

The LIFT

st thomas episcopal church

SUMMER 2019

THE REV. KATHLEEN BEAN TO SERVE AS ASSISTANT RECTOR

St. Thomas is pleased to announce that the Rev. Kathleen Bean has been called to serve as Associate Rector of St. Thomas Church effective June 30, 2019. Kathleen has served as an intern at St. Thomas for the past six months and joyfully accepts this new call.

The vestry has discussed hiring an Associate Rector for years and those conversations intensified in recent months, well before Father Ken announced he was leaving. It has become clear to the vestry that St. Thomas has grown to a point that hiring an Associate Rector will not only be helpful for the next Rector, but will also strengthen the many ministries currently underway.

Kathleen is a mature presence in the parish and an articulate writer and preacher. Kathleen is also an excellent listener and a sensitive pastor. She has particular gifts in the areas of retreat facilitation and small group development that will deepen the spiritual life of the parish. As an added bonus, now that Fr. Ken is leaving, Kathleen will be able to offer consistency for the parish as an Interim Priest comes on board later in the summer and a search is undertaken for a new Rector.

Kathleen will be working 30 hours per week and will serve at the direction of the Rector, Interim Priest, or Vestry in the absence of a clergy leader. Kathleen will not play a role in the search for a new Rector, nor will she be eligible to be considered for the roles of Interim Priest or Rector. In addition, once a new Rector is hired, that person will have the freedom and responsibility to structure the staff as she or he sees fit; Kathleen understands this process and is looking forward to partnering with clergy and lay leaders to advance the strategic vision of the parish.

Kathleen had back surgery on May 9 and may not be present in the parish until her work begins in late June. The Bishop of California has given Bishop Brian permission to ordain Kathleen to the priesthood at St. Thomas on Monday, July 8, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.

In accepting this call, Kathleen writes, "I answer this sacred call with joy, excitement, gratitude and humility. I've come to know the people of St. Thomas as deeply faithful. What a gift to begin my priestly ministry among you, especially at this time of discerning what new thing God has in store! I look forward to journeying with you, with a strong back and open heart."

The vestry is so pleased to welcome Kathleen to her new role and we can't wait for you to get to know her better in the months and years ahead. You can read Kathleen's biography on page 3.



The Rev. Kathleen Bean

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - Rite I Eucharist
9:30 a.m. - Rite II Eucharist with Music
Wednesday 1:00 p.m. - Healing Eucharist
Once a month 5:30 p.m. - Choral Evensong

NURSERY, CHURCH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION

Nursery Care is provided during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service.
Christian Education for children is held at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays.
Adult Education meets after the 9:30 a.m. service most Sundays.
The Parish Bible Study meets Thursdays at noon.

OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 10:00 - 4:00

TELEPHONE (208) 726-5349

FAX (208) 726-7570

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 1070
Sun Valley ID 83353

EMAIL: admin@stthomassunvalley.org

WEBSITE: www.stthomassunvalley.org

www.stthomasplayhouse.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/StThomasSunValley

REFLECTIONS BY THE RECTOR

by the Rev. Ken Brannon



The Rev. Kenneth H. Brannon

This is my last newsletter article as your Rector. As most of you now know, I have accepted a position as Vice Rector at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Dallas, Texas. My last day at the church is June 9 and my tenure officially ends on June 30. My family and I sincerely appreciate your prayers as we undergo this transition, and we remember you in our prayers as well.

No newsletter article can fully capture the love I feel for St. Thomas Church, the Wood River Valley, and the Diocese of Idaho. This has been a terrific place to call home for the past twelve years. I love the friendly banter on Sunday morning as people arrive for church and the consistent willingness to donate to a good cause. I love the seemingly infinite number of hiking trails in the Sawtooth National Forest and the breathtaking mountain vistas that greet us as we drive through south central Idaho. I love the good friends I have made at churches throughout the Diocese and the fundamental kindness of our Bishop. If I were to make a "pros and cons" list about whether to leave St. Thomas Church, I'm quite sure the list would argue for staying put.

But the Spirit really does move in mysterious ways. I know that you will be blessed by new leadership and new perspectives. I know that I have gifts to offer St. Michael and All Angels Church in Dallas, a church that is larger and more complex than any I have experienced before. I know that my family is ready for an adventure and that I will enjoy being closer to my brothers and their families who also live in the south. In short, all the signs point to the fact that it is time for us to leave, even as I struggle to say goodbye to you and this wonderful mountain west landscape.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find practical information about the transition process that is already underway. I will not repeat that information here, but I encourage you to read the articles closely so that you know how you can be of service in the coming months. Instead, I would like to share some thoughts about change and the church, which may make this process more life-giving.

1. Keep showing up. As Heather Black, a former Senior Warden, once said during an annual meeting, "YOU are the church." Priests come and go, but you are the constant that is St. Thomas Episcopal Church. You can claim this spiritual identity by showing up. Don't care for a supply priest's preaching style? Keep showing up. Feeling anxious about how the search process is going? Keep showing up. Filled with joy or wracked with pain because of a recent life event? Keep showing up. St. Thomas Church can only realize its calling in Christ when all of her members - all of you - keep showing up and offer the gift that only you can bring.

2. When in doubt, choose trust. Transitions are a time to practice the trust in God that we often talk about. When a rector leaves, new leaders step forward and leadership styles change. At times, this process of transition can feel messy. But these "gaps" also allow God's grace to shine through. Lay leaders will be taking on many of the responsibilities I once held; trust them. Diocesan representatives will be more engaged in the search process; trust them. The staff have been doing their work for years and have important insights; trust them. The new interim priest will try new things; trust him or her. When in doubt, choose trust, because the trust you give is the trust you will receive.

3. Pray more. Clergy transitions are a great time to go deeper into prayer. Regardless of who is called to lead you, God is at the helm. In order to perceive God's intention for St. Thomas Church, we have to still our anxious hearts and minds and tap into "the peace that passes understanding." As I said in a sermon several years ago, "There is a river of prayer that runs continuously through the heart of God. All we have to do is step into that river and be transformed by the divine prayer that never ends." What does this mean in practical terms? Begin and end your meetings with prayer. Pray regularly with a spiritual friend or in small groups. Pray for your new Rector who has not yet been identified. Pray for your Senior Warden, the vestry, and the search committee. Pray for your Bishop. Pray more; you will be the beneficiary.

So let me say "goodbye." Thank you for embracing my family and me. Thank you for being patient with my misunderstandings and mistakes. Thank you for showing me what life in Christ looks like. I have been transformed by my time with you and will always give thanks for your faithfulness and good humor.

Following is a prayer from the farewell service on June 9th:

"Now, we pray, be with those who leave and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen." (Ending of a Pastoral Relationship, Book of Occasional Services, p. 345).

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

some thoughts from Rebecca Waycott, Acting Senior Warden



Rebecca Waycott
Vestry member and
Acting Senior Warden

In this period of transition, we, the members of St. Thomas, have been working on saying goodbye to our rector, Fr. Ken, and the whole Brannon family. To that end, there will be a special service on Sunday, June 9th at 7:00 pm entitled “A Service for the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship and Leaving from a Congregation.” This title is quite a mouthful, but it is a very meaningful and symbolic service with beautiful liturgy and music as well as a sermon by our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Brian Thom. A goodbye reception will follow on the patio. We hope you can all be there.

The Vestry will be working hard, assisted by the wonderfully capable staff we have at St. Thomas, to make sure that all goes well during the transition period. During the balance of June until Kathleen Bean’s arrival June 30 as Assistant Rector, our Sunday services will be led by supply clergy and/or our worship leaders. The Diocese will be assigning us an Interim Rector who will start at some point after August 1. Kathleen will provide us a sense of continuity through this whole period and beyond for which we are very grateful.

Meanwhile, during the latter half of June, applications will be available for those members of St. Thomas who would be interested in serving on the Search Committee. The Committee will not be formed until after July 1 and will be overseen by Canon Lucinda Ashby from the Diocesan headquarters in Boise.

St. Thomas is a strong and vibrant church full of ministries that function autonomously and well. All of these ministries are sure to continue and thrive.

In this Eastertide we celebrate rebirth and renewal and thus look forward with excitement to unlimited possibilities as St. Thomas transitions under new guidance and leadership. All will be well, and we members of St. Thomas will support each other.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel to reach out to me or any member of the Vestry.

rebeccawaycott@gmail.com (208) 720-2896

BIOGRAPHY OF THE REV. KATHLEEN BEAN

Kathleen Bean was born in Iowa and grew up on her dad’s stories of his life on a small farm; her appreciation of the sacred nature of the land and of growing and sharing food runs deep.

She grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles and after marrying Brian, an investment banker with a degree in botany, moved to her dream city, San Francisco. There she became the Development Director for The Nature Conservancy of California and served on the boards of organizations devoted to conservation and sustainable agriculture. Following a desire to be more engaged in the conservation of working landscapes, Kathleen and Brian bought Lava Lake Ranch in 1999 and are now dyed-in-the-wool sheep ranchers and proud Idahoans. They raised their two daughters, Phoebe and Fiona, in the city during the school year and on the ranch for summers and vacations – the best of both worlds. Both girls are avid outdoorswomen and are studying at University of Montana in Missoula.

Kathleen was baptized in the Methodist Church, worshipped at a small non-denominational church as a teenager, and found the Episcopal Church as a young adult. She earned a Master’s Degree in Theology with an emphasis in Spirituality at the Franciscan School in Berkeley, part of the Graduate Theological Union where students are encouraged to take classes at other seminaries and learn about other faith traditions. After this rich experience Kathleen answered a long simmering call to ordained ministry, and she completed her seminary education at Church Divinity School of the Pacific. She was ordained a deacon in December 2018, and looks forward to ordination to the priesthood at St. Thomas Church in early summer 2019. She is deeply grateful for the ecumenical nature of her life and training.



Kathleen was drawn to the Episcopal Church by the beauty of the liturgy and the open-hearted welcome of all, “wherever you are in your journey of faith.” She is passionate about helping connect people to God and to each other by creating sacred spaces and experiences, whether inside a church, outside in nature, or around the dinner table, and for many years has engaged in ministry to moms of young children.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRIES

“Equipping young people for lives of value, faith, and meaning”

Faith Formation & Transitions *by Sara Gorby*

Our lives are full of celebrations and transitions. We had an incredible celebration with “Rites of Passage” and honoring graduating high school seniors on Sunday, May 13th. The perfect way to celebrate Mother’s Day!

Rites of Passage

2nd Grade: Iris Bejot and Grayson Tierney

5th Grade: Boden Price and William Smith

8th Grade: Holden Archie, Emma Bejot, Charlotte Davis-Jeffers, Ava Smith, Wilson Webster and Colton Whitesell

Children, Youth & Family Spring Highlights *by Sara Gorby*

The Spring was full of wonder opportunities to become closer as a faith community and deepen our understanding of spiritual growth. Below are a few of the highlights with pictures.



High School Seniors: Isaac Brannon, Annie Kaminski, Audra Mary, Barrett Ott and Ella Wolters



Lenten Art Project ~ Wooden Cross



Good Friday Family Service



Easter Crafts



Father Ken teaches Symbols of the Eucharist



Parable of the Deep Well



Pretzel Dipping



CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRIES

“Equipping young people for lives of value, faith, and meaning”

June 9th ~ Saying Goodbye to Father Ken by Sara Gorby

Twelve years is a length of time that is significant to many of the young people in our parish. Father Ken has been at St. Thomas for 12 years and has had a huge impact on the life of our parish. His ministry with our families is tangible and filled with cherished memories of baptisms, confirmation classes, picnics, worship, prayer, potlucks, Eucharist on Redfish Lake, water fights, laughter and tears. We will miss Father Ken very much, but we know God is calling him to Dallas to spread the love of Jesus Christ. It is time for him to share his gifts with a new group of people. We know that Sunday mornings, as we gather at Eucharist to share the one bread, Father Ken is also gathering with those in Dallas. Worship and Eucharist connect us always. We send Father Ken, Rachel, Isaac and Lucy with prayers and love on this new adventure.

Father Ken’s final services will be at 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 9. A Special Farewell Service will be presided over by Bishop Brian on Sunday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m. with a reception to follow.



Father Ken on the tractor at Parish Picnic

Grand Days of Summer by Liz Hickey

The Grand Days of Summer is upon us! Starting June 16th through August 18th we have so many new and thrilling lessons for our Summer Sunday School. We are so fortunate to have such talented and loving parishioners who are willing to share with the youth of St. Thomas. Thank you for your time and gifts!

A few examples of our summer curriculum are:

- ◆ JoEllen Collins will be explaining the art of Storytelling
- ◆ Galen Hanselman on flying
- ◆ Dr. Steve Pauley will be teaching Astronomy
- ◆ Page Klune doing voice-overs and recordings
- ◆ Michael Leach will be discussing Search and Rescue and Safety
- ◆ Mary Anne Whitcomb will be talking about the importance of snail mail notes

NEW for Children and Youth Ministries

We will be gathering at the Children’s Wooden Cross up stairs by the name tags before the 9:30 service. This will begin June 16th at our first Grand Days of Summer.

Parish Potluck Picnic

Saturday, August 24th, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Don’t miss the Parish Picnic at Sheila Witmers!

There will be games, zip line, trampoline, and yummy food for all.

Keep an eye out in the Sunday bulletin for food assignments.

Wagon Days Parade Seating

Saturday, August 31

Seats will be available for rent for the “best seat on the parade route” right here.

Seating opens at 11:30 a.m. - Parade begins at 1:00 p.m.

Reservations open August 1st during coffee hour or call into the church office.

Your donation of \$10/seat is greatly appreciated.

Chili, hot dogs, and drinks will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit St. Thomas Youth Group.

Remember the streets in Ketchum close early. So, get in town and get a parking spot.

UP FRONT & Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 8th during the 9:30 service

Followed by Bigwood Dogs Hot Dog Cart, carnival games, bounce house, Sunday School and Youth Group Registration!

MUSIC DIRECTOR

by Joel Bejot

A SUMMER LIKE ANY OTHER, AND A SUMMER UNLIKE ANY OTHER.



The Bejot Family

This summer, many good things are happening for the church, and to us individually. We will have three Playhouse productions, some “continuing ed” time for me, vacations, playtime, area festivals, gardening, music-making, and as much time outdoors as possible. We have the symphony and writer’s conference, choral evensong, and many other good things. Summer in Sun Valley is a busy but glorious time.

And yet, we will also say goodbye to our beloved rector of 12 years, and enter into a period of transition. As we do so, I hope we can allow the transition process to take the time it needs, neither rushed nor belabored. This congregation went through a fairly rigorous period of discernment with our strategic planning process a couple of years ago, and I’m sure that process will bear fruit with our coming discernment. Knowing one’s values is a critical first step to knowing which direction to go in the future. And the good people of St. Thomas will move forward together with the Holy Spirit’s sustaining grace.

“God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year:
God is working his purpose out, and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.”

-Hymn 534, Verse 1.

If you’ve ever considered singing in a choir, come check it out! We have two choirs that meet over the summer - our Sunday morning “St. Thomas Adult Choir,” and our evensong choir. Please speak with me or any chorister about singing with us, even for a short time.

Our bell choir will also be rehearsing as I’m available here and there. If you’d like a personal demonstration, just ask Joel or any ringer when they are in church.

Our summer services of Choral Evensong will be held on June 23, July 28, and August 25. It’s a wonderful way to pray with the saints around the world and throughout time. There is a reception following the service. Bring a friend!

I’ve recently become a member of the “Association of Anglican Musicians.” It’s a relatively small organization, serving musicians of the Episcopal church and the wider Anglican tradition, as well as clergy and other friends of AAM. I’m very excited to go to their annual conference, which begins on June 30 in Boston. For more information, you can go to anglicanmusicians.org.



Evensong Choir



Cherubs and Chorister enjoying a film night at the Bejots.

THE GREEN TEAM NEWS

by Mary Malkmus

We had such a lovely Earth Sunday celebration with words of encouragement from Kathleen Bean. The children made the most wonderful prayer flags that send the message of our responsibility for care for the earth across the valley.

This summer we plan to have two days for you to “come to church a new way”walk, bike, bus, car pool. Let’s have very few cars in the parking lot! Your Green Team is also attempting to follow closely the actions being taken by our cities to promote sustainability.



Highway Clean-up Team

On May 11th, we, with our partners from Emmanuel Church in Hailey, had another successful cleaning of our section of Highway 75.

We are ordering more St. Thomas shopping bags. They should be available by mid summer.



Earth Day Prayer Flags

ADULT EDUCATION

by Don Liebich

The Spring Adult Education program underwent a number of modifications from the original plan as the changes in St. Thomas leadership and other events resulted in changes to the original plan. The program as it emerged featured a three part series on religious identity. We discussed the topic of what it means to be a Christian. We then welcomed guests from the Buddhist and Muslim communities who discussed what it is like to practice their faith in a predominantly Christian country. The Lenten series, facilitated by Father Ken, Deacon Kathleen and Deacon Wayne, examined and discussed the aspects of Practical Christianity. A session on “Understanding Christian Zionism” looked at the history, theology and impact on American politics of this reading of scripture.

Again this summer, we are pleased to welcome back Irwin Sentilles who will discuss the Old Testament stories and their meaning for us today. We will also discuss the role of women in the Bible and in the modern church. The road from the very patriarchal narrative that we find in many biblical stories is more nuanced than one might think and the road from the ancient church to our modern view has been a long and bumpy one which continues to this day. Here is the schedule as it currently exists.

June 16	Search Process discussion	Rebecca Waycott
June 23	Prayer Practices/Walking the Labyrinth	Deacon Kathleen Bean
June 30	Kathleen Bean welcome	
July 7	open	
July 14	Why the Old Testament?	Deacon Kathleen Bean
July 21	Church Music	Joel Bejot
July 28	Exodus	Irwin Sentilles
August 4	Samuel/Kings	Irwin Sentilles
August 11	Psalms	Irwin Sentilles
August 18	The Prophets	Irwin Sentilles
August 25	The Role of Women in the Bible	Jima Rice/Kathleen Bean
September 1	Women in the Modern Church	Jima Rice/Kathleen Bean

“HOLE IN THE WALL GANG” PARTY

Wednesday July 31, 2019 at 6m
At Heather Black’s home at 203 Shaun Lane
in the Heatherlands.

This no-host party is for plaque and niche holders in the St. Thomas Columbarium.
Please bring an appetizer or desert to share and a beverage of your choice.
New members are always welcome!



Happy Birthday

June

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ben Pettit | 8 Sandra Maier | 15 Buey Grossman | 21 Jeff Bates |
| 1 Rachel Webster | 9 Craig Spiller | 16 Scott Mary | 22 Diane Peavey |
| 3 Ruth Lieder | 9 Gretchen Boe | 16 Brock Mary | 22 Cal Millar |
| 3 Gail Severn | 9 Timothy Carter | 16 John Bailey | 23 Terry Player |
| 4 Jill Hitchin | 9 Virginia Johnson | 17 Jane Sheue | 26 Sara Watson |
| 4 Dave Chase | 12 Garry Pearson | 18 Carter Hickey | 27 Jason Syms |
| 5 Gayle Bieker | 13 Gordon Player | 19 Sam Kory | 27 Hannah Robideaux |
| 7 Shirley Hagey | 15 Elizabeth Bunce | 21 Jean Cassell | 30 Gardner Cord |

July

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Derrick May | 7 Dylan Buck | 15 Mark Nieves | 21 Colin Waycott |
| 3 Siobhan Jameson | 8 Florence Harvey | 16 Lynda Bachman | 22 Peter Breck |
| 4 Graeme Bretall | 8 Bobbie Bellows | 16 Tracy Kanowsky | 22 Nina Tooley |
| 4 Travis Reed | 8 Martha Hausmann | 16 Nicole Kanowsky | 25 Richard Waycott |
| 5 Alexa Szombathy | 10 Jack Alcamo | 17 John Wallace | 25 Gabriel Griffin |
| 5 Calista Carter | 11 Kiki Pate | 18 Asher Pettit | 25 Warren Loving |
| 6 Lucy Gibson | 14 Tatum Minor | 19 Jean Mabbatt | 26 Gay Fruehling |
| 7 Pat Jorgensen | 15 Christopher Cord | 19 Paul Holle | 29 Yeny Paitan |
| 7 Ann Taylor | 15 Pirie Grossman | 21 Judi Fuller | 31 Ron Runge |

August

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kim Berg | 6 Avery Jameson | 12 Sam Smith | 19 Colleen Holle |
| 1 Ward Loving | 7 David Caldwell | 13 Michael Tatterson | 20 Doug Taylor |
| 1 Barrett Ott | 8 Chris Stephens | 13 Jeff Lewis | 22 Colton Whitesell |
| 3 Ava Smith | 8 Bill Harper | 17 Susan Bilkey | 23 Monika Bloedel |
| 4 Ellen Wallace | 9 Christopher Nalen | 17 Paul Ahern | 23 Ken Brannon |
| 4 Norah Davis-Jeffers | 9 Paris Himmelman | 18 Iris Bejot | 25 John Marshall |
| 5 Jon Thorson | 10 Rob Sutcliff | 18 Sharma Thornton | 26 Pat Davies |
| 5 Carla Marshall | 10 Vickie Hawley | 19 Nancy Penrose | 27 Todd Stewart |
| 6 Quinn Jameson | 10 Abby Chase | 19 Judy Kildare | 30 Patty Hare |

MILESTONES

(March 1 - May 31, 2019)

BAPTISMS

March 3, 2019
 March 3, 2019
 April 20, 2019

Quinn Aibhlinn Jameson
 Avery Sutton Jameson
 Lynne Marie Nicolson

Born: August 6, 2018
 Born: August 6, 2018
 Adult

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

Saturday, August 24
 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Bring the whole family to a day of fun and games at Sheila Witmer's home on the Big Wood River, north of Ketchum.
 Fishing, croquet, softball, soccer, good eats and good company.
 More details will be announced as the summer progresses.





*The Bishop of the Diocese of Idaho
and
the people of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
invite you to attend a special service
for the
“Ending of a Pastoral Relationship”
in honor of the departure of
The Rev. Kenneth H. Brannon, Rector*

*Pentecost Sunday
June 9, 2019
at 7:00 PM*

*St. Thomas Episcopal Church
201 Sun Valley Road
Sun Valley, Idaho*

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Clergy: Red Stoles

Reception to follow

Peace,

Georgia Stewart, Senior Warden

Rebecca Waycott, Acting Senior Warden

The Rev. Ken Brannon will preach his last Sunday sermon at St. Thomas on Pentecost, June 9 (services at 8 am and 9:30 am) before moving with his family to Texas at the end of June. A special service, “The Ending of a Pastoral Relationship,” with the Rt. Rev. Brian Thom, Bishop of Idaho, presiding, will be held the same evening at 7 pm. We will host a farewell reception in honor of Father Ken and the Brannon family immediately following the 7 pm service. All are welcome.

It is the custom of the Church to collect and to give a monetary gift to departing clergy as a sign of love and thanksgiving for their ministry. We offer you the opportunity to contribute to Father Ken’s monetary gift. If you feel so moved, please write a check to St. Thomas Episcopal Church noting “Father Ken’s Gift” in the memo line. You may place your check in the offering plate, mail it, or bring it to the Church office.

Also, we have placed a leather-bound remembrance book on the credenza right inside the front door of St. Thomas. We invite you to write a personal message in the album, including a photo or picture if desired, thus providing the Brannon family with personal reflections and memories from all of us who appreciate them so much. If you are not in the valley before June 9 and you wish to send greetings, please send a message (by post or e-mail) to the Church office and we will include it in the book.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM) by Linda Bergerson

Do you want to dig deeply into the ancient history of the Old Testament? Which version of the Creation do we observe? Do you want to meet the characters in the New Testament and understand this modern culture? Why did the followers of Christ go west instead of East? Do you want to discuss current theology and other Christian and non-Christian churches? The Education for Ministry program is for you.

Every baptized person is called into ministry but lay persons face the difficult task of interpreting the richness of the church’s faith in a complex world. They need a theological education that supports their faith and helps them connect that faith to their daily lives.

Education for Ministry sessions are led by trained lay people for lay people to help us find our “ministry” or life direction. Training, books and lessons are chosen and developed by the School of Theology at the Episcopal University of the South. Meetings of 6 – 12 members are held once a week from September through May looking at people and cultures of the Old Testament in the first year, exploring the New Testament during the second year, studying the growth of the Christian church in the third year and during the fourth year bringing us up to date including a brief study of other religions, how the Christian church has changed and a look at different theologies.

Education for Ministry is a graduate course in biblical and Christian history, a book club based on the Bible and other Christian original sources and a weekly meeting and discussion with your new best friends. All books are included, scholarships are available.

The program will help you look at and, probably, deepen your faith. It will give you the opportunity to look at where you have been and where you are going – along with a supportive group. Give us your questions. I look forward to hearing from you; until then, my best.

Linda Bergerson and the EfM graduate team - lbergerson@gmail, 208-726-4846

STEPHEN MINISTRY

by Maryanne Whitcomb



There is much to report this summer about the work of the Stephen Ministry team at St. Thomas! Most importantly, on Sunday April 7, four new Stephen Ministers were commissioned at the 9:30 worship service. The newly commissioned Stephen Ministers are Art Dahl, Margie Gould, Wayne Hedberg Schmidt, and Alyson Witmer. They join the originally commissioned Stephen Ministers: Sabrina Roblin, Rebecca Waycott, Georgia Stewart, Marcia Liebich, Don Liebich, and Maryanne Whitcomb.

Art Dahl offers these words, “After observing the Stephen Ministry program unfold at St. Thomas in its first year, I became eager to join them, especially because of the very detailed training they described. It is intense – fifty hours spread over several weeks, filled with role-playing and very detailed experience-based learning. In addition, I undertook the Stephen Leader training in Anaheim, CA – another fifty hours from seasoned professionals. Even with my many years of Hospice experience, I have a whole new bag of tricks to help those in crisis, whether it be small and transitional or huge and long term. I feel blessed by God to be allowed to help others in this way.”

Alyson Witmer offers her reflections, “The Stephen Ministry training has enriched my abilities to listen, comfort, and be present in all my relationships. As a counseling professional, I was thrilled with the content provided in the training. It is a lot of material presented in a digestible format. I was immediately drawn to the Stephen Ministry concept when it was presented to the vestry a few years ago. The Spiritual Gifts course helped me identify this particular type of ministry, as an area where I could be effective and rewarded at the same time. I hope to be matched with a care receiver in the near future and I look forward to the ongoing support of the Stephen Ministry Supervision Group that meets twice monthly.”

Newly commissioned Margie Gould adds, “I have known about Stephen Ministries for many years but was never personally involved. When a member of my extended family experienced a catastrophic accident – I felt at a loss. I wanted to help but didn’t know how. The Stephen Ministry training became available and it seemed like the right thing to do. Now that I have completed the training, I look forward to being an active caregiver.”

Looking forward to the months ahead, the Stephen Leaders will continue to meet frequently to formulate and implement strategic plans for smooth transition into the Fall and Winter. Two vital first steps towards that transition have been made. In mid-May, Fr. Ken named our new Associate Rector, Kathleen Bean, as the clergy liaison to the Stephen Ministry Program. Kathleen will serve in this role while the interim pastor is in place and until a new rector is named. Also, following Fr. Ken’s departure, Stephen Leader Helen Morgus will serve as the Interim Referrals Coordinator, matching people who request care with a Stephen Minister. Currently, there is one trained Stephen Minister available to serve a care receiver. Helen welcomes your interest, which would be held in strict confidence. She can be reached at helemor58@gmail.com or 208-720-3598.

In closing, as we prayed together at the April 7 commissioning service, “Bless and guide all of us as we strive to become a more caring, compassionate people, living in the joyful freedom of Your Grace.”



A GREAT TIME TO JOIN BELL CHOIR

If you are intrigued with the idea of joining the Bell Choir, this summer would be an ideal time to do just that!

Rehearsals are normally held on Tuesdays at noon and will continue through the summer.

Performances at the 9:30 service are scheduled for:
July 28
August 25

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

by Ann Taylor

In the Episcopal tradition, the celebration of the Eucharist is the central part of every worship service in our church. And, vital to the communion service is the role of the Eucharistic Minister. I invite all parishioners to consider whether you might be called to serve in this meaningful and rewarding ministry. At present, we have a small group of about eight regular members who share the responsibility for serving the wine at our weekly services. We would love to increase the size of this dedicated group and welcome any and all of you who might be interested.



Later in the fall, we will be having a training session for new Eucharistic Ministers, as well as for those members who are renewing their licenses.

Please consider joining us in serving our St. Thomas community! Just notify Judi Fuller or talk with me if you are interested.

Ann Taylor
208-726-5402



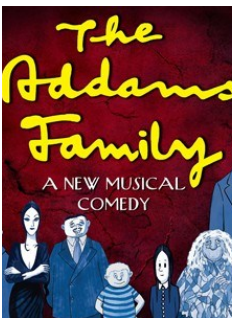
"Welcome to our church—even though you're sitting in our family pew . . ."

© 1996 David Harbaugh. More at LeadershipJournal.net/Cartoons

St. Thomas Playhouse

by Brett Moellenberg, Managing Director

Let the games begin! We at Playhouse are moving into our Summer Season, the busiest time of year for us. Featuring two Company B Camps (June & August), Summer Performing Arts Conservatory Camp near Alturas Lake (June 24-29) and our Family Main Stage in September, there is something for everyone! Visit our updated website at www.stthomasplayhouse.org to learn more about our season and all the other programs we have!



ADDAMS FAMILY LOGO

Performances: Wednesday, 6/19- Saturday, 6/22 @ 7:00 P.M.
Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$12 for under 18



FLAT STANLEY LOGO

Performances: Thursday, 6/20-Saturday, 6/22 @ 2 P.M. & Friday, 6/21 @ 10 A.M.
Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for under 18



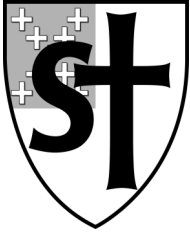
MULAN JR. LOGO

Performances: Thursday, 8/15-Friday, 8/16 @ 2 P.M. & Friday, 8/16 @ 10 A.M.
Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for under 18



FIDDLER ON THE ROOF LOGO

Performances: Thursday, 9/19-Saturday, 9/21 @ 7 P.M. & Saturday, 9/21-Sunday, 9/22 @ 2 P.M.
Tickets: \$25 for adults, \$15 for under 18



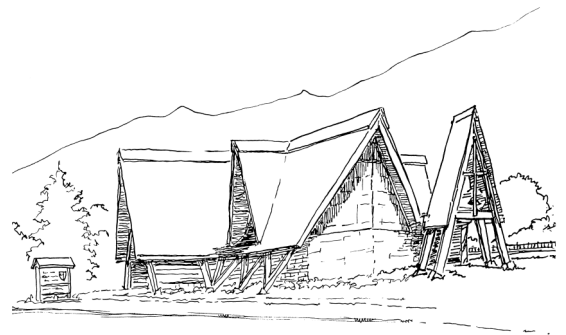
st. thomas episcopal church

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- RECTOR The Rev. Kenneth H. Brannon
- TRANSITIONAL DEACONS The Rev. Wayne Hedberg Schmidt
The Rev. Kathleen Bean
- VESTRY OFFICERS Georgia Stewart, Senior Warden
Rebecca Waycott, Acting Senior Warden
Brad Musbach, Junior Warden
Tom Benson, Treasurer
Judi Fuller, Clerk
- VESTRY MEMBERS Alison Burpee, Ruth Jones, Lisa Leach, Claudia
McCain, Tim Price, Becky Smith
- ADMINISTRATION Joel Bejot, Music Director
Judi Fuller, Parish Administrator
Sara Gorby, Youth Ministry Director and Playhouse Education Director
Liz Hickey, Sunday School Coordinator
Brett Moellenberg, Playhouse Managing Director and Electronic Media Coordinator



The deadline for the next issue of *The Lift* is 12:00 noon, Tuesday, August 20.
Please submit information and story ideas to the church office or email to Judi Fuller at jfuller@stthomassunvalley.org
Should you have any comments or suggestions that will help us improve our newsletter, we will be pleased to receive them.
Should you wish to discontinue your subscription to *The Lift* please let us know via email.