we are without the amazing work and absolute dedication of the clergy and staff: Father Ken Brannon, Judi Fuller, Joel Bejot, Sara Gorby, Jessica Bejot and Brett Moellenberg. We must thank these people for their steadfast dedication to our spiritual home. Their faithfulness to our mission and to you, our parishioners, is something for which, we are most grateful. Please keep in mind, that one way we can show our gratitude is through volunteering. When you do so, you help to lighten the load... after all "Many hands make lighter work".

In the years I have spent at St. Thomas I have seen much, some of which involved some missteps, but on the whole, there is a joy here, even in difficult times, that feels like magic. It is the Holy Spirit as evidenced through good acts from and for this place, these people and our community. We are blessed to have such a thriving church. It not only feels good, but it IS good.



Junior Warden Report by David Caldwell

2016 was a busy and exciting year for your Junior Warden as I worked to bring focus to the various capital projects identified by Father Ken, Judi and the Vestry:

1. Parking Lot Light has been a high priority for the last few years and we were able to accomplish this task, installing a low energy LED light atop a reinforced base and light pole. A solar light was considered, but deemed unreliable, especially in the winter months, and the new LED light with photo sensor uses very little electricity.
2. We also installed a LED light with photo sensor above the sidewalk step leading to the lower courtyard as this was identified by our Sr. Warden as a hazard during the dark, icy winter months.
3. Rectory Roof was a priority because there had been a history of recent leaks that got a lot worse during last winter. The roof was replaced in July and so far Fr. Ken and family report no problems.
4. Parking Lot Sealing: We resealed and striped the parking lot after the installation of the light post.
5. Cross Lighting: The failed lights on the cross over the large windows of the nave were replaced with a single stand of low voltage LED lights and a dimmer switch was installed in response to a few requests from nearby neighbors to lower the intensity of the light as seen from Sun Valley Road at night.
6. Chancel Lighting: In response to the Altar Guild's desire to highlight altar decorations, new LED bulbs and a dimmer switch were installed in the chancel.
7. Tree Maintenance: With the help of Kaye and Jerry Kearns we removed one dead aspen tree along the west walkway, pruned all trees along the walkways and removed old lights that were girdling several of the beautiful trees.



2017 Projects to Consider:

1. Choir Loft Lighting: Replace all bulbs with LED and install a dimmer.
2. Ash Trees in Lower Courtyard: These are expensive trees that need "air knife" maintenance in the spring to assure they continue to thrive.
3. Big Screen in Narthex: There has been discussion about installing a large screen in the narthex and a camera in the nave so large overflow during holiday services and funerals can clearly see the altar.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Jr. Warden this past year at St. Thomas.



2016 IN REVIEW



Treasurer's Report by Doug Cleven

2016 income and expenses at St. Thomas continue to follow a historical trend. We continue to see a rise in Plate and Pledge offerings, and a slight decrease in Unpledged Grants. Our total income was 96.9% of budget. Thankfully expenses were under budget (95.7%), mostly due to the vacancy in the Pastoral Care position that was not filled. This position will not be budgeted for in 2017, but be replaced by the Stephen Ministries program. Our bottom line for 2016 was a positive \$3,656.

We continue to take a smaller amount of the Anonymous Grant as operating income. Last year we used \$32,000 as operating and moved \$15,000 into the Capital Improvement Fund, which now stands at \$101,957. We feel this is an important fund to build, as our building ages and requires the inevitable repairs and upkeep.

The Endowment fund performed better than 2015 with a 3.3% return. The Finance committee is taking an active look at the Endowment with the goal of matching a Conservative benchmark which in 2016 was 6.3%. We will be reviewing options to strengthen the return but keeping a conservative allocation.

The 2017 budget takes into account the Pledges received for 2017 and the priorities outlined by Fr. Ken and the Vestry. Here are the highlights of the 2017 budget.

- ◆ Fund Stephen Ministries training.
- ◆ Decrease the share of Operating income from the Anonymous Grant. Allowing the option to add to the Capital Improvement fund or Endowment as the Vestry chooses in 2017.
- ◆ An increase in compensation to Clergy and Staff.
- ◆ Fund a Strategic Planning process with a professional facilitator.
- ◆ Continue to fund all our programs with some increases where requested.

Finance Committee by Roger Gould

The St Thomas Endowment Fund ended 2016 with a +3.3% return for the year compared to a custom benchmark of +6.3%. Total assets were \$437,717 at year end. The Endowment is conservatively managed by Clear Rock Capital Management at a 60% Equity, 40% Fixed Income asset allocation. Within each asset class, Clear Rock has the discretion to manage the portfolio as they determine.

Impacting returns for 2016 relative to the benchmark was an overweight to Commodities (until 4th quarter), an underweight to longer maturity fixed income, and an underweight to International- both Developed and Emerging Markets. The best performing sector was Real Estate (REITs). The Finance Committee is working with Clear Rock to provide improved performance under our conservative mandate.

As reported last year, the Operating Cash Reserves Portfolio was restructured with a laddered Bond portfolio instead of CD's. We are pleased to report a 1.9% return for 2016, 1.6% from income and .3% from market movement. The current portfolio weighted average yield is 1.7%. Liquidity is daily and 50% of the bond fund investments have less than a .3 year average maturity.

The Finance Committee members are Roger Gould, Doug Cleven (retired), Wally Morgus (Treasurer), Vickrie Cutler (January), Judi Fuller (Parish Administrator) and Rev Ken Brannon (Rector).



2016 IN REVIEW



Parish Register

MARRIAGES

January 9, 2016	Carly Ann Middlekauff and Alexander Jesse Grundmann
March 19, 2016	Erica Elsner and Carter Wigell (<i>Blessing of a Marriage</i>)
July 30, 2016	Stefanie Jane Fazzio and Nicholas Jocelyn Edmund Stevens
August 6, 2016	Tracy Elizabeth Larsen and Benjamin Warner Cooke
August 13, 2016	Kristen Elizabeth Buri and Gregory Joseph Bullington
September 3, 2016	Kelly Martelle Burels and Terence Sean Sullivan II
September 10, 2016	Alexandra Leigh Trimper and James Allen Hooper
October 1, 2016	Mollie Prudden Allick and James (Tucker) Uihlein Patton

BAPTISMS

January 10, 2016	Jack Joseph Bureau	Born June 2, 2008
January 10, 2016	Kade Robert Ellefson	Born July 3, 2015
September 4, 2016	James Lewis Hanke	Born December 28, 2015
November 6, 2016	Serena Randolph Sheue	Born May 30, 2015
November 6, 2016	Erikka Ashley Martin Gray	Adult
November 6, 2016	Winslow Alden Gray	Born November 9, 2010
November 6, 2016	Byron Martin Gray	Born September 24, 2008
November 6, 2016	Gabriel Beckett Gray	Born July 30, 2013
December 18, 2016	Tarek Oakley Paitan	Born October 11, 2016
December 29, 2016	Anderson James Tooley	Born October 31, 2015

BURIALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES

January 7, 2016	Charles Carpenter Tillinghast III	Departed November 5, 2015
January 19, 2016	Lynn Anne Dominick	Departed January 11, 2016
January 20, 2016	Ed Siegel	Departed January 14, 2016
February 16, 2016	Peter Leslie Taylor	Departed February 7, 2016
September 1, 2016	Linda Lee Thorson	Departed August 18, 2016
September 17, 2016	Robert William Thompson	Departed September 13, 2016
September 24, 2016	Cynthia Ames Branch Tillinghast	Departed August 26, 2016
October 7, 2016	Patricia Crandall Lane	Departed September 16, 2016
December 3, 2016	Colleen M. McLean	Departed November 9, 2016



FINANCIAL REPORTS



Fund Balances - as of December 31, 2016

Operating	39,243.46	Library/Bookstore	989.88
Assistant Clergy	3,885.94	Memorials	10,187.26
Barry Keller Fund	1,941.67	Ministry Training	8,415.48
Capital Fund	101,957.97	Rector's Continuing Education	2,060.00
Children's Ministry Development	499.01	Sabbatical Fund	5,924.33
Columbarium	29,935.67	Shawl Ministry Fund	1,039.68
Community Urgent Needs	15,871.48	Speaker's Fund	3,279.22
Designated Flower Fund	7,392.91	Staff Training Fund	2,918.20
Designated Gifts	2,417.81	Thank Offering Fund	4,160.33
Endowment	437,717.23	The Bilkey Memorial Fund	13,267.99
Families	758.56	The St. Thomas Playhouse Fund	43,608.88
Haiti	3,821.57	Youth Ministry Development	12,246.26
Labyrinth	0		

St. Thomas Playhouse - Profit & Loss Comparison

	2016 Actuals	2017
<u>INCOME</u>		
Administration	17,072	12,500
Children's Tour	5,135	8,000
Company B	59,401	60,300
Company B 2	32,024	35,600
Company B—Winterized	5,679	7,000
Family Main Stage	25,512	19,500
Girlfriends' Lunch	16,495	18,600
SPACC	42,456	42,000
Summer Theater Project	9,974	8,550
TOTAL INCOME	213,748	212,050
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Administrative	23,204	16,000
Children's Tour	7,812	7,375
Company B	37,512	36,850
Company B 2	19,544	21,135
Company B—Winterized	3,937	4,000
Family Main Stage	32,935	29,850
Girlfriends' Lunch	5,476	6,100
SPACC	36,802	36,800
Summer Theater Project	16,915	12,315
TOTAL EXPENSES	184,137	170,425
NET INCOME/LOSS	29,611	41,625



FINANCIAL REPORTS



St. Thomas Operating Fund Profit & Loss Comparison

	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Proposed 2017
Income			
4000—Assessable Income			
4001—Plate Offerings	55,000	58,832	60,000
4003—Pledge Offerings	450,000	462,640	485,000
4005—Prior year pledge payments	10,000	incl. above	incl. above
4006—Interest earned	12,276	see Other Income	13,003
Transferred from Funds	0	0	12,000
4020—Unpledged Grant	90,000	78,891	80,000
4527—Anonymous Grant ¹	32,000	32,000	27,000
TOTAL 4000—Assessable Income	649,276	632,363	677,003
4500—Non-Assessable Income			
4505 - Prior Year Carryover	25,453	25,453	3,656
4520—Event Income	1,500	1,635	1,500
4521—Community Use of Facility	15,000	15,962	15,000
4525—Special Offerings	1,500	25	1,500
4528—Misc. Income	0	0	0
TOTAL 4500—Non-Assessable Income	43,453	43,075	21,656
TOTAL 4700—STP Income	237,095	213,748	212,050
TOTAL INCOME	929,824	889,186	910,709
Expenses			
5010—Clergy Expenses			
Cash compensation (stipend, health/dental and Social Security reimbursements)	99,740	99,049	102,772
Clergy benefits (pension, professional expenses, equity allowance)	37,369	35,671	38,079
TOTAL 5010—Clergy Expense	137,109	134,720	140,851
TOTAL 5020—Assistant Clergy Expense	5,000	5,000	5,000
5030—Staff Compensation			
5031—Base Pay	222,915	204,594	211,109
5043—FICA & Medicare	17,053	15,651	16,150
5044—Staff Pensions	18,793	19,018	17,224
5045—Staff Medical Insurance	34,204	29,145	27,080
TOTAL 5030—Staff Compensation	292,965	268,408	271,563
5050—Program Expenses			
5051—Advertising	2,000	1,690	1,500
5052—Altar Supplies	2,000	1,332	1,500
5053—Nursery Care	1,250	1,343	1,500
5054—Children's Christian Education	3,335	1,671	2,500
5055—Convention Delegates	1,000	760	1,000
5057—Hospitality & Fellowship	4,500	3,261	3,500
5059—Music Supplies/Choir	3,000	3,279	3,500
5060—New Member Ministry	500	0	500
5062—Green Team	500	0	250
5063—Pastoral Care	500	1,685	1,000
5064—Professional Acct. & Audit	1,800	1,800	1,800
5066—Family Ministries	2,500	1,029	1,500
5068—Subscriptions	250	400	500
5070—Staff/Volunteer Training	1,500	1,500	1,500
5071—Special Events	1,500	795	500
5074—Vestry	5,000	2,460	10,000
5075—Stewardship	500	71	100
5076—Youth Christian Education	2,850	1,952	2,000
5077—Adult Christian Ed.	500	236	500
TOTAL 5050—Program Expenses	34,985	25,263	35,150



FINANCIAL REPORTS



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

	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Proposed 2017
5080—Church Operating Expense			
5034—Database/Bookkeeping	12,000	12,532	12,000
5041—Cleaning Staff	20,000	21,680	22,500
5056—Supply Choir Director	400	138	400
5067—Supply Organist	2,100	600	1,000
5069—Supply Clergy	2,000	316	1,000
5082—Cleaning Supplies	2,000	2,391	2,500
5083—Computer/Copier	9,000	11,099	8,000
5084—Insurance	9,000	8,788	9,000
5085—Lawn Care	4,000	8,101	7,600
5086—Office Supplies	3,000	3,194	2,800
5087—Repairs & Maintenance	20,000	17,276	17,500
5089—Telephone/Internet	4,000	5,263	5,000
5090—Utilities/Garbage Removal	16,000	18,501	18,500
5092—Website	750	248	500
5094—Snow Removal	3,000	6,053	4,500
5095 - Contract Services	750	0	0
5096—Bank & Merchant Charges	4,000	8,348	8,500
5097—Postage	3,000	2,772	3,000
6517—Flowers/Gifts	500	166	300
TOTAL 5080—Church Operating Exp.	115,500	127,466	124,600
5090—Misc. Expenses	0	0	0
6000—Rectory Expenses			
6002—Lawn Care	3,000	2,490	2,500
6002b—Snow Removal	1,000	2,150	2,000
6003—Misc.	650	674	700
6004—Repairs & Maintenance	2,000	876	1,200
6006—Utilities	5,000	6,065	6,000
TOTAL 6000—Rectory Operating Exp.	11,650	12,255	12,400
6510—Ministry Outside Congregation			
6511—Diocesan Assessment	136,348	123,905	142,170
6515—Rector's Discretionary Outreach	500		500
6516—Special Offering	1,500	659	1,500
6523—MDG	4,545	4,157	4,739
TOTAL 6510—Ministry Outside Cong.	142,293	128,721	148,910
7000—STP Expenses	186,153	184,137	170,425
TOTAL EXPENSE	926,254	885,970	908,898
NET INCOME	3,570	3,656	1,811
Other Income (Earned interest)		13,003	

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. 2017 will be the 9th year of the 20 year grant.



FINANCIAL REPORTS



Annual Giving Campaign by Paul Ahern, Chair, Stewardship Committee

The theme of this year's Annual Giving Campaign has been "Living Generously" – and the people of Saint Thomas responded in their accustomed generous manner by pledging sufficient donations to provide the parish with a solid financial foundation for its operations in 2017.

In this, my second year serving as Chair of the Stewardship Committee, we introduced three new aspects to our traditional Campaign structure – which met with varying degrees of success, as follows:

First and most importantly, we decided not to set a monetary goal for this year's campaign. Instead, our focus was on encouraging full participation by setting a goal of receiving pledges/donations from 200 members/families. This goal was modestly higher than last year's number of participants. As of January 9, 2017 (when this report is being written), we have recorded pledges/donations from 187 members – achieving 94% of our goal.

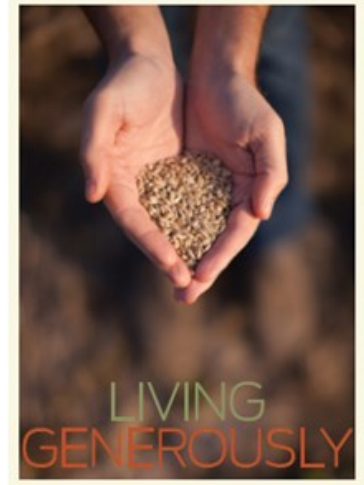
Our intent in picking a participation goal rather than a monetary one was to show our faith in the ability of the people of Saint Thomas to provide adequately for the work of the parish. This faith was rewarded, as the total amount of pledges/donations received was slightly more than last year's total at this time. It was heartwarming to observe that there were more than twice as many increased pledges as decreased pledge amounts (52 Up versus 23 Down) – evidence that the congregation took seriously the challenge of "Living Generously".

Second, we considerably shortened the length of the formal campaign ending it in five weeks rather than the traditional eight weeks. This was a further demonstration of our faith that the people of Saint Thomas would respond generously. This innovation was quite successful in stimulating timely pledging from most of us who worship year round at Saint Thomas. However, it is more difficult to get the attention of parishioners who are away during the fall (regardless of the length of the campaign). This is where the dedicated work of Stewardship Committee and Vestry members really made a positive difference by contacting those who had not responded by the formal end of the campaign on November 6.

Third, we made it possible this year for folks to make their pledges online at the Saint Thomas website. Relatively few people took advantage of this convenient option. Perhaps, as one person commented to me, people like the feeling they get from filling out a written pledge and delivering it to the church. Maybe the use of the online option will increase in future years as people become more used to it (and the church makes it even easier and more efficient to pledge electronically)

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the stalwart members of the Stewardship Committee: Vice Chair Maryanne Whitcomb and Members John Ashton, Nancy Cord, Page Klune, Sara Pettit, and Patience Ziebarth. Many Vestry members and other parishioners jumped in to provide special help as well -- in particular, Vickrie Cutler who graciously hosted our note-writing party at her beautiful home. And, as usual, Father Ken and Judi Fuller were key players and provided excellent support for the campaign.

As I conclude my service as Stewardship Chair, I must say that it has been a real privilege to observe the countless acts of generous living (monetary and otherwise) performed by the people of Saint Thomas over the past two years. Thank you for the opportunity to have seen such love in action in our faith community.





MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



The Green Team by Mary Malkmus

The Green Team is a St. Thomas ministry that endeavors to advocate, educate and articulate protection of the environment. The Team intends to develop ministries and projects that are faithful and effective in promoting environmental stewardship and the sanctity of creation.

To that end this year we celebrated Earth Sunday by showing the film "Chasing Ice", bringing attention to the issue of Global warming. The children decorated cloth shopping bags for their parents to use in place of plastic. We had highway cleanups in the spring and fall with our partners Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Hailey. We also had two "Bike to Church" days in the summer. Good news.....each year there are more and more participants!! We worked with Kay Kearns on finding a non-toxic weed killer for our garden (look for the recipe in the Sunday Bulletin this spring). Our Bicycle "Ride Share" hub sign still sits in front of the Visitors Center. In September we joined people of faith in a month of prayer and reflection on the sanctity of creation. Ali Long, from the Local Food Alliance, spoke on the importance of eating seasonal foods and supporting local producers. We collected pounds and pounds of batteries to be safely disposed of, and continued to promote good ecological habits with our "tips" in the Sunday service booklet. We have lots of other ideas on our agenda, but can always use new members with new thoughts! We try to meet once a month...for only 1 hour! Come join the fun!! Call Mary Malkmus at 622-3949.

Many thanks to the members of this busy Ministry : Linda Bergerson, Red Bloedel, Christina Cernansky, Molly! Goodyear, Susie King, Sandra Maier, Marylyn Pauley and Patty Sloan.

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 all church services run smoothly, thus providing a meaningful worship experience for all. We are the priest's liturgical partner. We work in pairs, usually serving once every month and a half. Times can be changed or traded to accommodate our busy schedules.

Many thanks to our team: Catherine Carley, Judy Harrison, Delicia Reily, Mary Ann Syms, Patience Ziebarth, Shannon Besoyan, Betsy Ashton, Linda Staum, Beverly Boas, Sandra Willingham, and Lynn Campion-Waddell, Debi Guerricaechevarria, Connie Hoffman, Sue Phillips, Barbara Shelton and Vickrie White. We sadly bid farewell to Linda Staum, Connie Hoffman, and Delicia Reilly.

We are always looking for new members to join us in this meaningful work. If this kind of service to St. Thomas appeals to you, please contact Fr. Ken or Mary Malkmus at 622-3949.

Disaster Preparedness Committee by Connie Hoffman

Everyone loves a good disaster, right? Not! That is why the Bishop has requested each church develop a Disaster Plan to anticipate such an event in our church and/or community. Heather Black, Senior Warden, and a well qualified committee have been working on a Plan for quite some time and she will be taking preliminary ideas with her to conference. Many of you received and completed a survey about how you could help in time of need and what your needs would be if we as a church could help you in case of disaster. Thanks! The committee is compiling this data to move to the next step in organizing responses. In the coming months we may be reaching out to you for more information and support to help prepare for "the unlikely". Watch for more information! We want to all be prepared! Disasters don't need to be disasters if the response to them can be well planned!



MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Columbarium

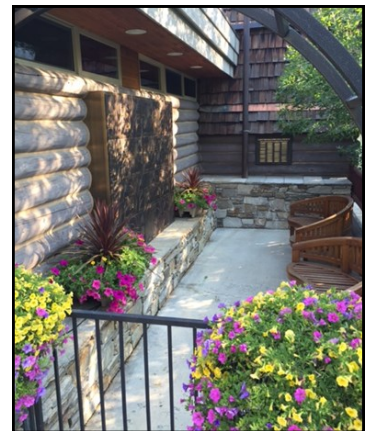
by Sally Horn

The committee, comprised of 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 meets twice a year, in June and October. Members serve a three year term.

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, 2016, the balance in the Columbarium Fund was \$29,935.67. At present, only 20 standard niches are available for \$1,000 each, 12 nameplates for the Memorial Board are available for \$300 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.



Summer, 2016 Hole-in-the-wall Gang party.

The date for this year's "Hole-in-the-Wall" celebration of life party, for those who currently have purchased niches or nameplates, will be hosted by Beverly Boas on July 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The Columbarium Committee will be hosting the Coffee Hour with available information regarding the Columbarium, on Sunday, June 25th.

Please visit the columbarium which currently is being maintained beautifully and seasonally by Beverly Boas. All members of the Committee are available to review the process for reservations or to answer any questions.



Adult Education Committee

by Don Liebich, Chair

The 2016 Adult Education program featured two major series. The first topic was a six session program on Racism. In this series we dealt with the origins and manifestations of a difficult issue which continues to plague American society.

The second major topic was a 13-week class on Christianity and Islam. This timely topic at times attracted 50 members who participated in lively discussions of the similarities and differences of the two largest religions in the world. Those that participated not only learned much about Islam, but also learned a lot about our own Christian faith.



In addition to the Christianity and Islam sessions, other discussion topics included:

- Biblical Accounts of the Crucifixion
- A Lenten series- Wondrous Love
- Give Me Your Tired and Poor – U.S. Immigration Policy
- Responding to Terrorism
- Advent Series - A Thrill of Hope

As we plan for 2017, we welcome suggestions of topics to be covered and any volunteers willing to plan and lead sessions. If you are interested, please contact Don Liebich. (donliebich@gmail.com)

Garden & Grounds

by Kaye Kearns

Spring and summer of 2016 were busy and productive times in the St. Thomas gardens! Our committee was able to finish the majority of changes in the re-design of the perennial beds. Continuing on our goal of making the beds less labor intensive, we removed invasive or high maintenance plants and replanted shrubs and perennials that will be easier to care for and also add color, texture and variety to the beds. The results have really made a positive impact on the beauty of the gardens along the entry walkway!

In conjunction with the junior warden, we hired a tree arborist to assess the condition of major trees in the landscape. We began with some essential pruning, shaping and removal of problematic branches from several trees. We will assess future issues by having an inspection every year during the growing season.

Our focus in 2017 will be on the rectory garden where we will be going through the same process of moving or replacing shrubs and perennials in the perennial bed. In addition, we are planning to create a new bed for the west side of the house.

Many kudos to our wonderful committee members for their time and work on the gardens! It really makes the maintenance so much easier when we have a group to help. I hope we can add some new members to our committee this year. Please call me if you would like to be involved in keeping our gardens beautiful!

Art Committee & Community Labyrinth

The Art Committee has been inactive in 2016, however, there are a few pieces we would be interested in acquiring if a donation is made for this purpose. Protocols have been put in place to assess appropriateness and display potential for any gifts of art that are proposed for St. Thomas. Those interested in making a donation for a memorial or an honorific, are asked to speak with Becky Smith.

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 refurbishment. Please see Judi Fuller or Georgia Stewart regarding this.

Begin your new year by walking the labyrinth any time. It is available all the time, weather permitting.

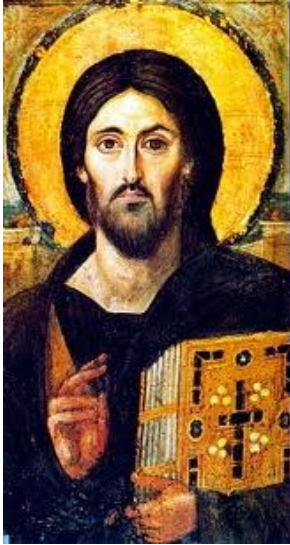


MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



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 2015, and continued in 2016 until the beginning of Lent in February. These beautiful candle-light 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 eleven 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 28 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 is sent to members by email and is advertised in the Sunday bulletin. We meet every second Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in Classroom 1, except for our break during the busy summer months. All are welcome!

Flower Guild

by Betsy Ashton

The St Thomas Flower Guild is responsible for the two altar arrangements every Sunday, decorating the church for Easter, Christmas, and other times as warranted. There is no obligation for how many Sundays our members work – we’re very flexible. Several of our members are not full time in the area. We obtain 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, not only to save money but it seems more appropriate with all the lovely gardens at our disposal.

The Flower Fund pays for all our flowers and materials. It is supported by generous donations. We welcome memorials and dedications for weekly flowers and will mention them in the Sunday church bulletin. At Christmas and Easter we ask for special donations.

We have talented and dedicated members that work in pairs or alone. 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



Music Ministry

by Joel Bejot

Organist:

In 2016, I played for 69 Eucharist services (including weddings and funerals), and 28 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 September 18.

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. An average of 16 folks have sung with us this year. I am always happy to meet and encourage new singers. Are you our newest chorister?

Children's Choir:

I am still trying to find a rhythm of rehearsals that works for the community. We have a good number of kids that sing, but we always have room for more. We use the RSCM "Voice for Life" curriculum, and one of our newest choristers moved to the third level right away. In the fall, several children checked out our first couple of rehearsals, and 8 have stuck with it. 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 as often as possible on the 4th Sunday of the month, on Sundays at 5:30. Our choir of about eight people worked on a lot of great music. I'm especially proud of their work doing Anglican Chant. Four different priests and laypeople officiated at the service on a rotating basis. An average of 28 folks attended the service, with a high of 45 in August. In 2017, our evensong services will be held May – December on the fourth Sundays of the month, or the Sundays before Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will also schedule around "Into the Woods" in December.

Other:

In January, we did funerals for three beloved members of the church – Cindy Tillinghast, Lynn Dominick, and Ed Siegel.

In February, I recruited acts for the Shrove Tuesday Talent Show, as well as acting as an accompanist and co-MC for the event.

In February and March, 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 June, I attended the RSCM Training Camp in the Pacific Northwest. An amazing experience.

In July, August, September, and October, I played/was music director for 5 weddings.

In September and October, I also produced a three-concert series.

In October, I took an important role with the Diocesan Convention Liturgy Planning Committee.

In the fall, I arranged for two new ensembles – the St. Thomas Middle School Youth Choir, and the Hand Chime Ensemble. Both groups have a small but dedicated group.

St. Thomas Playhouse: I was a singer in one of the numbers at the Girlfriend Lunch. For Company B #2, I was the Music Director. And, for *The Sound of Music*, I played one of the piano parts with Dorinda Rendahl. I look forward to having similar roles in the coming year.



Youth Ministries

by Sara Gorby

The year started off with a bang! We held our annual Middle School Lock-In following the first Après Ski service. We made dinner, played dance games on the Wii, did a photography scavenger hunt, and then watched a movie.

Through the winter youth participated in Messy Church, a big hit thanks to Jessica and her team. Youth volunteered for some of the stations and also participated in all the Messy fun of exploring scripture through activities, art, food and reflection. Many young people served in worship roles during the Après Ski services as well.



SmashBook Journals have been a wonderful way for us to journal about our lives, the scriptures, our time spent together, our families, friends and much more. We have made a variety of materials available: stickers, stamps, paper, magazines, newspapers, markers, pens, pictures, scriptures and poetry to us in creating our books. Some of the pages include: About You, Family Tree, Travel and Family Traditions. This has been a great way to get to know each other.

We also have weeks when we read the Gospel and reflect on it our journals. We also reflect on our time spent together. For example after we baked pet treats for the Blessing of the Animals in October, we printed pictures and had the St. Francis prayer for everyone to include in their SmashBook. We also had pictures from bowling to create a page. It has been fun to look back over the last year and see how we have progressed and changed. We are continuing our books into 2017. It is a great way to frame our time together.



Group Prayer has also been every important to our group. Instead of just going around the circle to check in, we have been framing our check in as prayers for others and ourselves. It all started this fall with prayers for a new school year.

We wrote our prayers on the ramp as you go outside the church. At first, young people were not sure what to pray for. It felt acquired and a little foreign. Then once they realized they could pray for an upcoming test, fundraising for school trips and musicals, sports, safe travel, for sick family or friends, it has really jumped off. Then we got into what we were grateful for; that really got us going. We don't miss the opportunity to open our time together with group prayers. It has really grounded us and created a tight community.

Ketchum Community Dinners

St. Thomas serves dinner once every 5 weeks or so as part of the Presbyterian Church of the Bigwood's Ketchum Community Dinner Ministry. There is a core group of adults that are a solid foundation for this outreach. Organized by Helen Morgus, we invite youth to participate as they are able. We have several youth who have volunteered their time and energy to this ministry. The adults serve as examples and work so well with our teens when they volunteer: Helen & Wally Morgus, Art & Bobby Dahl, Bev Boas, Jill Hitchin, Candy Walton, and Page Klune, thank you!



continued on next page



MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Youth Ministries

by Sara Gorby

Highlights:

- ♦ Easter abundance with many youth attending and taking part in the Easter Egg Hunt
- ♦ Parish Picnic at Sheila Witmer's home, a perfect setting for a perfect fellowship
- ♦ Gorgeous gathering of people for Wagon Days Parade
- ♦ Coffee talks over games of chess
- ♦ Baking together
- ♦ Praying together
- ♦ Laughing together
- ♦ Serving together

Thank you to our adult mentors. Each one brings a special gift to our group. Sara Pettit, Page Klune, and JoEllen Collins. We are few but mighty.



Thank you to Father Ken for intentional guidance and the parish for their prayers and support.

Pastoral Care

by Maryanne Whitcomb

During 2016, Father Ken continued to lead the Pastoral Care Committee to offer spiritual support for those in need within the congregation. The committee serves members of the congregation who are ill, grieving, or facing some distress in their lives. This is accomplished through prayer, phone calls, performing errands, visiting, sending notes of encouragement, assisting with transportation or preparing meals. The committee responds when a parishioner asks for help or when Father Ken is aware of a need. Pastoral care also maintains an active prayer list for those in need of prayers and is able to refer parishioners for home Communion.

A newsworthy addition to St. Thomas pastoral care will follow very soon. On September 26, the vestry approved an application to the Stephen Ministry program for 2017. On October 7, that approval was received from the St. Louis National Headquarters. Fr. Ken will attend a 5-day Stephen Ministry leadership training course in Anaheim, CA, commencing on January 29. He will be accompanied by Helen Morgus, Marcia Liebich, and Maryanne Whitcomb. Those four will return equipped to train Stephen Ministers at the local level, thus multiplying the number of caregivers able to serve the St. Thomas community.

Please mark Sunday, February 19, at 11:00 a.m. on your calendars to attend the adult education class, when a panel discussion will be presented jointly by members of the Pastoral Care Committee and the newly trained Stephen Minister leaders.



Haiti Relief Team by Helen Morgus and Art Dahl

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” *Micah 6:8*

The St. Thomas Haiti Relief Team (HaRT) partners with the Haiti Micah Project to improve the lives of impoverished children in Haiti. Father Joseph Constant, dear friend and founder of HMP points to the work of the Holy Spirit everywhere. Some places where it was deeply felt:



HaRT Sunday: on May 1st, we celebrated a 6th year of partnership between St. Thomas and the Haiti Micah Project. Jim Snow, treasurer of HMP, and Father Joseph joined us by Skype. Jim defined what justice means in Haiti: the right to the basic necessities of food, shelter and education. He and Joseph reminded us about the importance of having a small, near focus as we work in Haiti—helping one child at a time, and harboring realistic expectations.



Sponsorships: Nearly all 2015 St. Thomas sponsors renewed their support for children in HMP’s core program of feeding and education. Eighty-four participants are sponsoring 86 children. Gifts ranged from \$25 to \$10,000, with most sponsors donating \$365 to support one child for one year. Over all, some \$33,000 went to HMP at the end of the summer. **HART EXTENDS OUR WARMEST AND DEEPEST THANKS TO ALL ST. THOMAS SPONSORS!**

Vocational education: As Micah children began graduating from high school, by the grace of God, Kai Sofi (the vocational school named for a friend of St. Thomas) was open and ready to receive them. Students from the broader Mirebalais community were also welcomed. Classes in sewing, English language and computer skills have overflowed, and more classes and spaces are being added.

Hurricane Matthew: The storm hit Haiti hard in early October. In the midst of St Thomas’ annual stewardship campaign, parish families dug into their pockets and donated nearly \$7,000 toward hurricane relief. HMP is using relief funds to improve a hurricane-damaged kitchen, to welcome refugee children and to help Episcopal churches in more deeply affected areas of Haiti.

Haiti Elections: Jovenel Moise, an entrepreneur and banana farmer, was elected President in November, after months of delay, protest and unrest. The political tensions appear to have calmed, and Moise will be inaugurated February 7, 2017. Haiti has retained its democracy.

New HaRT Leadership: Over the summer, HaRT co-chairs Helen Morgus and Art Dahl began discernment with Father Ken about the future of HaRT in the spiritual life of St Thomas. Should HaRT continue as a ministry? Was it time for new leadership? As it turned out, the answer was yes to both. We looked around and saw a pair of dedicated Christians with a profound love for St. Thomas and for children: Doug and Dydy Clevén. After their own discernment, Doug and Dydy accepted the invitation to co-chair HaRT into the future. The Clevéns are devoted sponsors of John Kelly Jean in HMP. They bring a beautiful balance of heart and mind, matched with skills and experience within the church, and we are so grateful for them! Outgoing co-chairs, Art and Helen, joyfully thank all who have lent their hands to HaRT the past five years, especially: Father Ken, Judi Fuller, the bookkeepers and the vestries; Bobbie Dahl, Candy Walton, JoEllen Collins, Kitty Durtschi, Marcia Liebich, Pat Davies, Pat Jorgensen, Sandra Willingham, Steve & Marylyn Pauley, Susie King, Tom Archie, Toni Breck, Vicki Riedel and Wally Morgus. HaRT is shaped by your enduring and creative imprints.





MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Children's Ministry 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 style beginning on the labyrinth with a bonfire, apple cider, the burning of our Christmas tree boughs which transitioned inside for candlelight Eucharist, and ended with a sparkler recessional.
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 - With the snow came approximately 80+ children to celebrate on Easter morning. With double the kids and zero access to outside 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 mothers by the children in celebration.
- June/July/August Grand Days of Summer - This year in lieu of Artist in Residence, we did Grand Days every Sunday morning. This year we celebrated the gifts of 12 Grands from our parish. The gifts shared ranged in talents from hospitality, to hummingbirds, manners, and our nation's birthday!
- September Registration Carnival - Sunday School children through youth group members were encouraged to register for the school year by way of a carnival complete with games, face paint, and the annual favorite, "Big Wood Dogs," the hot dog cart!
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.
Sunday School Opening - All children now meet in the Parish Hall at 9:15 am for Sunday School songs, announcements, prayer with Father Ken, and Passing of the Peace before heading to their classrooms for their lessons. It has been a joyous way to begin classes.
- December St. Nick Sunday - Children of all ages were delighted to have St. Nicholas 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 4pm 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's an honor to be writing my third annual report for St. Thomas Playhouse. I feel so lucky to be at the helm with Sara Gorby, shepherding the Wood River Valley's largest theater outreach program. Our productions this year reached over 2,000 people; and, if we include our Children's Theater Tour, Playhouse saw over 5,000 adults and youth this year. Sara and I would like to extend a huge thank-you to our donors and patrons for once again holding up our organization and affirming our work and our mission.

Our year began with our annual GIRLFRIEND CABARET LUNCHEON, which was attended by a fantastic group of generous women. Our theme was "The Hills are Alive" and our Bavarian themed meal was a hit with the ladies! The event raised money for our annual fund, as well as almost \$10,000 for our Bilkey Scholarship Fund.

With sponsorship from The Papoose Club and Local Food Alliance, our CHILDREN'S THEATER TOUR production of *The Birthday Feast* traveled to 11 schools from Sun Valley to Fairfield. Playhouse was the second theater in the country to produce this musical, and we were even graced with the composer of the show who came out to see it.



Over the summer, we held our ever-popular COMPANY B PERFORMING ARTS DAY CAMP with over 100 children who brought a Disney Classic to life with *Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr!* Many of our interns who worked the camp were also involved in our SUMMER THEATRE PROJECT production of *Shrek The Musical*. Both productions required heavy creative work, and we were lucky to have a team of teenage interns that worked with us through the spring to help us get ready!



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



Our long-awaited COMPANY B 2 camp maxed in with registrations very quickly, and the kids did an amazing job with *Disney's Aristocats Kids*. We are going to continue this camp for years to come, which helps our bottom line and provides yet another summer camp opportunity!

Our FAMILY MAIN STAGE PRODUCTION of *Sound of Music* can only be described as a smash-hit! With 1150 audience members, we more than doubled our average patronage from the last two years. The production itself was a glorious display of local talent with over 60 cast members. This was also the last play Playhouse will produce at the nexStage Theatre in its current incarnation.



Finally, we concluded the year with over 30 kids in our COMPANY B WINTERIZED CAMP, which featured the music of the 1950s.

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, 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. We are excited about the future, and we can't wait to see what 2017 holds!



Diocesan Convention

by Helen Morgus

The 49th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho was held over the weekend of November 11-13th in Pocatello. The deputation representing St Thomas included Father Ken, Tom Archie, Beverly Boas, Wendy Jaquet, Helen and Wally Morgus, John Stevens and Tim Williams. Carter Hedberg, Marshall Peterson, Wayne Schmidt and Anne Zauner went as guests, as all are invited to do, any year.

We passed the budget and elected diocesan leaders. Father Ken was elected as a Clergy Deputy to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to be held in Austin, Texas on July 5-13, 2018. Father Ken was named Chair of the Idaho Deputation (4 clergy and 4 lay people). And Ron Braman, Senior Warden of Good Shepherd in Fort Hall, put forth a heartfelt and eloquent resolution to support "our Native American Sisters and Brothers at Standing Rock." The resolution passed.

And there was so much more! Highlights and news were

- ◆ Beautiful and uplifting liturgy and music on the theme "All Good Gifts"
- ◆ Deanery groups in guided discussions about how individuals and communities are transformed in Christian life
- ◆ A slide show about this past summer at Paradise Point and the camp's upcoming capital campaign to secure its future
- ◆ Idaho Episcopal Foundation's grants that support missions of outreach throughout the Diocese, including \$2,000 to St Thomas Playhouse for the Children's Theater Tour
- ◆ Presentations by the directors of refugee resettlement programs in Twin Falls and in Boise
- ◆ An exceptionally successful mission project: a huge trailer full of donations to the College of Southern Idaho refugee program in Twin Falls. Many thanks to Anne Zauner and the "Persecuted Christians Support Team" for organizing St Thomas' work on the mission project, and to all of you whose donations packed her truck to overflowing!

Diocesan Convention 2017 is in Boise on October 27-29 and will feature the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael Curry.

Shawl Committee

by Pat Jorgensen

We have just approached our nine-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.





ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION



AGENDA

Sunday, January 29, 2017

*The annual meeting begins with Holy Eucharist at 9:30 A.M. and continues with a business meeting and brunch.
The Rector is chair of the annual meeting. All communicants in good standing are eligible to stand for election and vote.
A communicant in good standing is one whose baptism is recorded at St. Thomas Church, "attends worship regularly,
unless for good cause prevented, and works, prays, and gives for the spread of the kingdom of God."
(Constitution and Canons, 2015)*

1. Holy Eucharist
2. Brief break
3. Call to order
4. Appointment of clerk
5. Additions to agenda
6. Approval of minutes from last year
7. Rector's report, expressions of gratitude, and appointment of Senior Warden Father Ken
8. Junior warden's report David Caldwell
9. Nominating committee report Wally Morgus
10. Elections
 - Appointment of tellers
 - Election of three new vestry members for three year terms
 - Nominees: Rae DeVito, Ruth Jones, Becky Smith
 - Nominations from the floor (if any)
 - Distribution of ballots (if necessary)
 - Election
 - Election of six delegates and five alternate delegates to diocesan convention (October 27-29, 2017, Boise)
 - Nominees for delegate: Carter Hedberg, Tom Archie, Tim Price, Page Klune, Sara Gorby, Helen Morgus
 - Nominees for alternate delegate: Beverly Boas, Don Liebich, Marcia Liebich, Patty Sloan, Wally Morgus
 - Nominations from the floor (if any)
 - Distribution of ballots (if necessary)
 - Election
11. Playhouse report Brett Moellenberg
12. Annual giving campaign report Paul Ahern
13. Treasurer's report for 2016 Doug Clevén
14. Presentation of budget for 2017 Doug Clevén
15. Approval of budget for 2017
16. Announcement of election results (if necessary)
17. Presentation of Rector's Cross Father Ken
18. Doxology Joel Bejot
19. Adjournment
20. Brunch

Many thanks to those who prepared the brunch today.



ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION



Nominations to the Vestry (2017-2020)

Rae DeVito - I was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and attended University of Pittsburgh and Allegheny College. After school I was fortunate to find my "Dream Job" in the Public Relations Department of a Pittsburgh Corporation, working closely with a wonderful mentor, and connected to The Pittsburgh Press Club. In later years I worked in college administration, and briefly as a stock broker. I met my husband, Dr. James DeVito, in St. Augustine where he had been practicing medicine and teaching medical students for a few decades. He loved the west and on one of our visits to Sun Valley, we met Dr. Moritz and Bud Purdy, who encouraged Jim to take over a medical practice that had recently been vacated. Happily this came to pass, and we relocated to Sun Valley. Unhappily, Jim died a few years later, but I chose to stay because of lovely friendships, and the magnificent wilderness. The rest is history:)



Ruth Jones - I was born and lived in Hollywood, California through WWII. We then moved to the Pasadena area where I continued my education earning an Associate of Arts. I spent two years as a dental assistant and after graduation was a bookkeeper for a CPA. I married and moved to Davos, Switzerland. I lived there for four years. When we could not have children I returned to California. Later I remarried, returned to college, received my BA, and began my teaching career. Then I earned my MA in education. My husband passed away suddenly just as I completed my master's degree. After 25 years I took early retirement, moved to Gig Harbor, WA, bought and remodeled a home. Three years later I relocated to Sun Valley and have been here ever since. Within a year I joined St Thomas Church. I served on Father Charlie Burger's vestry at the time the church expansion was being considered. This was a very interesting time of change. I have sung in the church choir from its beginning and have served on two discernment committees.

Becky Smith - I was born and grew up in Southern California, attended and graduated from Stanford University, raised three children in the Los Angeles area, married Pete in 1976 and thirty years ago we moved to this valley. It is our great good luck that our children followed us to Idaho and love living here as much as we do. I have served on the Sun Valley Center for the Arts Board of Trustees, the Community School Board of Trustees, the St. Luke's Wood River Volunteer Committee and currently am on the Board of the St. Luke's Wood River Foundation. I have been on the St. Thomas Altar Guild and am now serving on the St. Thomas Flower Guild. I look forward to becoming a member of our Vestry and so greatly admire all that our church and it's members do to contribute to the life of our community.



Nominations for 2017 Diocesan Convention Delegation

Each year, the Idaho Diocese of the Episcopal Church holds a convention; this year the convention will be held October 27-29, 2017, in Boise.

The nominees for delegates to Convention are: Carter Hedberg
Page Klune

Tom Archie
Sara Gorby

Tim Price
Helen Morgus

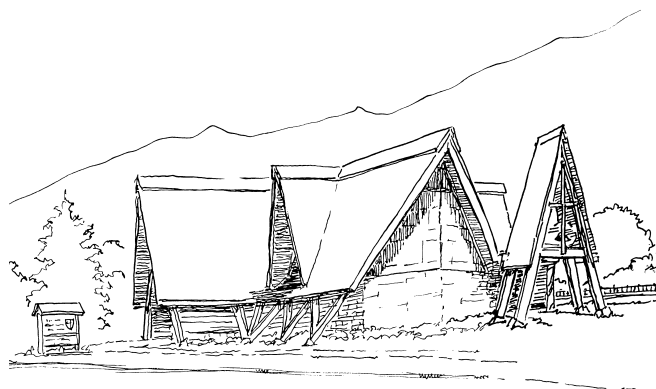
The nominees for alternate delegates to Convention are: Beverly Boas
Patty Sloan

Don Liebich
Wally Morgus

Marcia Liebich

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 David Caldwell, Junior Warden Doug Cleven, Treasurer Judi Fuller, Clerk
VESTRY MEMBERS	Vicki Cutler, Margie Gould, Page Klune, Wally Morgus, Garry Pearson, Georgia Stewart, Alyson Witmer
ADMINISTRATION	Jessica Bejot, Children's Ministry Director Joel Bejot, Music Director and Organist Judi Fuller, Parish Administrator Sara Gorby, Youth Director & Playhouse Education Director Brett Moellenberg, Playhouse Managing Director and Electronic Media Coordinator

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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