



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Rector's Report
by the Very Rev. M. Jonah Kendall



There's an old Spiritual called *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*. Do you know it? It begins:

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

As I think of St. Thomas, there seems no better words than these to describe the life of faith, hope and love that we share together in this village church of ours.

A few Sundays ago, our Sunday School curriculum featured a story on Mary, the mother of Jesus. As the children reflected on Mary's story and relationship with Jesus, the children shared stories of their own mothers. But then something happened.

While Margot Shuford was telling the story of Jesus being baptized, one of our children, an 8-year-old, spoke up and said with great enthusiasm how happy she was that she was going to be baptized at St. Thomas soon. That it was now her turn. She then drew a beautiful picture of Jesus on the cross and said that her hope for the coming year was that she would know Jesus better.

Yes, there is a sweet, sweet spirit present and at work in this place. And it's not just coming forth from "the mouths of infants" (Matthew 21:16), but its seen and felt all over this church and all over this valley because of this church.

Consider these highlights from this past year:

Staffing

This past year we made a significant change to the staffing of our children, youth, family and Playhouse ministries. Sara Gorby was transitioned full-time to Playhouse, and we hired Liz Hickey to serve as the part-time director of our children, youth, and family ministries. These changes were made to further facilitate Playhouse's growth, as well as to provide single-focused leadership for our children, youth, and family. I am pleased to report that these changes have already made a significant impact.

Dreaming Process

To meet the growing needs of our current ministries and allow for future growth, St. Thomas held a series of dreaming sessions this past summer and fall in which all those affiliated with St. Thomas were invited to share their hopes and dreams for the future of our parish, our mission, and our ministries. During these sessions, the Spirit revealed three central missional hopes and objectives commonly discerned over the course of these dreaming sessions. They are:

- 1) outreach to the community as a village Church, and
- 2) enhancement of our worship and music offerings, and
- 3) children, youth and families,

Spanish Classes

This fall parishioner Sara Pettit began offering Spanish language lessons that are being held at St. Thomas. These classes were fun, kinesthetic, interactive, and conversational. Designed for beginners, the series offered parishioners an opportunity to learn the basics of conversational Spanish to help facilitate relationships with our neighbors here in the Wood River Valley. These classes were well attended and are consistent with our Hispanic ministry here at St. Thomas.

The Jewish Community

This past July Kathleen and I were on hand for the dedication of the Wood River Jewish Community's new Elkhorn synagogue. This celebration marked not only a new chapter in the life of the Wood River Jewish community, but of St. Thomas' continued relationship with them. Since this dedication, Kathleen and I have continued to join in their special events, including a prayer service in response to the conflict in Israel and Gaza, which began this past October.

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Associate Rector’s Report by the Rev. Kathleen Bean

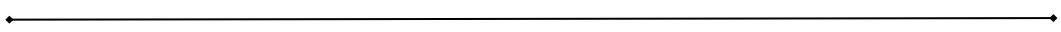
Last summer we started a new fellowship ministry, called *Women’s Wisdom Walks* – basically, women doing what we love to do: walking and talking. One regular member was asked by an acquaintance if she knew anything about the group of women that he’d noticed walking up Sun Valley Road every week. “They are so lively and seem to be having such a good time!” he observed. That’s the spirit of fellowship that is so present at St. Thomas, and so attractive to newcomers. We were made, in God’s image, for relationship, and it’s through relationship, with God and with each other, that we grow in love and grace. And that is something that the world notices. As we read in John 13:35: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”



We nurtured that spirit of fellowship in many ways this past year. *Breaking Bread Together* brought small groups of parishioners together to share food and fun, forging new and deeper bonds of friendship. Taizé continued during the winter months, attracting greater numbers of both parishioners and community members to its quiet, reflective beauty and spirituality. We welcomed the Rev. Barbara Crafton for a weekend of reflection on the spirituality of ageing, creating a sacred space in which to share our hopes and fears about the second half of life and the common experience of facing our mortality. Our various pastoral ministries (Pastoral Care, Eucharistic Visitors, Shawl Ministry) assured those who are sick, bereaved or facing other life challenges that the community of St. Thomas remembers and cares for them, whether they can be with us in person or not. The Green Team gently reminds us of the Biblical charge to care for creation, remembering that this, too, is a sacred relationship.

Central to our common life together is worship, where we come together as a community to offer our prayers and praises to God, and the staff is grateful to the dozens of faithful volunteers who help us create worship services that are welcoming and beautiful, engaging our spiritual imagination and drawing us nearer to God.

In all these ways the Spirit of God is building up the Body of Christ at St. Thomas, drawing us together in love and equipping us to go out “into the world to love and serve the Lord,” as one of our favorite dismissals says. So let us go forth, into this new year, with confidence in the Spirit’s presence and guidance in our midst.



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We also are partnering with the Jewish Community on a number of community activities including helping our local homeless population this winter.

Storybox

This past year we developed a new feature called Storybox to include in the first Thursday of the month’s edition of our weekly e-newsletter. Storybox offers parishioners the opportunity to share transformational stories about their life and participation at St. Thomas. In the form of either videos or essays, Storybox captures the Spirit at work among us.

Rector’s Discussion Group

Over the past three year’s we have witnessed the development of a new educational opportunity at St. Thomas. Several times a year, I lead a discussion series via zoom that incorporates the Bible as well as books on theology, church history, ethics, and spirituality. On any given Wednesday at 12 noon we can have up to 20 people from all over sharing with each other online. This ministry has not only offered parishioners an opportunity to deepen their spiritual lives, but to connect with each other on all kinds of issues in an open and judgment free setting.

Yes, the Spirit is present and at work in this place. As we look towards 2024 and the next chapter of our strategic planning and our life of faith, hope and love together, may the “sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly dove, stay right here with us, filling us with God’s love.”



Senior Warden Report by Paul Ahern

Becoming Senior Warden right after Rebecca Waycott presented me with a very tough act to follow, but I have none-the-less really enjoyed the opportunity to observe closely all the fine work being done by the good people of this parish this past year. During a time of too many disheartening events in our nation and world, our village church certainly did, in the words of a favorite gospel hymn, “let our little light shine!”

This Annual Report contains a remarkable number of stories on how Saint Thomas has nurtured our souls, motivated us to look after each other, and contributed to the health of the larger Wood River Community. The record is truly impressive.

This past year we also began to dream about how Saint Thomas could grow further into its mission by expanding our successful programs and services and creating needed new ones. I encourage you to read the Dream Committee findings in this Annual Report carefully before attending the Annual Meeting. In 2024, we will transition from dreaming about how we could better serve our God and community to envisioning how we might actually accomplish that.

One simple example of the need to enhance our capacity to serve occurred just early this month on January 6 – Dia de Los Reyes (the Hispanic version of celebrating Epiphany). It was a lovely community gathering as roughly equal numbers of Latino neighbors, local high school students, and St. Thomas regulars attended a warm bilingual service in the sanctuary before heading downstairs to a delicious dinner. Our current parish hall was packed to capacity with tables full of happy diners. As wonderful as I felt to see that SRO crowd, I couldn’t help thinking what a blessing it would be to have a parish hall and kitchen that could accommodate even larger community-building events of this type.

A Vision Committee has now been formed to tackle the process of deciding next steps, but I want to emphasize that determining the future path of our village church will require the prayerful involvement of every one of us. It is such a blessing to feel the Saint Thomas community coming together to explore what we, with God’s help, can accomplish to make our light shine even brighter!

Junior Warden Report by Margot Shuford

I truly have enjoyed serving as the St. Thomas Junior Warden this past year as well as serving on the Vestry for the past three years with a group of dedicated and enthusiastic vestry members and our clergy.

It has been a joy to work closely with Judi Fuller, and we are all very fortunate to have Judi so faithfully overseeing the upkeep and maintenance of our building and grounds. She is truly a blessing to St. Thomas Church.

This past year we handled several electrical issues within the building including two mounted televisions displaying parish church news and information. We arranged for much needed improvements to our sound system in the sanctuary with the purchase of some new equipment. We worked with the city and SV Associates around the installation of an additional drain in the parking lot. We have received bids for both parking lot repair and resurfacing which can be completed this spring/summer as well as the stripping and resealing of the interior floors on the upstairs level of the building with work to be scheduled when deemed appropriate.

The Green Team committee members are actively exploring energy audit possibilities and ways to conserve energy for the church building.

A job description was created and a search is currently underway to hire a Facilities Manager for St. Thomas in 2024.

A committee is in the process of working to create a Memorial/Contemplative Garden in the front of the church along the Sun Valley Road side. Plans are in the works with the hope of installation in the spring.



Treasurer's Report by Tom Benson

2023 Financial Performance

Income - Assessable income which includes all recurring gifts from parishioners totaled \$883,915 which was \$12,915 above budget. The annual draw from the Endowment funds was \$11,300 higher than budget as the 3% annual draw was higher than anticipated and we chose to take the remainder of the annual draw for 2022 which we deferred last year as it wasn't needed to cover expenses.

Expenses - Total expenses for 2023 of \$928,396 exceeded budget by \$29,541. This variance reflects a compensation adjustment for the Associate Rector (\$9,500), higher utility and snow removal costs due to the extreme winter weather (\$10,600), an unexpected insurance claim which had a \$5,000 deductible and higher staff compensation and benefit costs (\$15,300) offset in part by lower than budgeted program expenses (\$7,000).

St Thomas Playhouse (STP) - STP finished the year better than anticipated needing a net direct financial contribution from the Church of \$14,700 versus the budgeted contribution of \$20,000.

Bottom Line - The Church had a surplus of \$4,035 versus the budgeted surplus of \$4,100.

2024 Budget

Income - The budget reflects an overall increase in income of \$43,100 to \$969,000 with assessable income expected to increase by \$51,300 or about 6%. Included in this increase is the transfer of \$40,000 for other church funds which partially offsets the impact of a significant one time pledge gift received in 2023 which is not recurring in 2024.

Expenses - The budget assumes we transition to a new parish administrator in March and hire both a part time facility manager and a part time cleaning person to replace our current outside cleaning staff in July. The change in the facility and cleaning staffing arrangements is expected to add \$16,000 in additional costs in 2024. The budget also includes a 3% salary increase for our rectors and church staff and a full year of costs for our part time Children Youth and Family Director versus a partial year in 2023. In total expenses are budgeted to increase by \$32,300 to \$968,100 in 2024.

St Thomas Playhouse (STP) - The budgeted net direct financial contribution from the Church for 2024 is \$21,500 which is in line with actual results in recent years.

Bottom Line - The 2024 budget reflects a \$900 surplus or revenue over expenses or essentially a break even budget.

Thank you to all of our parishioners for your ongoing generous financial support of St Thomas. Your generosity has allowed us to continue to expand our ministries and serve a growing number of people in our community while remaining in a strong financial position.

Proposed 2024 Operating Budget

	2023 budget	2023 Actuals	Proposed 2024 budget			2023 budget	2023 Actuals	Proposed 2024 budget
Income								
4000 · Assessable Income								
4001 · Plate Offerings	50,000	62,960	65,000	5059 · Music Supplies/Choir		4,000	4,411	4,050
4003 · Pledge Offerings	720,000	704,583	700,000	5060 · New Member Ministry		750	0	250
4020 · Unpledged Grant	60,000	77,797	75,000	5062 · Green Team		500	31	500
4022 · Anonymous Grant ¹	35,000	35,000	43,000	5063 · Pastoral Care		250	100	100
4025 · Transfer from Fund(s)	0	0	40,000	5066 · Family Ministry		1,650	1,170	1,700
4027 · Facility Use (assessable)	6,000	3,575	6,000	5067 · Supply Organist/Pianist		1,500	2,222	2,000
Total 4000 · Assessable Income	871,000	883,915	929,000	5069 · Visiting Priests		200	150	0
				5070 · Staff/Volunteer Training		1,500	2,022	1,500
4500 · Non-Assessable Income				5074 · Vestry		500	286	400
4521 · Facility Use	12,000	10,297	15,000	5075 · Stewardship		100	70	100
NEW · Interest from Endowment ²	20,000	31,274	25,000	5076 · Youth Christian Education		2,500	2,320	3,500
Total 4500 · NA Income	32,000	48,516	40,000	5077 · Adult Christian Education				
				Adult Ed classes		500	0	500
Total Income	903,000	932,431	969,000	Education for Ministry (EfM)		500	308	200
				Total 5050 · Program Expenses		27,550	19,530	26,600
Expense								
5000 · Expenditures				5080 · Church Operating Expenses				
5010 · Rector Expenses				5032 · Audio/Visual System		0	0	0
5011 · Compensation				5034 · Bookkeeping		20,000	20,002	20,000
5011a · Cash Stipend & SECA	118,213	118,282	121,693	5035 · Database management		1,250	1,496	1,500
5011b · Health Ins. Benefit	36,111	39,015	36,232	5041 · Cleaning Staff		18,000	18,047	9,000
5014 · Pension Premium	29,793	27,571	30,971	5051 · Advertising		2,500	2,343	2,500
5016 · Cont. Educ./Conferences	0	1,500	0	5055 · Convention Delegates		1,100	1,236	750
5022 · Rector Business Expenses	2,500	813	1,000	5061 · Books/educational material		200	319	200
Total 5010 · Rector Expenses	186,617	187,181	191,896	5064 · Professional Account. & Audit		2,250	2,375	2,500
				New - Staff training consulting		0	0	3,000
5020 · Associate Rector (AR)				5068 · Subscriptions		500	630	500
5021c · AR Cash Stipend, 50% SECA	68,711	68,711	72,188	5082 · Cleaning Supplies		2,300	2,223	2,000
5021 · 50% SECA		5,256		5083 · Computer/Copier		7,500	11,710	9,000
5021b · AR Health Insurance	12,840	13,882	13,594	5084 · Insurance		15,000	15,357	16,000
5021a · AR Pension	12,370	14,590	12,994	5085 · Lawn/Garden Care		11,000	9,358	6,000
5021d · AR Business Expenses	500	0	500	5086 · Office Supplies		3,000	2,175	2,000
5021e · AR Cont. Ed.	0	1,500	0	5086a · Kitchen Supplies		1,000	641	600
Total 5020 · AR Expenses	94,418	103,939	99,276	5087 · Repairs/Maintenance		16,000	14,723	10,000
				5089 · Telephone/Internet		6,500	7,393	7,500
5030 · Compensation				5090 · Utilities/Garbage Removal		14,500	19,797	19,500
TOTAL staff wages	174,671	181,422	206,285	5092 · Website		2,500	1,417	1,500
5043 · FICA & Medi (7.65%)	13,362	14,454	15,781	5093 · Communications		500	1,901	2,000
5044 · Staff Pensions (9%)	12,259	15,007	13,991	5094 · Snow Removal		7,500	10,460	7,500
5045 · Staff Medical Ins.	25,920	29,109	40,869	5096 · Bank & Merchant Charges		5,000	4,391	4,500
Total 5030 · Compensation	226,212	239,992	276,926	5097 · Postage		2,500	1,748	1,500
				6517 - Gifts		750	438	500
5050 · Program Expenses				Total 5080 · Operating Expenses		141,350	150,180	130,050
5052 · Worship Expenses								
5050b · Altar Supplies	2,000	1,569	2,000	5099 - Misc. Expense			5,000	
5050c · Altar Flowers	500	-1,919	500					
5050d · Musicians	1,500	600	1,000	8000 · Rectory Operating Expenses				
5050e · Vestments	250	173	200	8002 · Lawn Care		7,000	8,804	7,000
5050f · Outside Contractors	750	600	500	8002b - Snow Removal		1,500	2,195	1,800
TOTAL	5,000	1,023	4,200	8003 · Misc.		700	1,694	1,500
5050L · Legacy Society	500	0	500	8004 · Repairs & Maintenance		500	0	500
5053 · Nursery Care	1,600	1,410	1,600	8006 · Utilities		4,000	5,663	5,500
5054 · Children's Christian Ed.	2,300	1,860	2,500	Total 8000 · Rectory Expenses		13,700	18,356	16,300
5057 · Hospitality & Fellowship								
5057a · Annual Parish Picnic	800	762	1,000	6510 · Ministry Outside Congregation				
5057b · Receptions	500	0	500	6511 · Diocesan Assessment		182,910	176,082	195,090
5057c · Coffee Hours	650	547	650	6513 · STP Grant		20,000	14,281	21,500
5057d · Annual Meeting Brunch	400	590	600	6515 · Clergy/Discretionary Outreach		1,000	1,000	4,000
5057e · Sunday School Brunch	150	0	0	6516 · Special Offerings			6,945	
5057f · Name Tags	300	248	250	6523 · Episcopal Relief & Dev.		5,097	5,910	6,503
TOTAL	2,800	2,147	3,000	Total 6510 · Outside Ministry		210,007	204,218	227,093
				Total 5000 · Expenditures		898,855	928,396	968,140
				OPERATING INCOME/LOSS		4,146	4,035	860

Proposed 2024 St. Thomas Playhouse Budget

	Proposed 2023	Actual 2023	Proposed 2024
ADMINISTRATION			
Income	42,000	49,690	46,000
Expense	143,724	143,183	146,792
Net	101,724	93,493	100,792
GIRLFRIEND LUNCH			
Income	35,150	35,155	36,000
Expense	14,420	14,792	16,903
Net	20,730	20,363	19,097
CHILDREN'S THEATER TOUR			
Income	7,000	6,450	6,400
Expense	9,300	13,444	9,750
Net	2,300	6,994	3,350
COMPANY B - JUNE			
Income	47,230	38,449	49,430
Expense	23,750	25,738	26,550
Net	23,480	12,711	22,880
SPACC			
Income	59,000	44,194	54,000
Expense	47,705	40,943	50,250
Net	11,295	3,251	3,750
SUMMER THEATER PROJECT			
Income	10,950	11,479	15,200
Expense	15,600	17,861	20,100
Net	4,650	6,382	4,900
COMPANY B - AUGUST			
Income	58,625	72,670	66,150
Expense	27,900	29,362	29,000
Net	30,725	43,308	37,150
FAMILY MAIN STAGE PRODUCTION			
Income	26,600	31,069	28,100
Expense	26,950	28,665	33,270
Net	350	2,404	5,170
COMPANY B - WINTERIZED			
Income	6,800	18,661	16,600
Expense	3,380	8,658	6,600
Net	3,420	10,003	10,000
PROFIT/LOSS	19,374	14,829	21,335

St. Thomas Fund Balances - as of December 31, 2023

Operating	104,899	Organ	3,309
Capital Improvement Fund	154,118	Property, Buildings, & grounds	2,625,608
Columbarium	20,973	The Bilkey Memorial Fund	3,652
Community Outreach Funds	3,597	The Music Fund	6,992
Designated Gifts	4,024	The St. Thomas Playhouse Fund	-14,281
Education Fund	18,069	Youth Ministry Development	13,004
Endowment (total)	875,179	TOTAL	3,869,439
Families	1,268		
Ketchum Community Dinner Curbside	15,089		
Memorials	33,938		

¹ The Anonymous Grant (Line 4527) is a gift we receive each summer in the amount of \$47,000. This annual donation is part of a twenty-year, one million dollar gift. There are no restrictions on the use of this money, although the vestry prefers to place it in long-term funds when possible. There are approximately three installments remaining.

² The Spending Policy for St. Thomas Endowment Fund authorizes an annual distribution of monies from the Fund equal three percent (3.0%) of the most-recent three-year moving average of the market value of the Fund as calculated as of December 31 each year. Monies so determined (the "Annual Distribution") may be transferred, in whole or in part, to the Operating Account(s) of St. Thomas Church for any purpose as approved by the Vestry. From time-to-time, the Vestry may determine that any or all of the Annual Distribution is not required for operating purposes and, therefore, is not to be transferred to the Operating Account (s) (the "Non-Transferred Annual Distribution"). Any such Non-Transferred Annual Distribution shall be reinvested in the Fund.



FINANCIAL REPORTS



Annual Giving Campaign

by David Luhr, Chair, and LeeAnne Linderman, Vice-Chair

This year's campaign theme of 'Our Gifts, Our Faith, Our Village Church' focused on how we are a community of faith; always growing, serving, and showing up for one another. We stand committed to supporting all our brothers and sisters who call the Wood River Valley home. We are truly blessed at St. Thomas with a wonderful, growing and giving church family.



As of January 17th, we have raised \$684,772 in pledges. So far this year, 155 families and individuals have pledged, down slightly from last year's 165. But more pledges are still coming in. We received 14 new pledges this year and 50 of our members increased their pledges.

We knew 2024 was going to be challenging as last year's \$721,848 pledge total benefited from a special one-time gift of \$50,000. For context, it is important to remember that our pledge total was \$560,108 just three years ago.

We are so very grateful. With the generous support from our congregation, St. Thomas will be able not only continue our programs into 2024, but we will be able to add to them as well.

The Stewardship Committee members were Jonah Kendall, Kathleen Bean, Janet Schaumburg and Ellinor Addington Jannotta. And as always, we wouldn't have reached this goal without the help and guidance of the Vestry.

It was a pleasure to serve as co-chairs of this year's campaign. With all the help and support we received, the job was very rewarding. We greatly appreciate the congregation's support

And please don't forget that it is never too late to pledge. Every gift, no matter the amount, will help us serve the very real needs of this valley. If you haven't had a chance to pledge yet, just reach out to the church office or enter your pledge on the St. Thomas website.

Finance Committee

by Roger Gould

The St Thomas Endowments had a successful year in 2023. The funds weathered the regional bank crisis in the Spring, high inflation throughout the year, and high interest rates that impacted the bond portfolio. Total Endowment assets (Perpetual and Unrestricted) increased to \$825,724 as of December 31, 2023. Our invested cash reserve account ended the year at \$273,589. Total assets recovered, in 2023, from the difficult performance of 2022.

Performance was excellent. The Perpetual Endowment increased 12.0% for the year, and the Unrestricted portfolio increased 11.5%. The conservative asset allocation of 60% equities and 40% fixed income reduced overall volatility and was rebalanced quarterly by our manager, Mercer Advisors. The underlying mutual funds and ETF's performance was in line with their benchmark.

The portfolios are structured with both Domestic and International equities and Fixed Income. The equities are broadly allocated across the style spectrum in Large Cap, Mid Cap, and Small Cap. Value and Growth securities are represented in the portfolio in their respective funds. Fixed Income securities were well represented across the maturity spectrum. Total dividend yield on the Perpetual portfolio is over 2% balancing the goal of income and growth.

Saint THOMAS

THE LEGACY SOCIETY CARING ∞ PLANNING ∞ PROVIDING MEMBERS

ANONYMOUS – 2
TOM & DELL-ANN BENSON
GARY BLACK, JR.
MYRLE BRADSHAW
KEN & RACHEL BRANNON
FRANK & SUSAN COUNTNER
BILL CRAIG & JANET SCHAUMBURG
VICKRIE CUTLER
JUDIANNE FULLER
LOWIE GRAVES
WM. BRACK HALE
RUTH JONES
KAYE & GERRY KEARNS
PATTY LANE
MARCIA & DON LIEBICH
RUTH LIEDER
LEEANNE LINDERMAN
JIMA RICE
JULIAN ROBERTSON
ROBERT & MARGOT SHUFORD
BECKY & PETE SMITH
GEORGIA & TODD STEWART

"All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee."



WALKING
IN LOVE

1 Chronicles 29:14

ST. THOMAS – A VILLAGE CHURCH FOR ALL



Communications

by Brett Moellenberg

Along with our weekly e-news and Sunday service videos, I have also been active on social media with posts for the church and many outreach ministries. We have also taken a step forward with our website! If you don't visit stthomassv.org frequently, I invite you to take a look. Our recent service video is always on the homepage, and you can access all the archived videos if you wish to hear a past sermon again. Also updated is our wedding section and all ministry information. You can also always sign up as a worship volunteer, check out the church calendar, make a pledge, request an addition to the Prayer List, or view the weekly updates - all on our convenient website!



MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS



Acolyte Ministry

by Barbara Dwyer

The role of acolyte volunteers is to serve; to participate in the presentation of the worship service. This includes assisting the Celebrant before, during, and after the service. Responsibilities include arriving promptly to vest, lighting and extinguishing the candles on the altar, carrying the cross in processions, receiving instructions from the Celebrant, and helping as needed throughout the service.

St. Thomas Church is blessed with a group of very dedicated acolyte volunteers, both adult and youth. Below is a list of people who have served in this role throughout the past year. Many thanks to each one.

Heather Black
Dydy Clevon
Carter Hedberg
Jane Reynolds

Evan Brown
Freya Colvill
Connie Hoffman
Ann Scales

Doug Clevon
Tim Eagan
Dawn King
Mardi Shepard



Adult Education Committee

by Don Liebich, Chair

As dealing with the effects of Covid 19 became less of an issue and we were able to gather in person, the Adult Education Committee surveyed the St. Thomas parish to identify what programming would be of interest to members. Responding to this information, we have focused more on fundamental topics such as Christian Beliefs, John the Baptist and the Role of Mary in the Church, as well as Sermon Talkbacks that invite broad group discussion.

We were also fortunate to be able to bring outside speakers and leaders to our community such as Lee Pollock (Churchill, Faith and Politics), Rev. Barbara Crafton (Dealing with Aging-Fear of Missing Out) and Courtney Loving and Naomi McDougall Jones (Death and Dying).

As we move into 2024, we welcome your suggestions of topics of interest to you as well as your regular participation in the lively discussions following Coffee Hour. See you there.

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 our church services run smoothly, thus providing a meaningful worship experience for all. We are the priest’s liturgical partner. We work in pairs, preparing the altar for all services, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

We have a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers:

Betsy Ashton
Beverly Boas
Lise Holt
Carolyn Coiner
Elaine Harfst
Mary Colhoun

Lynne Campion-Waddell
Vickrie Cutler
Connie McGowan
Mott Nicol
Chris Vik
Shirley Tallackson

Thank you ladies!!! We are always looking for new helpers to join us in this meaningful work. If this kind of service to St. Thomas appeals to you, please contact Mary Malkmus (208) 622-3949.



MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS



Bible Study Group

by Art Dahl

St. Thomas Bible Study Group meets every Thursday at 12:00 noon for one hour. The focus is on the Scripture for the coming Sunday. Each Scripture passage is read aloud and discussed.

The purpose is three-fold. First, to consider possible interpretations of each passage. Second, to apply the teachings to the world we live in today. And third, to explore what they suggest for us as individuals. The discussion is fluid and open and Biblical expertise is not necessary.

Both Jonah and Kathleen attend frequently. Meetings are held in the Fireside Room.

Come, all are welcome. Contact Father Jonah or Art Dahl for further information.

Book Group

by Sylvia Miller

St. Thomas has been home to the only open book club in the valley for many years. Members do not need to be members of the church to belong. This has resulted in a visible outreach into our community. We read both novels and nonfiction.

Our reading list for fall 2023 was:

“Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus

“The Latecomer” by Jean Hanff Korelitz

“The Last Kings of Shanghai” by Jonathan Kaufman

Winter/Spring 2024

“Absolution” by Alice McDermott

“Lady Tan’s Circle of Women” by Lisa See

“The Covenant of Water” by Abraham Verghese

For more information contact Sylvia Miller at 202-255-4236 or sylmill2009@gmail.com

Community Outreach Committee

by Tom Archie

Please see the separate report by **Ketchum Community Dinner Curbside (KCDC)**. In other news, the St. Thomas Outreach Team is collaborating with other churches and non-profits spearheaded by Heather Wesley at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Hailey to help alleviate wintertime homelessness in the valley, particularly among newly arrived immigrants. St. Thomas parishioners have volunteered to help with that effort. We send 20 KCDC meals each week to some families who are in emergency shelters in a hotel in Bellevue with a limited ability to cook for their families.

Our **Latino-Hispanic Outreach Ministry** organized a bilingual Epiphany service, hosted a winter clothing drive, and hosted a Father’s Day event. We also represented St. Thomas at the Balmoral Park Earth Day celebration, the Peruvian BBQ at the Sawtooth Botanical Garden, the Thanksgiving event at Jhony’s Peruvian Cuisine, and the Wood River Interfaith Council meetings.

Through the **Green Team: Care for Creation**, we joined Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) in 2023. This is a national ecumenical organization that facilitates education and advocacy for the environment. A new Idaho chapter was established, and Kathleen Bean serves on the state board. We helped with a presentation at the Diocesan Convention to share information about IPL to other parishes. The Green team continued our traditional collaboration with Emmanuel Episcopal Church in the Highway 75 clean-up twice a year. We hosted a booth at the Bike-to-School and Work Day in May, hosted an Earth Day coffee hour, helped with the Grand Days of Summer program, and participated in St. Francis Sunday in the field. The Green Team now collaborates with our Youth programs to encourage and facilitate relevant activities and education, such as working with the Hospitality and KCDC committees to reduce plastic use, as well as improving our recycling program.



Children, Youth and Family Ministries (CYF)

by Liz Hickey

It is hard to believe it has been six months since I took over Children, Youth and Family Ministries from Sara Gorby. Time flies when you are having fun!

We hit the ground running this year with Blessing of the Backpacks in the field, a family hot dog cookout at Boundary Campground, Youth Group moved to Sunday evenings, Christmas Pageants and we have a pilgrimage trip coming up.

The children in **SUNDAY SCHOOL** have been enjoying the Godly Play (GP) lessons from our talented Storytellers; Art Dahl, Helen Morgus and Margot Shuford. The ever-creative Cait Neilson has been super crafty coming up with different and fun ways to engage the children after the GP lesson. This season has been a little different in Sunday School. The children have been coming up to the sanctuary the first Sunday of the month to



participate in Communion. The rest of the Sundays they stay in the classroom until the parents come to pick them up. We made this small change to give parents an opportunity to connect with parishioners after the service and enjoy a cup of coffee at coffee hour before grabbing their kiddos. Sure, there are other Sundays they will be up for communion that doesn't follow the first Sunday plan, like when the choir sings, Mother's Day or Easter. We hope you take the time to introduce yourself to parents if you see them in the halls.

YOUTH GROUP has seen some changes too this season. We moved youth group from Sunday mornings to Sunday nights. The Youth participate in so many areas in church on Sunday mornings it was leaving a gap in the classroom. Sunday evenings gives the youth a chance to gather, check in and have some fun activities while team building. We have seen some growth in youth with the growing number of middle school and early high school youth attending every Sunday. We have gone putt-putt golfing, hiking, bowling, movie watching, packaging gifts and food for the Advocates, hot sauce tasting, and endless games. I have enjoyed every moment with these young adults. The Holy Spirit is alive within each of these special St. Thomas youngsters.



FAMILY MINISTRIES is a growing area at St. Thomas. Each family that comes to St. Thomas has many different needs. Whether it is worship, nursery, Godly Play, Youth Group, Mom's Morning Out, NAGS or making a connection with one of you. Each is so important and is the rich gift that St. Thomas has to offer. Each of us has our own special story of how we fell in love with St. Thomas Church and what connection kept us here. Our Family Ministry is looking forward to a Mom's night and another Family Night out in early spring. Please check out the CYF email for all details and upcoming information.





Dream/Vision Committee

by Rebecca Waycott

The Dream Committee was formed in spring of 2023 to oversee the collection of opportunities and ideas for the future of St. Thomas. A main goal of the group was to try to reach as many members and interested parties at St. Thomas as possible.

Beginning in June 2023, members of the Dream Committee held listening sessions open to all those affiliated with St. Thomas. Three listening sessions were held during the Adult Education period – one each in June, July and August. Individual sessions were also held with the choir, St. Thomas Playhouse, and the parents and director of Children & Youth. Close to 100 individuals were reached in this way. All of the listening sessions were very animated and positive, eliciting creative ideas and excitement about opportunities for the future of St. Thomas. An online questionnaire was also available for any and all.

The results of the Dream Sessions were organized and listed in a document that is available online and in the office for those interested. There are some addendums with dreams particular to various groups such as KCDC, ST Playhouse, parents of children and youth, the Choir, the Worship Committee and those overseeing special events, such as weddings, funerals and community gatherings. The Dream Committee examined all of these results and came up with the following main themes that surfaced as of primary importance to all the participants.

- 1) GREATER OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY AS A VILLAGE CHURCH
 - ◆ A center for large community gatherings/meetings/fellowship
 - ◆ Enhance our ability to serve, and provide for, those in need
 - ◆ Offer welcoming locations for prayer and reflection and for those seekers exploring spirituality
 - ◆ Enhanced support of St. Thomas Playhouse
 - ◆ Music facilities for use by the larger community
- 2) ENHANCEMENT OF OUR WORSHIP AND MUSIC OFFERINGS
 - ◆ Dedicated space for all choirs and other music programs
 - ◆ Improved classroom facilities for adult education
 - ◆ Build a chapel/dedicated quiet space to provide easy accessibility to those seeking to deepen their spirituality and/or begin engaging with our tradition.
- 3) STRONG SUPPORT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH
 - ◆ Enhanced educational programs for children & youth.
 - ◆ New programs for adults of all ages.
 - ◆ Recreational opportunities for children and youth (and adults – yoga)
 - ◆ Possible establishment of a Day Care/Pre-School.

The following items are possible building projects that could help St. Thomas achieve the goals listed above.

New Parish Hall - It may be possible to construct a new and larger Parish Hall with much greater capacity for larger events at the courtyard's current location. This would enhance our congregation's fellowship gatherings while also providing sufficient space for community outreach events. Our Ketchum Community Dinners Curbside Ministry (KCDC) dreams of the opportunity to host community sit-down meals. A larger enhanced Parish Hall would also provide St. Thomas with an opportunity to host congregant's meetings such as book clubs, bridge clubs, birthday parties, wedding receptions, and other social events.

Above New Parish Hall - It may also be possible to add additional interior rooms above the Parish Hall that would provide recreational/gathering space for children, youth and adults, as well rehearsal space for St. Thomas Playhouse.

Kitchen - No expansion of programs and activities should be attempted without planning for a much larger and better equipped kitchen facility. This would support our outreach goals of hosting larger community gatherings, as well as



MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS



further supporting the needs of those in the Wood River Valley. Additionally, an expanded Kitchen would allow our children's, youth and family ministry to grow by making it easier for these groups to socialize. Finally, a new kitchen would make St. Thomas a more attractive venue for wedding receptions, community parties and large scale community meetings/events.

Location of Current Parish Hall - The existing Parish Hall space could be remodeled to provide a dedicated room well suited for all our music programs. The choir dreams of a dedicated rehearsal space, as well as a vesting room and music library. In addition, the remodel would present the opportunity of expanding current office workspace and gathering rooms.

Removal of Labyrinth - In consultation with our current labyrinth stakeholders, it has been decided that the Labyrinth is so disintegrated and would be so expensive to rebuild that it must be removed. This will free up the upper courtyard for a variety of possible uses such as a chapel/dedicated quiet space for prayer, contemplation and engagement with our tradition.

Dreaming of a Bigger Campus - If property adjacent to the church property were ever to become available, we could then plan for additional expansion of our current parking for Sunday services, current ministry programs, and community events.

An after school program for Playhouse

An auditorium for the Playhouse ministry and community events

An Episcopal school

The Dream Committee completed its work in December of 2023 and has now morphed into the Vision Committee, who met for the first time in January 2024. Members of this committee will work on the following tasks:

- ◆ Synthesizing and analyzing the Dream Requests to come up with a list of those opportunities that are most often mentioned as being integral to the achievement of our dream goals
- ◆ Searching for and interviewing architects who specialize in church design and planning
- ◆ Day Care Feasibility Study.

Members of the Vision Committee include:

Jonah Kendall - Rector	Kathleen Bean - Associate Rector	Paul Ahern - Senior Warden
Rebecca Waycott – Chair	Dell-Ann Benson	Roger Gould
David Lister	Chris Neilson	Suzy Orb
Arthur Scully	Margot Shuford	Junior Warden (as Vestry Liaison).



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Green Team: Care for Creation

by Carolyn Coiner, Laurie Ahern, & Kathleen Bean

Carolyn and Laurie became co-chairs of the Green Team this year. We had a productive year with team members all chipping in to participate in our multiple events, both in the parish and in the community. Community events included a booth at the Bike to School and Work Day in May and the highway cleanups in May and October. Parish events included hosting an Earth Day coffee hour, helping with Grand Days of Summer and participating in St Francis Sunday.

We joined Interfaith Power and Light this year, a national ecumenical organization that facilitates education and advocacy for the environment. They now have an Idaho Chapter and Kathleen is serving on the state board. We helped with a presentation at the diocesan convention in November to share information about the organization to other parishes.

We have been busy within the parish including collaborating with the Youth programs to encourage and facilitate caring for creation activities and education, working with the Hospitality and KCDC committees to reduce plastic use and working toward improving our recycling program.

We have about six meetings per year and would love to have others join our group!

Flower Guild

by Betsy Ashton

Thanks to parishioners' unwavering support, the Flower Guild adorned St. Thomas Church with stunning floral displays throughout the year. We provided weekly arrangements, celebrated Easter and Christmas with special displays, and commemorated significant life events.

Our dedicated volunteers, Laurie Ahern, Lynn Campion-Waddell, Carolyn Coiner, Mary Colhoun, Christina Culver, Vickrie Cutler, Pat Davies, Liz Hickey, Page Klune, Mary Malkmus, Mott Nicol, Mardi Shepard, Becky Smith, Chris Vik, Sandra Willingham and Sheila Witmer poured their passion into every arrangement. We're proud of our Junior Flower Guild members—Abbot Geer, Ida Belle Gorby, Rivers Hickey, and Scout Kendall—who brought youthful creativity.

As we continue our work, we invite anyone interested in joining our team to reach out. Contact Betsy Ashton at betsy.ashton@gmail.com or 208-309-5092 for more information. Thank you for making our church a more beautiful place through your contributions and support.

EfM

by Linda Bergerson

EfM = Education for Ministry - is a learning program administered by the School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.

Over four years of study, worship and personal reflection with a group of 6 – 12 people you will share your insights and discoveries about who God is and what God is saying.

The curriculum includes study of the Old Testament, the New Testament, church history, and multi-cultural religions as well as selected shorter reading on contemporary issues.

Study follows the traditional academic calendar with classes beginning in September and ending in May.

Contact either co-mentor, Judi Fuller or Linda Bergerson, for more information.

Eucharistic Ministers

by Ann Taylor

In the Episcopal tradition, the celebration of the Eucharist during communion is at the heart of our worship service. And, vital to the communion service is the role of the Eucharistic Minister.

Serving as a Eucharistic Minister is a very meaningful and rewarding way to participate more fully in our services and to connect with our St. Thomas community.

Becoming involved in this special ministry is not difficult, requiring only that you attend a brief training session, which is usually given once or twice a year. At present, we have a dedicated group of about 22 ministers, both full time and part time members, who participate in serving the wine at our weekly communion services.

Please consider joining us in our important ministry. We always welcome new members!





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Hospitality Committee by Dell-Ann Benson & Janet Schaumburg

The smells of fresh coffee, breakfast casserole, baked French toast and much more invited meeting attendees to the Parish Hall for the Annual Meeting Brunch. Our next opportunity to host the congregation came on Easter Sunday for coffee hour and then again in July for a special coffee hour for a visit by Bishop Jos. Summer wouldn't be complete without a picnic. The change of venue to Forest Service Park turned out to be just the place. Our picnic fare was enhanced with ostrich burgers, and a bouncy house and games tapped the energy of the younger generation. It was no small task but was a great success with the help of the NAGs, and Liz Hickey and YFM.

As co-chairs, we are so grateful to our fellow team members, Shirley Tallackson, Susie Pearson, Sylvia (and Nick) Miller, Sherri Luhr, and Laurie Ahern for bringing their time and talent in the kitchen, making every event a special one.

Special thanks to all the individuals and groups who have hosted a coffee hour after the Sunday morning services. These social gatherings are a fabric of our fellowship and are a joyful time together.

We would be remiss if we failed to thank Judi Fuller for making sure that there was always coffee in supply and for coordinating the ministry teams to host coffee hour.

We are sure 2024 will bring even more great times together and we can't wait to share them with all of you, starting today! As you are attending the Annual Meeting, we hope the wonderful smells wafting up from the kitchen entice you to come down the the Parish Hall afterwards to enjoy brunch and fellowship.



Dell-Ann Benson and Janet Schaumburg with hosts, Sylvia and Nick Miller.

Lector Ministry by Kathleen Bean

Throughout the year our lectors give living voice to the word of God through reading scriptures and prayers for church services, enlivening worship with their distinctive voices. We are blessed to have an active team of 25 lectors of all ages. All readers receive training and are licensed to read not only at St. Thomas but other Episcopal churches as well. Our former Lector Ministry Leader Claudia McCain continued this past year to lend her talent not only as a reader but also as a trainer, offering a brush up for those renewing their licenses and a solid foundation for those folks who were new to this ministry.

I'm delighted to report that longtime parishioner and lector Heather Black agreed in November to lead this ministry in 2024. We will offer a training on Sunday, March 3rd after the 9:30 service for returning lectors and those who wish to join – all are welcome! Contact Heather at heatherblack24@gmail.com to sign up or ask questions.

NAGS - "No Agenda Group" by Robert Shuford

The NAGS had another outstanding year in 2023. The goal of this St. Thomas Men's Group is for men in our parish get to know each other with NO agenda. We meet every other month and go to places that are of interest to the group.

Some of our past activities have included a tour of the Sun Valley Culinary Institute, lunch at Senior Connection, dinner at Village Station in Sun Valley, assisting with the Pancake Supper, and hikes around the valley. Please come and join us for our next fun event and meet some of your other fellow men parishioners. To learn more about NAGS, contact Art Scully at 412-600-2673.



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KCDC by Dell-Ann Benson

Steering Committee: Dell-Ann Benson, Helen Morgus, Janet Schaumburg, Karl Johan Uri.

Ketchum Community Dinner Curbside (KCDC) is a free take-and-bake meal, handed out at the sidewalk on Sun Valley Road every Wednesday, 52 weeks a year. Volunteers, many of whom are not members of St. Thomas, set up, hand out, keep a log and tidy up. On average, 86 meals are given out each week.

In 2023 over 4,500 meals were provided to anyone who needed one. Participants are people of all ages, languages, professional status and means. Many are Good Samaritans, taking multiple meals to people who need them – immigrant families, the elderly, people still at work at distribution time.

Approximately 100 meals are produced each week in our little kitchen downstairs, with packaging completed in the hallway. If you happen to be in the building, you will smell the wonderful scents emanating from the kitchen and see what the volunteer teams do, each week. To round out the meals, Hangar Bread donates rolls and volunteers provide desserts.

Costs are kept low at about \$2.30/meal. Most of our food supplies are purchased at Costco and local grocers. Idaho Food Bank supplies some staples and the LDS Church contributed 700 pounds of shelf stable foods to our pantry.

KCDC is grateful for the support from Hanger Bread, The Mason Family Restaurants, The Cellar Pub, Atkinson's Markets, The Village Market, Squash Blossom Farm, Snake River Farms, and the Church of the Bigwood, and of course, all the volunteers who help make each week's meals happen.

Music Director/Organist by Joel Bejot

Music Director:

In 2023, I planned roughly 75 services of Eucharist, 5 evensong services, a Fat Tuesday celebration, and several weddings and funerals. I also was the Music Director for the June Company B show. I have continued to work on encouraging representation in the music program through music written by women and other under-represented folks. If you would like to write a hymn text, I'd love to set it to music!

Organist:

As always, I played for all the services of St. Thomas where there was music, except a little vacation. I always try to encourage full congregational participation in hymn-singing, and I always try to bring my best to the bench.

Choirs and Other Services:

- ◆ St. Thomas Adult Choir - The Adult Choir sings hymns, anthems, and service music at nearly every 9:30 Sunday service roughly Pentecost - Easter. We love having new folks join us. Check us out!
- ◆ St. Thomas Evensong Choir - The evensong program at St. Thomas continues. It is a small but loyal bunch of folks that love to sing music from this uniquely Anglican tradition. We are observing unique commemorations this year. On January 28, 5:30 p.m., we will be observing St. Thomas Aquinas!
- ◆ Handbell Choir - The handbell choir meets regularly throughout the year. They ring in church approximately once a month. Consider coming to ring with us!
- ◆ Taizé - The Taizé singers are singing every week when the service is in session. Would you like to come sing or play an instrument for this service?

It was nice to have a more "normal" year last year. I am looking forward to continuing the excellent music-making from our faithful volunteers and occasional professionals. Consider singing or ringing with us! As always, thank you for your generosity and support of me and my family.



MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS



Pastoral Care Team

by Maryanne Whitcomb

The Pastoral Care Team continued to conduct meetings on the third Tuesday of each month during 2023. Reverend Kahleen Bean is the official liaison to the team and regularly attends the meetings and assists and guides follow-up activities/actions.

THE PASTORAL CARE MISSION – REMAINS THE FOCUS OF THE PASTORAL CARE WORK GOING FORWARD

“The Pastoral Care Team, under the guidance and direction of clergy, offers spiritual support for those who are in need within the congregation. The team membership includes laypersons within the church who feel personally called to offer and provide loving, confidential Christ-centered care in countless ways.”

The team serves St. Thomas parishioners, their families and friends through the ministry of daily prayer. Notes of encouragement, phone calls, occasional local transportation, simple errands and meals are elements of the team’s outreach. The team also maintains a current Parish Prayer List for those who express a need for prayers, either for themselves or another person. The list is updated quarterly by team members calling the contact person for each of those on the prayer list. Follow-up reports are then relayed to the Parish ‘administrator to record those changes.

Current members of the Pastoral Care Team are: Jeanne Cassell, Pat Jorgensen, Marcia Liebich, Marylyn Pauley, Nancy M. Penrose, Elaine Phillips, Patty Sloan and Maryanne Whitcomb. At this time the PC Team is actively asking anyone with interest in serving on the team in 2024 to be in contact with either of the church clergy.

In closing, the PC Team looks forward in the coming year to a continuation of its monthly meetings, and, further, to occasionally referring people to other caring ministries at St. Thomas such as Eucharistic Visitors, Shawl Ministry, or to the St. Thomas clergy. Parishioners wanting to alert the team to a need for pastoral care are currently encouraged to contact any person on the team directly. Prayer requests can also be made on the church website: www.stthomassv.org.

Shawl Committee

by Pat Jorgensen

We have been knitting shawls for St. Thomas since the beginning of 2009. Our shawls are used for special needs of our parishioners who are experiencing needs including medical procedures, illness, homebound situations, medical recovery, marriage ceremonies, birth of child, baptism and endless needed support.

We meet monthly and our shawls show God’s love and our care and the gratitude of the recipient receiving is more than one can imagine.

We always welcome new knitters and beginners are welcome.

Contact Pat Jorgensen at 208-481-7264 or pj7777@cox.net if more information is needed.

Ushers

by Robert Shuford

Once again the St. Thomas Usher Team has been rated Number 1 in the country as the top performing usher team (the committee of one led by me tallied the votes).

Our dedicated and loyal team takes pride with welcoming parishioners and visitors as they enter the church.

We also hand out the programs, assist with the collection, count the number in attendance, and count the money at the end of the service.

Being an usher is a wonderful and easy way to be part of the service. Your time commitment would be roughly one Sunday every 2 months. We always need more ushers so please contact Robert Shuford at 404-293-2742 or email at robert@shufordpartners.com.



MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS



St. Thomas Playhouse

by Sara Gorby, Joanne Sattler

St. Thomas Playhouse had a fabulous year full of joyful children, parents, actors, and audiences! In the words of one of our actors, participating in the Family Main Stage production of *Wizard of Oz* with her two daughters was “an amazing experience” and a “remarkable journey” with a “genuinely great, friendly, inclusive” cast full of positive energy and support that “left a lasting impact on all of [them].”

We started off the year with a bang at the February Girlfriend Cabaret Luncheon, which included a record 152 attendees as well as numerous entertainers young and old. As a result of the incredible generosity of the girlfriends, we raised enough money to support an unprecedented 61 tuition assistance awards for a total of \$31,502 - our highest amount yet.

Playhouse received many donations in connection with our camps and shows over the spring, summer, and fall as well, allowing us to manage increased expenses due to inflation, record camp numbers, and well-deserved, long-awaited intern and creative team compensation increases. We also received grants from the Papoose Club, the Idaho Episcopal Foundation, the Campfire Foundation, and the Idaho Episcopal Church Rose Grant, which will help fund 2024’s Children’s Theater Tour as well as some much-needed portable sound system equipment. Additionally, our Year End Appeal has so far been very successful, generating over \$25,000 so far from more than fifty donors, exceeding our target by a large margin.



We began the summer with a Company B June camp that was smaller in size but big in heart. The campers loved the story and message of *Phantom Tollbooth, Jr.*, a favorite book of many, brought to life in this musical adaptation.

SPACC followed immediately on the heels of Company B June camp, with a theme of *Superheroes!* and 36 young people exploring what it means to be a hero in our lives and for others in the beautiful Sawtooth

Mountains at Camp Perkins. The young people shared songs, Shakespeare, and even some stage combat skills with their parents on the final day. We also set aside time each day to meditate on a word or reading for each day, sang about love and being together in community, and shared our gratitude. It was truly a highlight of the summer for all who participated!



In July, 16 teens and young adults performed *Hair*, the culmination of the tuition-free Summer Theater Project, made possible by our many generous donations. The young people focused on friendship, love, identity, acceptance and celebration of differences, all themes of *Hair* that are still very relevant today.

Our last camp of the summer was our biggest ever with 118 campers performing Disney’s *The Lion King, Jr.* to

sold out crowds. The children really connected to the characters and were excited about the storytelling, costumes, and beautiful music and dance. The creative team’s ability to execute such an incredible vision with so many children was nothing short of miraculous.





2023 IN REVIEW



Parish Register 2023

BAPTISMS

March 23, 2023	Emma Reighley	Born: September 11, 2022
July 7, 2023	Frances Patterson Glenn	Born: May 30, 2021
July 7, 2023	John Rawlings Sarda	Born: September 10, 2021
October 15, 2023	Alice Grace Patton	Born: October 10, 2022
October 15, 2023	Julian Charles Barr	Born: October 11, 2022

MARRIAGES

January 20, 2023	Taryn Holmes and John Taylor Pillsbury
March 4, 2023	Richelle Daves and Marty Fielding
July 14, 2023	Heather Freeman Black and David Cole Wilson Lister
July 29, 2023	Michelle Helderman and Michael Caldwell
August 25, 2023	Debra Menin and David Halgerson
September 19, 2023	Gray Stewart and Kenneth Smart

CONFIRMATIONS

July 30, 2023	Sue Cossey
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BURIALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES

April 25, 2023	Roselyn "Penny" Monger	Departed: January 5, 2023
June 3, 2023	Richard D. Hare	Departed: February 5, 2023
June 25, 2023	Michael Phillips	Departed: March 3, 2023
June 27, 2023	Robert Kesting	Departed: January 11, 2023
July 22, 2023	Edward Karl Karner	Departed: March 9, 2023
August 3, 2023	Margaret "Lynn" Gerli Whittelsey	Departed: March 10, 2023
August 31, 2023	Joan Preston O'Neil	Departed: July 30, 2023
October 7, 2023	Douglas Wilfred Taylor	Departed: August 15, 2023
November 9, 2023	Patty Duetting Hare	Departed: October 2, 2023

Our Family Mainstage production of *The Wizard of Oz* was extremely successful as well. It featured a cast of 57 actors ranging from ages 5 to 70, including our very own Rector. One audience member called the performance "honestly superb," adding that the audience was "spellbound."



Playhouse ended the year with our largest Company B Winterized camp to date performing Elton John favorites with boundless joy and enthusiasm to a packed house. Throughout Winterized and the summer Company B camps, invaluable teenage counselors and interns brought passion and knowledge of theater and worked hard to create a warm, fun, and inclusive environment. Thank you's are also due to our Committee members for their unwavering commitment and engagement. Lastly, we would like to thank St. Thomas Church for your continued financial and spiritual support, for which we are so grateful.



ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION



Good-bye to Outgoing Vestry Members



Paul Holle



Janet Schaumburg



Margot Shuford

Many thanks to Janet and Margot who have fulfilled their three-year term as vestry members. And our thanks also to Paul Holle who stepped in to complete the term of Gretchen Boe.

Janet’s energy and comprehension of issues was so helpful throughout her three year term. She is the go-to gal to get things moving *and* completed. Thank you, Janet.

Margot served not only as a vestry member, but completed the last year serving as Junior Warden whose focus in on the upkeep and maintenance of the church buildings, grounds, and rectory. That is no small task in a facility like St. Thomas and the Rectory. Thank you, Margot, for your infectious enthusiasm and ability to bring new ideas and the right people together.

Paul, you brought to the vestry a great understanding of both business concerns and the mission of the church. Don’t go away - we most likely will be calling on you again. Thanks for your service this past year.

AGENDA

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Call to Order	The Very Rev. M. Jonah Kendall
Appointment of Clerk	
Approval of Minutes - 2023	Judi Fuller
Sr. Warden Report	Paul Ahern
Junior Warden Report	Margot Shuford
Playhouse Report with budget	Sara Gorby and Joanne Sattler
Annual Giving for 2024 Report	David Luhr
Presentation and Approval of 2024 budgets	Tom Benson
Nominating Committee Report	Janet Schaumburg
Election of Vestry/Delegates	The Very Rev. M. Jonah Kendall
Dream/Vision Committee	Paul Ahern
Rector’s Report	The Very Rev. M. Jonah Kendall
Presentation of the Rector’s Cross	The Very Rev. M. Jonah Kendall
Doxology and Adjournment	Joel Bejot

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sun Valley, Idaho
Annual Meeting – Parish Hall and online
January 29, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by the Rev. Jonah Kendal at 11:00 a.m. He offered an opening prayer to start the meeting.

Connie Hoffman moved and Cam Geer seconded that Judi Fuller be appointed Clerk for the Annual Meeting. The motion passed.

Connie Hoffman moved and Art Dahl seconded that the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting be approved as written. The motion passed.

Rebecca Waycott, Senior Warden,

- * Reflected on the past years and what St. Thomas means to her and her family,
- * Stated that St. Thomas is in a strong position despite the covid interlude,
- * Noted the lovely services with sermons that touch the heart and lead to good conversations,
- * Thanked the capable and welcoming staff,
- * Noted the financial stability thanks to supportive and eager congregation,
- * Reported the Legacy Society has grown by 25% this past year,
- * Pointed out the added value of hiring the Associate Rector several years ago, and
- * Was confident that the parish will continue to grow and thrive in the coming years.

Jonah expressed gratitude for Laurie Ahern's years as Junior Warden. (Written report only)

Dave and Sherri Luhr, co-chairs of the Stewardship Committee, thanked the congregation for an Annual Giving Campaign which exceeded their expectations and goals. Over \$720,000 has been pledged to support the church in 2023, a 15% increase over last year. Sherri added that the Mission Statement truly expressed what St. Thomas stands for in the community.

Sara Gorby, Artistic Director of St. Thomas Playhouse, recapped the activities of their 21st season. Due to successful camps and exceeding many of their goals for 2022, this was the first year that Playhouse did not rely on operating funds from the church. Joanna Sattler's hire in 2022 has proven very helpful in database management and fund-raising for Playhouse. The budget for 2023 they are presenting is based on very conservative numbers for all camps and productions.

Tom Benson, Treasurer, recapped the year's financial activity. Details of his report can be found in the Annual Report. In brief, he pointed out that due to the outstanding performance by Playhouse and generous donors, there was no need to use the annual Endowment contribution (which was re-directed to the Capital Improvement Fund). He presented the proposed 2023 budget for the church operating costs which incorporates increased revenue from pledges, an 8% salary increase in response to the inflationary trends, and generally higher costs in operations. Connie Hoffman moved and Mary Malkmus seconded a motion to accept the budget as presented. The motion passed.

Art Dahl, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented the nominated slates:

Vestry

Nominees: Clyde Holt, LeeAnne Linderman, Ellen Sanders

Tom Archie moved and Katrina Cord seconded that this slate be approved as presented. The motion passed.

Convention Delegates and Alternates

Delegates: Laurie Ahern, Joel Bejot, Linda Bergerson, Liz Hickey, Nick Miller, Sylvia Miller

Alternates: Barbara Dwyer, Ruth Jones, Walt McKew, Sabrina Roblin

Connie Hoffman moved and LeeAnne Linderman seconded a motion that the slate be approved as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jonah announced his appointment of Paul Ahern as Senior Warden.

Kathleen Bean expressed her gratitude in serving as Associate Rector and is "ready to dream" and to see what God has for us in the coming year.

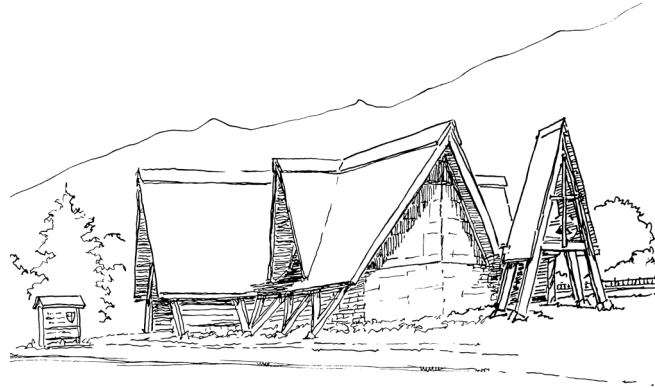
Jonah, in addition to his written report, shared his sense of the grace of God which abounds in our community. The Rector's Cross was presented to Rebecca Waycott for her outstanding service to the church and community during the past years as Senior Warden, Chair of the Capital Campaign, leader of the Search Committee, and reviver of the Legacy Society.

All stood for a closing prayer led by Kathleen and singing of the Doxology led by Joel Bejot. The meeting be adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi Fuller, Clerk



St. Thomas Episcopal Church



BISHOP The Rt. Rev. Jos Tharakan

RECTOR The Very Rev. M. Jonah Kendall

ASSOCIATE RECTOR The Rev. Kathleen Bean

VESTRY OFFICERS Paul Ahern, Senior Warden
Margot Shuford, Junior Warden
Tom Benson, Treasurer
Judi Fuller, Clerk

ADDITIONAL VESTRY MEMBERS Tom Archie, Cam Geer, Paul Holle, Clyde Holt,
LeeAnne Linderman, Suzy Orb, Ellen Sanders,
Janet Schaumburg,

ADMINISTRATION Joel Bejot, Music Director and Organist
Judi Fuller, Parish Administrator
Sara Gorby, Playhouse Artistic Director
Liz Hickey, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries
Brett Moellenberg, Director of Communications
Joanna Sattler, Playhouse Director of Finance and Development

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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