

# The LIFT

st thomas episcopal church

WINTER 2019 - 2020

## PARISH UPDATES

by Rebecca Waycott, Senior Warden

There is a lot going on at St. Thomas! As you will see in this winter edition of "The Lift," the many committees and outreach programs of St. Thomas are working hard at their various tasks as we, the people that make up St. Thomas, go through the transition period to our next rector.

Part of this transition includes the rectory remodel where we seek to make the rectory an updated, comfortable, and beautiful space for the new rector. At this point the majority of the interior demo has been achieved, and initial framing has begun. The construction committee and design committee are meeting regularly with our contractor, Tim Carter of Idaho Mountain Builders. It is exciting to watch the transition take place, even at this early stage of the process.

The Capital Campaign is in its beginning stages, and we are thrilled with the progress so far. Many generous donors are helping us meet our goals. We are hoping for 100% participation by the parish membership by the end of the campaign. The official roll out of the general campaign will begin in January. Exciting details will be coming soon.

Meanwhile, here are a couple of renderings of the new spaces: one shows the renovated kitchen/great room on the main floor and one shows the new master bath.



As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (208) 720-2896.

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.- Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:30 a.m.- Holy Eucharist Rite II with Music  
5:30 p.m - Sacred Space (January 12 to March 15)

Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist with Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing

Wednesday: 5:30 p.m. - Taizé (December 5 through February 27, except December 26)

### NURSERY, CHURCH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION

Nursery Care is provided during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service.  
Sunday School continues on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
Adult Education meets after the 9:30 a.m. service most Sundays.

**OFFICE HOURS** Monday-Thursday  
10:00am—4:00pm

**TELEPHONE** (208) 726-5349  
**FAX** (208) 726-7570

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
PO Box 1070  
Sun Valley ID 83353

**EMAIL:** [admin@stthomassunvalley.org](mailto:admin@stthomassunvalley.org)  
**WEBSITE:** [www.stthomassunvalley.org](http://www.stthomassunvalley.org)  
[www.stthomasplayhouse.org](http://www.stthomasplayhouse.org)

# CHANGE FOR CHANGE' SAKE

by Rob Gieselmann

Someone recently sent me news articles about St. Thomas from the early sixties, about the consecration of the “new” St. Thomas church building. The space around the altar was spare in such a way as to invite both priest and congregation to consider Baldy during worship. There were no artificial adornments on or against the wall or altar – no brass cross, no office candelabras, no ambry, no sanctus bells, and no nearby chairs or benches. Clergy would have sat to the side like they do in many chancels (altar areas), facing the altar at ninety degrees. In those days, the mountain stone of the wall formed an indoor vista of earth rock, with Baldy rising in the window above, as though from the rock earth. It is as though the architect intended to synthesize the interior with the exterior to bring a Celtic sense of God-in-nature into the St. Thomas worship. Perhaps this is why Baldy more than the sermon often grabs the spiritual hearts of worshippers!



AN INTERIOR VIEW OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Ketchum, which is to be the scene of Consecration services next Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. In charge will be the Right Reverend Norman L. Foote, D.D., S.T.D., the Bishop of Idaho.

A lot has evolved at St. Thomas since the sixties. Perhaps to create an interior space more like other Episcopal church buildings, St. Thomas added an ambry and other accoutrements to the stone wall, and moved the altar to the center of the altar area (“chancel”) – consistent with modern liturgical architecture. But, I have to ask, at what sacrifice? I wonder – and maybe you do, too – what it might feel like to experience a spare altar, with less clutter, and more of a sense of the grandeur of God in nature?

The countdown is on. In less than a year, you will have a new rector. That priest will be filled with Holy Ghost excitement and a spiritual anticipation to work with you in order to guide you into new spiritual dimensions. To do this, she or he will likely make some alterations – not just to the space – but yes to the worship space (“nave”). Think of the St. Thomas nave as a symbol of or for the church itself – the people, the community, the works, and the symbols: a sacrament, an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. The building is a sacrament, isn’t it? Both to worshippers and to the community.

The problem is, change is hard. The point your new priest will want to make is not change for change’ sake, but change for your sake (individually and collectively). You see, your new rector’s call and goal will be to help you along on the journey, to walk with you, to see you grow in faith and hope and charity. His or her goal will not be the institution of his or her preferences, but the implementation and arrangement for the good of the church community. Your interest will become your new rector’s interest.

I view my job during this “transition” year to be like that of John the Baptist, to point to another. That means I get to help you set the stage, which naturally means we must practice change together. We are practicing change for two reasons. First, some elements of church need to change in order to bring you back to a neutral Episcopal format. For example, the sanctus bells rung during the services at the epiclesis are more Roman Catholic than they are Anglican, and certainly for a congregation that tends to fall more solidly on the more Protestant side of the Anglican spectrum. Hence, beginning with Epiphany (January 6) we will stop using the sanctus bells.

Another example is announcements. Announcements are vital to a community – but they also interrupt the flow of the Eucharist. Some churches wait until after the service is over before offering announcements. My own sense is that announcements during the service are fine provided that they do not divert our attention from what we are there for, worship. Hence, you will have noticed that we have streamlined announcements – for the sake of the worship.

Second, I want us to practice change for change’ sake. (Yes, you read correctly!) I want you to become accustomed to small or seemingly insignificant changes at St. Thomas so you will welcome the more meaningful changes that your new rector will want to make for your future. Practicing modest change now will make future change feel normal.

## SACRED SPACE

*Making room for the Spirit of God*

Peaceful...still...simple...reverent...inspiring. Winter Sunday evenings at St. Thomas can be described by all these words.

Come and experience the serenity of our truly "sacred space" beginning January 12 at 5:30 p.m., with readings from scripture and poetry, candlelight, sermon as "reflection," and intimate Eucharist, all made even more beautiful by our musicians.



Go forth into the snowy dark night refreshed and blessed for the week ahead.

## EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR

by Bobbie Dahl

Each Sunday, a Eucharistic Visitor takes Holy Communion to those parishioners of St. Thomas who wish to receive the Sacraments but are homebound or hospitalized.

We are pleased to have added two wonderful new members to our Ministry: Helen Morgus and Mardi Shepard. On Sunday, November 3, the Rev. Rob Gieselman, assisted by Bobbie Dahl, trained Helen and Mardi. They were joined by the rest of the EV team ( Connie Hoffman, Pat Jorgensen, Maryanne Whitcomb and Bobbie Dahl) who sat in for their recertification.

Please contact Rob at 208-726-5349 or Bobbie at 208-720-6378 if you know someone from St. Thomas who might benefit from Home Communion.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES AT ST. THOMAS

by the Rev. Kathleen Bean, Associate Rector  
kathleen.bean@stthomassunvalley.org

In October we launched Sister Joyst, a gathering for women who have children at home or in college who want to deepen their spiritual lives and share their journeys with other moms. Wednesday mornings at 8:15, right after dropping kids off at school, women from St. Thomas and the broader community are invited to come to the Fireside Room for an hour of contemplative prayer and spiritual reflection. Our time together is already proving to be a great blessing.



The interest expressed in Sister Joyst by women of all ages at St. Thomas has led me to begin planning another women's contemplative prayer and study group, a time to share our thoughts on what it means to grow in faith, wisdom, age and, hopefully, joy. We plan to offer this during Lent, so please watch the Sunday bulletins and weekly emails for more information, and contact me if you have ideas or questions. Peace to you!

### Prayer

Ask any Christian if they feel they spend enough time in prayer and they will almost always say "no," and the question itself raises other questions: What does it mean to have a prayer practice? How often should I pray? What if I'm not doing it right? I talk to God all day long in my head - is that a prayer practice?

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In fact, you will have noticed a few changes to the worship space. Were those changes made for change' sake, or to some greater purpose? Returning the front pews to their original chevron angles, relocating the ambry from behind the altar to the side, and making a few other alterations to help you see the original stone wall beneath the window? I'll leave it to you to decide whether these changes enhance your worship - or feel like changes for change' sake. Regardless, let me invite you into sacred flexibility!

As a concluding note, let me say how much I enjoy being here with you - you have made the beginning of this year together a joy. Even more, I am looking forward to a full Christmas Eve church and lovely season with lots of snow!

Blessings upon blessings,

# FAMILY MINISTRIES

by Sara Gorby

## THE GIVING TREE

December 1 gift tags will hang on the tree with wishes for seven families. This is a very simple way to give to families in our valley who are struggling this Christmas Season.



- ◆ Take a tag off the tree.
- ◆ Sign the tag out on the clipboard.
- ◆ Purchase and return the gift under the tree.

Youth will wrap, sort and label gifts on Tuesday, December 17, 4:00-6:00 in classroom 4/5.

## CAROLING IN THE SNOW

Friday, December 20  
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Meet @ Starbucks



We will stroll around downtown Ketchum and sing our little hearts out. Music/lyrics will be provided. RSVP to Sara or Liz.

## ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

Sunday December 8, 5:30 p.m.

Join St. Thomas readers and choir for a service of *Advent Lessons, Carols & Poetry: Reflections on Christ's Nativity*. This one-hour service is alive with tradition and blending with secular and contemporary readings that give a fresh perspective to the story we all know and love. Poetry selected by Bill Harper, direction by Claudia McCain, music direction by Joel Bejot, led by Kathleen Bean, this service will leave you wanting more. A reception follows.



While parents enjoy the service, the children and youth are invited to decorate Gingerbread Houses with Liz and her helpers in Classroom 2/3 (Godly Play). Children will also be

served a light supper.

Please up with Liz at [lhickey@stthomassunvalley.org](mailto:lhickey@stthomassunvalley.org).

## NATIVITY PAGEANT ~ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

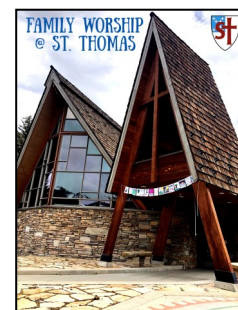
Children and youth are invited to participate in the 2:00 and 4:00 services on Christmas Eve (December 24) as Nativity Pageant Characters and Narrators. All participants need to arrive one hour before the service. Sign up on church bulletin board, via email or with Sara Gorby or Liz Hickey.

Rehearsals on Monday, December 23

3:00-4:30 ~ 2:00 Service Nativity Rehearsal

5:00-6:30 ~ 4:00 Service Nativity Rehearsal

Pizza Provided!



## NEW SERVICES TO GIVE FAMILIES OPTIONS DURING THE BUSY SPORTS SEASON

We know just how busy our families are with activities and life. With that in mind, we are going to try out some new service options for families to see what works. Sunday School and Youth Group will continue during the 9:30 service. The additions are monthly worship services with a family focus.

SACRED SPACE	Sunday, January 19, 5:30 p.m. February 16, 5:30 p.m.	Start your week with Sacred Space a service designed to allow room for creative readings and quiet. Service will last 1 hour.
TGIF2	Friday, January 25, 5:30 p.m. March 13, 5:30 p.m.*	New service with an experiential element, families will be invited into scripture themes to deepen their understanding of the story and walk away with something to remember. <i>*Kids Night Out 6:15-9:00 p.m. following the service</i>
GOOD FRIDAY	Friday, April 10, 5:30 p.m.	Family oriented service during Holy Week.

# FAMILY MINISTRIES

by Sara Gorby

## UP FRONT SERVICES ~ Children & Youth Leadership Wanted

Children and youth in services is the best! UP FRONT gives families the opportunity to sit close to the action in the front pews. Children and youth take on leadership roles as acolytes, greeters, oblation and collection bearers. Want to sign up to volunteer?

Talk to Sara Gorby.

Sunday, December 8, 9:30 a.m. service St. Nicholas Sunday

Sunday, February 23, 9:30 a.m. service



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER & TALENT SHOW

A long-standing tradition, we bake up pounds of bacon, add pancakes and fruit, pad our bellies, and then the talented people of our parish take the stage.

5:30 Dinner

6:30 Talent Show and "Bury the Alleluias" Liturgy



## RECTORY REMODEL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Many hands make light work, including little hands. Children, Youth & Family Ministries have set a goal of \$500 to raise as a ministry group to contribute to the Rectory Capital Campaign. Below are details about our plans. Special thank you to Lisa Leach for assisting with the efforts.

Sunday, February 2	Super Bowl of Chili	Pre-orders of 16 oz chili (serve 2-3) will be taken on January 19 & 26 for pick up at coffee hour on Super Bowl Sunday.
Friday, March 13	Kids Night Out	Following the Friday Night Service, Children are invited to make stew/soup to sell on Sunday during coffee hour. There will also be games and crafts. \$10/child \$20/family. Reservations limited to 25 children. Friends are welcome!
Saturday, April 25	Church Sleepover	4th grade and up are invited to make mini-monkey bread to sell on Sunday during coffee hour. We will also have games, movie and Compline. \$15/young person. Reservations are limited to 25. Friends are welcome!



## MINI-MESSY CHURCH

We have had a blast exploring Bible stories through Mini-Messy Church. With 2-3 station rotations, children and youth experience stories through activities, food, games, art and meditation. Mini-Messy Church takes place during Sunday School and Youth Group at the 9:30 service.

Sunday, January 12 Theme: I am the light of the whole world. (John 8:12)

Sunday, March 15 Theme: Lent ~ The Wilderness (Luke 4)

## YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

December 1	Sunday	Youth remain in worship or assist with Sunday School
December 8	Sunday	UP FRONT ~ youth volunteers welcome
December 15	Sunday	Praying in Color ~ Giving Tree Gifts are due
December 17	Tuesday	Wrap, sort, and label gifts for the Giving Tree
December 20	Friday	Caroling! 3:00-5:00 pm meet at Starbucks Ketchum
December 22	Sunday	Ornaments Making: Creations for St. Thomas Tree & Take Home
December 23	Monday	Nativity Narrator Rehearsal
December 24	Tuesday	Christmas Eve Family Services 2:00 & 4:00
December 29	Sunday	Christmas Movie Day!
January & February		The Masks We Wear: Inside & Out ~ Collage Masks
January 8 and 29		Ketchum Community Dinner @ Church of the Bigwood ~ youth volunteers welcome

## ADULT EDUCATION

by Don Liebich

As our St. Thomas community works through this time of transition, much of the Adult Education hour this Fall was devoted to community events and informational sessions on issues surrounding the search process. As we move into the winter we expect that we will return to a more normal schedule of topics of interest to a broad cross section of the congregation. In addition we will be experimenting with educational offerings outside of the Sunday morning Adult Education hour. Beginning on December 5 and running through April 2, Father Rob will lead an in depth study of the Gospel of Matthew. The group will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings. I urge you mark your calendar and check this out. The Winter 2019/20 Sunday morning schedule is here:

December 1	Advent Series
December 8	Advent Series
December 15	Advent Series
December 22	Open
December 29	Open
January 5	Reading Scripture - Rescuing Sacred Texts
January 12	Reading Scripture - Rescuing Sacred Texts
January 19	Reading Scripture - Rescuing Sacred Texts
January 26	Annual Meeting
February 2	Christianity Before Constantine
February 9	Christianity Before Constantine
February 16	Exploring the Creeds
February 23	Understanding the Lord's Prayer
March 1	What Can We Learn from "The Niceties"?
March 8	Playhouse Traveling Show
March 15	Native American Spirituality
March 22	Understanding Immigration
March 29	Episcopalian Evangelism

## ACOLYTES IN ACTION

by Mardi Shepard

This past September we held our annual training session with the Rev. Rob Gieselmann and Rev. Kathleen Bean. Sara Gorby and Mardi Shepard found a great training manual and with a bit of editing it is available to all acolytes. Thanks to Sara, Kathleen, and Rob for all your help.

Our training had a great turnout including three new acolytes! Please welcome Karley Johnston, Eavan Brown, and Lizzie Loving. We are so excited to have you on board with the "Fire and Bell" Gang. The next few months we will be training all three young ladies. We welcome anyone that is interested in serving at God's table. To sign up, contact the office or Mardi Shepard. It is a wonderful ministry! It is suggested that you are in at least 5th grade. All ages are encouraged to consider this ministry.



I would also like to thank all continuing acolytes for their dedication and flexibility: Ida Belle Gorby, Carter Hickey, Mary Ann and Chris Syms, Doug and Dydy Clevon, Mary Malkmus, Heather Black, Ragna Caron, Carter Helberg Schmidt, Bob Kesting, Helen Morgus, Ann Scales, and Phebe Thorne.



The ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 26, at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting begins with Holy Eucharist, followed by elections, appointments, reports, presentation of the **rector's cross**, and a delicious brunch.

Many thanks to the Hospitality Committee for preparing the brunch and the vestry for cleaning up. Nominees for vestry and diocesan convention will be posted by January 14 and the annual report will be available for review by January 19.

This is an important day in the life of our church so everyone is encouraged to attend.

### BOOK CLUB

by Laurie Ahern

The St. Thomas Book Club meets the second Monday of the week, September through June, at 1:30 p.m. Our membership includes people who have lived full time in the Valley for years and others who are part time residents. Our group includes members of St. Thomas as well as nonmembers. We all take turns leading with information on the author and discussion questions. We select our books as a group. At the November meeting we had 19 participants including Fr. Rob. Gentlemen are always welcome.

Our meeting in December (9th) is always a departure from the norm with a cookie exchange, light reading and book swap. Please contact Laurie Ahern with any questions: lahern1681@gmail.com or 206-850-3974.

Winter 2020 selections:

January 13: Bad Blood by John Carreyrou

February 10: Bitter Brush Country by Diane Peavey

March 9: One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow by Olivia Hawker



### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Liz Hickey

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

December 1	Sunday	Advent I-II with Art Dahl
December 8	Sunday	UPFRONT and St. Nicholas Visits 5:30 pm – Gingerbread House Decorating during Lesson & Carols service
December 15	Sunday	Advent III-IV with Kathleen Bean
December 22	Sunday	Mary Mother of Jesus with Helen Morgus
December 29	Sunday	The Christmas Movie with Liz Hickey

As we move into the new year, the children will be studying Moses, Saints, and Knowing Jesus. We are looking forward to more Mini-Messy Church services and Godly Play Bingo games. As always, if you are interested in helping with our Sunday School classroom, we would love to have you. Please let Liz Hickey know at lhickey@stthomassunvalley.org. We look forward to seeing your children in the classroom, we'll save a seat for you!

#### KETCHUM COMMUNITY DINNERS

The season of serving the community is underway and has already been a huge success. The Ketchum Community Dinner Team have been serving on average 35-40 people in the valley on Wednesday nights. The volunteers of St. Thomas have been truly loving and giving by making food and helping serve and clean up.

If you aren't familiar with Ketchum Community Dinner, we are a volunteer-run dinner provided for anyone who is in need or just wants a warm meal and sense of community. Meals are served on Wednesday evenings at the Church of the Big-wood from 6:00-7:00 p.m., October through May. Participants may take a meal home with them or eat there or both! Local businesses pitch in as well.

We look forward to seeing you there either as a volunteer or at the table.

# “Fiddler on the Roof”



← The cast of “Fiddler on the Roof” sings *Anatevka*.

Joy Bond, JoEllen Collins and Heidi Schiers sing *The Rumors*. ↓



St. Thomas Playhouse’s production of *Fiddler on the Roof* sold out before the show opened. We were so thrilled to share such an important story with the community, and we were thrilled with the public response.

The success of this production, along with all of our other work, led to Playhouse being awarded **Non-Profit of the Year** by The Chamber.

The production would not have been possible without the work of so many volunteers, including parents, patrons and the St. Thomas Playhouse Charter Committee. Sara and I would also like to thank all of our technicians, musicians, designers and actors for their many hours of work on the show!



R.L. Rowsey as Teyve.

Playhouse is excited to announce its 2020 Family Main Stage production of *Matilda*, which opens in September 2020. A smash-hit in London and Broadway, *Matilda* is based on the Roald Dahl classic book and features roles for kids and adults alike! A whimsical story about growing up and standing up for oneself, we are thrilled to bring the piece to the valley.

Up next is our Company B Winterized Camp, running December 26-28 & 30, followed by our ever-popular Girlfriend Cabaret Luncheon fundraiser in February! Hope to see you at one of our events in the new year.

Happy Holidays,  
Brett Moellenberg  
Managing Director



↑ David Javeski as Motel presents his new sewing machine.



↑ Cherri Kessler as Golde.



← Kagen Albright and Claire Watson sing “Now I have everything.”



## MILESTONES

(SEPTEMBER 1 – NOVEMBER 30, 2019)

### Marriages

September 14, 2019 Blair Charlotte Belling and Charles Edward Strickland

### Confirmations

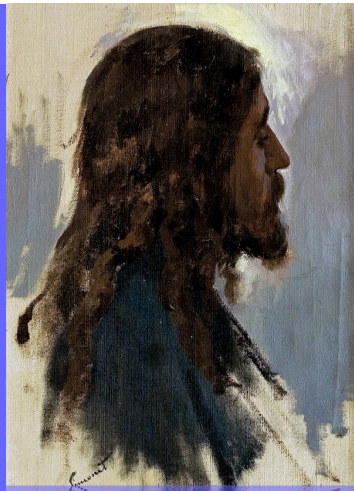
October 27, 2019 Maunsel Carter Stephens Hickey  
 October 27, 2019 Lynne Marie Nicholson  
 October 27, 2019 Elaine Ruth Houston Phillips  
 October 27, 2019 Michael Thomas Phillips  
 October 27, 2019 Christina Rose Cernansky (Reception)

## Jesus Unhinged

a study of the Gospel According to Matthew  
 with Rob Gieselmann

Thursday Mornings: 9-10:15am  
 Advent through Lent,  
 starting December 5, 2019

Drop-ins Welcome  
 Fireside Room



## THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners, St. Thomas is able to provide feast baskets, including the turkey and pies, to seven families through the Family Fund. This is the same fund that makes the Giving Tree possible at Christmas.

Good job, all you good and faithful people!

## GIVING

WHY I DO NOT CONTRIBUTE



THE CHURCH HAS PLENTY OF MONEY



WE CAN'T AFFORD IT



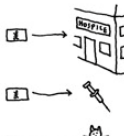
I GIVE MY TIME AND TALENTS INSTEAD



CHURCH ISN'T THE PLACE TO TALK ABOUT MONEY



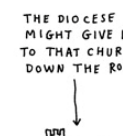
DOESN'T THE GOVERNMENT PAY FOR IT?



I GIVE TO OTHER CHARITIES



WHAT I COULD GIVE WOULDN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE



THE DIOCESE MIGHT GIVE IT TO THAT CHURCH DOWN THE ROAD  
 THE MONEY WON'T BE WELL-SPENT



OUR VICAR DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE PAID



SOMEBODY UPSET ME ONCE

CartoonChurch.com

## HAITI RELIEF TEAM (HART)

by Doug and Dydy Clevon

Dear St. Thomas Friends,

We wanted to thank everyone for their generous donations to the Haiti Micah Projects child sponsorships and education. We sent a check to HMP in July for \$14,354. Of this about \$1900 came from our "Come and See" dinner that we put on with the help of Community School teachers and students in April.

Unfortunately, the conditions in Haiti are not good at this time. There is fighting and demonstrations daily. We are sorry to report the feeding program and vocational school have closed for now. The SAES home is providing food and a safe home to the 29 children and staff at this time. Please pray for all in Haiti!

On December 15<sup>th</sup> the HaRT ministry will be hosting coffee hour and taking up a collection to send HMP to help ease the difficulties of buying food and supplies for the children at the SAES home.

Below is an email from Fr. Joseph Constant

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It saddens me to inform you that the situation in Haiti is getting worse. Haiti is in the middle of a humanitarian crisis. People are being killed daily, and the majority of the population do not have ready access to food, clean drinking water, or medical care. They are living in hiding behind closed doors and fearing for their lives.

On Tuesday, October 15, the President of Haiti, Jovenel Moise, held a press conference attempting to outline the causes of the uprising and hinted at those responsible for the challenges facing the country. He took questions from reporters and he reiterated that he has no plans to resign but is open to dialogue. His press conference, which provided no immediate solution to the crises, only fueled more violence.

Thursday, October 17, was supposed to be a national holiday in Haiti commemorating Jean Jacques Dessalines, the first ruler of an independent Haiti. Instead of a holiday, violent protests erupted throughout the country which injured and killed many people. Protestors continue to paralyze the country causing schools and businesses to close.

In Mirebalais, there was a massive demonstration protesting the brutal killing of Néhémie Joseph, a local radio journalist. Residents now go to sleep and wake up to the sounds of gun fire. With all the major roads blocked, it is practically impossible for the sick to get to the hospital. People lock themselves in their homes and only come out as necessary for food or medicine.

Please continue to pray for Haiti and our staff on the ground in Mirebalais. The staff risk their lives daily ensuring the care and protection of the children in the orphanage. I am grateful for your continued support.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Joseph M. Constant  
President

## SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP

by Rob Gieselmann



Clergy are urged to have a spiritual director, myself included. A spiritual director is a person trained by education and/or experience to lead others along a spiritual path. The underlying assumption of spiritual direction is that each of us – each person – has a spiritual life going on inside, whether he or she knows it, or not.

Indeed, each of us is walking a spiritual path, regardless of whether or not we realize it. God knocks on every person's door, walks alongside every person, patiently waiting to be noticed.

A Stephen Minister serves much like a spiritual director, but is trained differently. The Stephen Minister offers less advice and more friendship. You invite this person into your life to listen to you more than to guide you – to offer something I would call spiritual listening rather than spiritual guidance.

You, if you'd like to enroll in Stephen Ministry, would be matched with someone of your same sex who will listen to you without telling you what to do. This person would become your spiritual friend. But, if all that sounds a bit too spiritualized for you, it might help you to know that you can also complain to this person, process with him or her, share ideas



with that person. The point is, you will have someone – for a season – who can be there for you when you need it the most.

If you are interested in either having or becoming a Stephen Minister, contact Rob, Kathleen, or Helen Morgus (at [helemor58@gmail.com](mailto:helemor58@gmail.com)).



## THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

by Heather Black, Chair

The Search Committee has identified three primary phases to the work we have been given to do.

Gather input from our congregation to get a better sense of ourselves; as we understand our church to be, where we would like to see our church be in the future and what qualities an incoming rector might need to mesh with our community and ministries and to bring us to the desired future status. This process is under way and the search committee hopes to wrap up the “listening”/survey part of our work prior to the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Phase two entails assembling our Parish Profile. This document will tell the story of our church and our community to help inform prospective candidates. This work has been initiated and will get underway in a more concerted way in the New Year.

In the final phase we will assemble all of the information we have collected from you, our parishioners, organize it in a fashion that will impact our work as we create an advertisement for the position and initiate the interview process. The position opening will be made known to the Episcopal clergy through various networks, and will be done with input from our consultant and our Bishop.

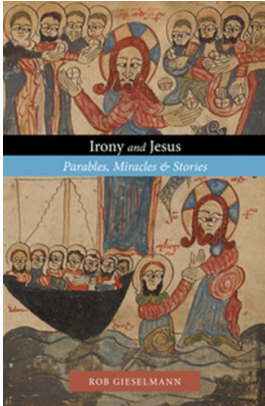
Watch for the spring newsletter where we will have an updated timeline and progress update. The Search Committee hopes that you will keep us in your prayers as we go forward with this work on behalf of the St. Thomas Community.



*Merry Christmas*

## ROB GIESELMANN'S NEW BOOK IS NOW ON AMAZON

*I don't want to exploit, but here is the Amazon description, and it can be purchased on Amazon for \$18.  
(I don't set the price because there is a publisher, unfortunately) – Rob*



How could so many preachers have it wrong about Jesus? Do the Gospels seem stale and irrelevant? Does God really love you, or just pretend to love you?

Do the words of Jesus seem harsh to you? Judgmental? Confusing? Is it possible to understand the stories he told in a different way? Did Jesus really expect people to sell all their possessions, or to hate their fathers and mothers? Or is it possible that both Jesus and the gospel writers were using literary devices to weave a variety of meanings into the fabric of Jesus' life and the stories he told? On the surface, the stories appear to mean one thing, but beneath the surface surprises lurk!

In this book, Rob Gieselmann, presents twelve parables, stories, and actions of Jesus to review them in the light of irony. As a priest in the Episcopal Church, Rob has taught the gospels for twenty years, urging students to look behind scripture's veil of words to discover creative and unexpected wisdom. His previous books include, *The Episcopal Call to Love*, and *A Walk Through the Churchyard*.

*Irony and Jesus* presents eleven instances of ironic stories found in the gospels and one found in the Good Friday tradition, exploring interpretations often ignored or hidden by mainstream interpreters. For example, when Jesus scolded Peter for lacking faith while walking on water, Peter sank. What if Jesus scolded Peter not for his immature faith's inability to hold him afloat, but instead because Peter lacked the faith necessary to stay in the boat?

We often treat Scripture as a judgmental school teacher rather than as a gentle mentor leading us into a more mature experience of faith. Yet, so much of Jesus and his words, are, in the end, about the fact that God really does love everybody—everybody, scandalously, which must mean, in the end, that God loves you, just as you are. What if you read scripture through that lens, rather than the more typical judgmental lens?

A lens like that can change a life. As Rob likes to say, "I am not literal about Scripture; I am not literal about hierarchical authority; I am literal about grace." In these pages, you will discover a literal grace that can renew your faith.

## TAIZÉ SERVICES TO BEGIN AGAIN AT ST. THOMAS

by Maryanne Whitcomb

Taizé services, described as "an encounter with Christ in song and prayer," were first held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in 1994, and will begin again for the winter season on Wednesday, December 4th, at 5:30 p.m. Services will continue December 11, 18, January 8, 15, 22, and 29, and conclude with three in February: 5, 12, and 19.

Taizé is a quiet, meditative, candlelight service that includes chant, spoken prayer and silent meditation. For those unfamiliar or new to these annual winter services, the following greeting can be looked forward to upon attending.

As one enters the church quietly, a service program and a lighted votive candle will be given. Candles may be taken to the altar and placed on the steps, before the service begins, if one wishes to offer a silent prayer. Or, attendees may simply find a place in the church and experience the beauty and peace of collective worship.

There is a new option this year, and that is an opportunity to walk the labyrinth on the upper patio prior to the beginning of the service. The labyrinth will be lighted and available for walks beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Looking for more information or history of the Taizé form of worship?  
Visit: [www.taize.fr.com](http://www.taize.fr.com) or [www.wikipedia/taize\\_community.com](http://www.wikipedia/taize_community.com).

Also, please contact Rev. Kathleen Bean or Joel Bejot for further discussion about Taizé at St. Thomas.



## SPRING CLEANING – THE WINTER EDITION!

We are thinning out our library here and have been sharing our books with different libraries around the valley. There are a few books and videos on a table in the Parrish Hall for you to take home or to share with others.

Please feel free to stop by and take a look in the next few weeks.



## SOUPER BOWL CHALLENGE

by Garry Pearson

Good morning all and Happy Fall,

Well it's that time again and football is in full swing. We are starting early this year in anticipation of a record-breaking performance in filling the coffers of our wonderful Hunger Coalition with nourishing canned soups.

The Hunger Coalition provides good food to one in five people in our community and over half of them are children.

Thanks so much for your participation again this year, and we will all be competing to take the trophy back from last year's winner, Our Lady of the Snows.



## MIRACLES!

Our scriptures are full of miracle stories and faithful people throughout the ages have reported miraculous events in their own lives. Parishioner Gabe Cherian is one of those people, and he is working on a book to describe them in the hope that it will be a blessing and encouragement to its readers.

Gabe invites anyone who has experienced a miracle in their own life and wishes to share it, to contact him and perhaps have their own story or stories included in his book. For more information, contact Gabe at [gabe.cherian@yahoo.com](mailto:gabe.cherian@yahoo.com).

## ENLIGHTENING MESSAGE FROM DR. DARK AND THE GREEN TEAM

In response to the often-perplexing question, "What color light bulbs should I buy to save energy?" our own Steve Pauley, also known as "Dr. Dark" in honor of his work to establish our Dark Sky Reserve, offers this advice:

For indoors, use an LED bulb with a color similar to the old incandescent bulbs. Colors are determined by the temperature of the light source and are listed in degrees Kelvin; a warm color would be 2700K to 3000K. The lower the Kelvin #, the warmer the light. Look on the package for this number – you may find it beside "Light Appearance" on the packaging.

Don't buy the awful blue-white light sources – i.e., anything above 3000 K. Blue-white light suppresses your natural pineal melatonin production which happens between 2:00 and 4:00 a.m., and that interferes with your normal circadian, day/night rhythms. Also try to avoid reading blue-white back-lit iPhones and iPads before bedtime. If your device supports it, use the night program that gives you more reddish/brownish light as background. (On an iPhone, just go to Settings, then Display and Brightness. Move the brightness level toward lower light.)



December

- 1 Matt Gorby
- 1 Muffy Davis
- 1 Kathleen Bean
- 3 Red Bloedel
- 3 Carol Stevens
- 4 Addalee Hall
- 4 Tish Short
- 4 Jennifer Smith

- 5 Rochelle Sisilli
- 5 Kim Verde
- 6 Richard Smooke
- 7 Randy Hall
- 7 Candy Walton
- 7 Tim Strait
- 8 Amanda Alexander
- 8 Carter Cox

- 9 Pat Molinari
- 10 Karen Bossick
- 11 Kris Webster
- 11 Tim Miller
- 12 Libby Lindstrom
- 14 Courtney Loving
- 14 Frank Shrontz
- 16 Mary Clare Griffin

- 19 Myrle Bradshaw
- 21 Hank Minor
- 21 Lindsey Armeen
- 23 Toni Himmelman
- 27 Ashley Blassingame
- 29 Andy Kerstetter
- 30 Barbara Wallace

January

- 2 Shirley Runge
- 3 Randi Filoon
- 3 Jane Beattie
- 4 Sasha Heinz
- 5 Jack Williams
- 5 Dick Shelton
- 5 Duncan Morton
- 5 Harold Peebles
- 6 Heather Black

- 6 Suzanne Buchanan
- 8 Mark Baumgardner
- 8 Ranney Draper
- 8 Lisa Strait
- 9 Mia-faye Jefferson
- 9 LaRee Morgan
- 10 Deborah Berner
- 11 Meeka Pedersen
- 14 David Sturdevant

- 14 Georgia Stewart
- 15 Timothy Peters
- 15 Josh Pate
- 16 Michael Cord
- 16 Mardi Shepard
- 17 Sherri Luhr
- 18 Richard Van Duzer
- 22 Sandra Webel
- 23 Steve Malkmus

- 23 Bob Rice
- 24 Lucy Carter
- 24 Bill Hubbard
- 27 Michael Hobbs
- 30 Ben Morgan
- 31 Laura Morawitz
- 31 Debbie Hetherington

February

- 1 Rivers Hickey
- 1 Hap Crusel
- 2 Ed Karner
- 4 Janet DeBard
- 4 Rebecca Waycott
- 5 Steven Huish
- 10 Christine Kraatz
- 10 Peter Atkinson
- 11 Ellen Sanders

- 11 Lisa McElhinny
- 11 William Buchanan
- 12 James Tooley
- 13 Dede Huish
- 13 Lauren Cord
- 14 Ida Belle Gorby
- 14 Cindy Chojnacky
- 14 Alyssa Claffey
- 15 John Ashton

- 15 Jimmy Grossman
- 17 Charles Mercer
- 18 Wyatt Minor
- 20 Terry Palmer
- 21 Phebe Thorne
- 21 Roger Gould
- 23 Sidney Brooks
- 23 Paul Hansen
- 23 Lisa Leach

- 24 Gretchen Palmer
- 25 LeeAnne Linderman
- 26 Fred Wagner
- 28 Loren Kahle
- 28 Betty Kahle
- 28 Bob Dittmer
- 28 Heather Minor

## SHAWL MINISTRY

by Pat Jorgensen

*We welcome new "winter" knitters for our Shawl Committee.*

We meet for an hour the second Wednesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. downstairs in our Fireside Room. We are finished in enough time to attend the Taizé service upstairs at 5:30 p.m. for those who might be interested. It is a wonderful way to spend two hours!!

Help is available for new knitters along with yarn for their project. The shawls are prepared and blessed at the altar for people in our congregation who are experiencing life changes and need comfort in their lives.

We have a lot of fun and look forward to new members. Please contact Pat Jorgensen 208-481-7264 or 208-726-8302 and please join us!



**A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"**

*In a recent sermon, Rob Gieselmann mentioned the confirmation test he requires teen confirmands to pass before they can be confirmed. Several parishioners asked to see it - to see whether they could pass! For those interested, you will find the test below.*

## CONFIRMATION TEST

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sun Valley/Ketchum  
Confirmation 2019

Answer/Complete the following:

1. Write the Lord's Prayer. (7)
2. List the Ten Commandments. (10)
3. Write the Apostles' Creed. (8)
4. List the church seasons. (there are six) (6)  
List the colors for each for extra credit (one point per color).
5. List the names of the four Gospels. (4)
6. What are the two parts to the Sunday eucharistic service? (4)
7. There are two sacraments (those Jesus authorized) and five sacramentals. Name the two and list three of the five. (4)
8. Name the current youth minister of St. Thomas. (2)
9. Name two Old Testament prophets. (4)  
Extra credit: (3 points) What is the difference between the minor and major prophets?
10. Define "sacrament." (4)

True/False (1 each)

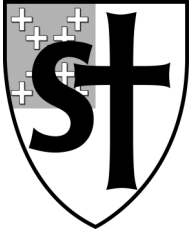
1. \_\_\_ Rob Gieselmann is a priest.
2. \_\_\_ Easter is a principal feast of the Church.
3. \_\_\_ A diocese is governed by convention.
4. \_\_\_ Unction is a "sacramental" using the anointing of oil.
5. \_\_\_ General Convention is the legislative event of the Episcopal Church.
6. \_\_\_ General Convention is tricameral, consisting of a House of Bishops, a House of Priests, and a House of Deputies.
7. \_\_\_ Ash Wednesday is a principal feast of the Church.
8. \_\_\_ Good Friday is the Friday after Easter.
9. \_\_\_ Morning and Evening Prayer are two services in the Daily Office.
10. \_\_\_ The Daily Office is found in the Book of Common Prayer.
11. \_\_\_ Thomas Cranmer compiled the first Book of Common Prayer for the Church of England.
12. \_\_\_ A sacrament is an inward sign.
13. \_\_\_ *via media* means "my way is right."
14. \_\_\_ *via media* was developed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.
15. \_\_\_ Henry VIII severed ties with the Roman Catholic Church.
16. \_\_\_ Elizabeth I was Henry VIII's granddaughter.
17. \_\_\_ Love your neighbor as yourself is one of the Ten Commandments.
18. \_\_\_ Your parents decide whether you should be confirmed.
19. \_\_\_ St. Thomas Episcopal Church has four priests.
20. \_\_\_ Abraham lived before Moses.
21. \_\_\_ God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.
22. \_\_\_ Paul was one of Jesus' original disciples.
23. \_\_\_ David was the first King of Israel.
24. \_\_\_ Green is the color for Pentecost.
25. \_\_\_ White is the color for Lent.

Extra credit (1 each)

- a. \_\_\_ Peter was a fisherman.
- b. \_\_\_ Paul was a tentmaker.
- c. \_\_\_ There are 67 books of the Bible.
- d. \_\_\_ The Apocrypha is not found in most Protestant Bibles.

Essays

1. Who is Jesus to you. (He asked his disciples, Who do you say that I am? Therefore, to you – the confirmation student– who do you say Jesus is??) (12)
2. Describe to the best of your ability how Episcopalians treat Scripture. (Literally, word for word factual? As some or many other types of writing?) (10)



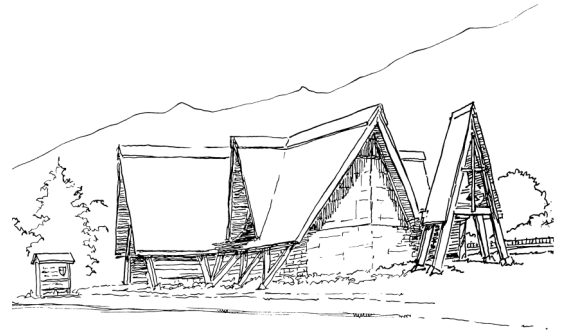
**st. thomas episcopal church**

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- ASSOCIATE RECTOR                 The Rev. Kathleen Bean
- INTERIM PRIEST                     The Rev. Rob Gieselmann
- VESTRY OFFICERS                   Rebecca Waycott, Senior Warden  
Brad Musbach, Junior Warden  
Tom Benson, Treasurer  
Judi Fuller, Clerk
- VESTRY MEMBERS                   Alison Burpee, Sasha Heinz, Ruth Jones,  
Lisa Leach, Claudia McCain, Tim Price,  
Becky Smith
- ADMINISTRATION                   Joel Bejot, Music Director and Organist  
Judi Fuller, Parish Administrator  
Sara Gorby, Children, Youth & Family Director & Playhouse Education Director  
Liz Hickey, Children’s Ministry Director  
Brett Moellenberg, Playhouse Managing Director and Electronic Media Coordinator



The deadline for the next issue of *The Lift* is 4 p.m., Tuesday, February 18th.  
Please submit information and story ideas to the church office or email to Judi Fuller at [jfuller@stthomassunvalley.org](mailto:jfuller@stthomassunvalley.org)  
Should you have any comments or suggestions that will help us improve our newsletter, we will be pleased to receive them.  
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