

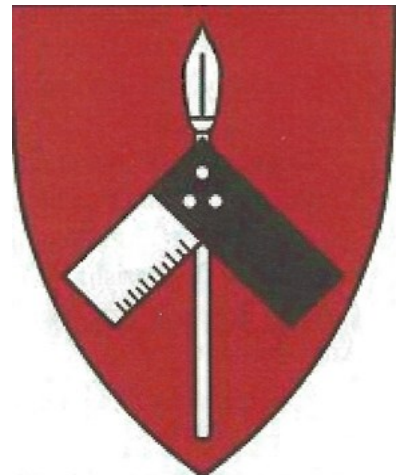
# Saint Thomas Episcopal Church of Battle Creek

Established in 1842

## 2022 Annual Report & Ministry Review

16 East Van Buren Street  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017

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[www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org)



**Agenda**  
**180th Annual Parish Meeting**  
**January 22, 2023**

- Call to Order & Opening Prayer
- Certificate of Quorum (50 qualified voters present)

St. Thomas By-Laws Article I. Section 2: Voting members shall be limited to members, aged sixteen (16) and above in good standing as defined by the Canons of General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church sets certain criteria for what constitutes membership. These are outlined in Title I, Canon 17 of the Constitution and Canons:

1. All baptized persons, no matter where they were baptized, whose record of baptism is recorded in this church, are considered members of this church.
2. All members who have received Holy Communion at least three (3) times during the years are considered communicant members.
3. All communicants who for the previous year have “been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God” are considered communicants in good standing.

- Appointments

Secretary: Karmel Addis

Parliamentarian: Roy Hillman

Validation: Ross Dingwall

Tellers: Karen Keese, Hans Prechtel

- Approval of the Minutes of the 179th Annual Parish Meeting, January 30, 2022
- Election of Vestry Members and Convention Delegates

Vestry Members:

3-year terms: Karmel Addis, Brenda Hillman, Lori Kiess, Megan Phelan

Delegates to Convention:

2-Year Term: TBD (1 Delegate Needed)

1-Year Term: TBD (1 Alternate Needed)

- Reports:

Budget & Finance: Charles Grantier, Treasurer

Property: John Lendel

Vestry: Kathy Dingwall, Senior Warden

State of the Parish, Fr. Brian Coleman, Former Rector.

- Closing Prayer & Eucharist

**Minutes of the 179th Annual Parish Meeting**  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Battle Creek  
January 30, 2022

Noreen Sidnam, Senior Warden, called the 179th Annual Parish Meeting to order at the beginning of the 10:00 a.m. service.

Noreen asked for a verification of a quorum, Ross Dingwall stated that we have a quorum.

After the reading of the Gospel, Elizabeth Neumeyer offered an opening prayer.

**Appointments were read for the meeting:**

Secretary: Becky Squires

Parliamentarian: Doug Chapel

Validation: Ross Dingwall

Tellers: Judy Gray and Hans Prechtel

**Minutes from the 177th Annual Parish Meeting on January 26, 2020:** motion to approve the minutes by Ross Dingwall; support by Keith Phillips; motion approved.

**Renewal Works Presentation** given by facilitators, Kathy Dingwall & Elizabeth Schirk.

**Election of Vestry Members and Convention Delegates:**

Noreen called for the ratification of the 2021 candidates for three-year terms: Kent Bieberich, Doug Chapel, and Bernie Squires and Karen Keese, a two-year delegate to convention . Noreen presented the slate for the election of vestry members and convention delegates. Three candidates for three-year terms on the vestry: Kathy Dingwall, Charles Grantier, and Franz Schirk. The candidate for a two-year term is John Lendel. 1 delegate to diocesan convention (two-year term): John Lendel. Motion to approve the candidates for vestry and delegates to diocesan convention by acclamation by Lori Kiess; support by Jodi Nickerson; motion approved. Candidates elected by acclamation.

**Proposed amendments to the parish by-laws** were moved by the Vestry and recommended for adoption. Motion made to approve by Keith Phillips, second by Kent Bieberich; motion approved.

**Letters of Greeting:**

Mrs. Jack Van Hooser & The Very Rev. Joy and Mr. Nathaniel Rogers

Motion to send letters by Larry Dillon; second Mira Wuerges; motion approved.

**Reports:**

**Budget & Finance:** Dave Disler, Treasurer, noted that the 2022 budget approved by the vestry was in the packet. He also noted that the 2021 end-of-year financial reports were not included due to a family emergency. Those reports will be forwarded to the parish when he receives them.

Bob Harberts, trustee of the St. Thomas Endowment and chair of the Trust Investment Committee clarified the following: The Nickerson bequest is not designated as a fund of the endowment to be used for building repairs such as the chapel restoration, the Stewardship and Fundraising Report in the 2021 Annual Report and Ministry Review, notwithstanding. The trustees and the Stewardship and Fundraising Commission of the Vestry will work together on any disbursements from this fund.

**Property:** Hans Prechtel, Junior Warden, pointed out that the rose window restoration has been completed and hopes to continue restoring other stained-glass windows. He thanked all those who helped with the building in the past year.

**Vestry:** Noreen Sidnam, Senior Warden, thanked the vestry for its hard work during a very difficult year. She thanked all who served on the vestry and noted her pleasure with the RenewalWorks process and plans.

Dave Disler commended Noreen for her service as senior warden.

**State of the Parish Report:** Father Brian Coleman, Rector, stated that his report was included in the Annual Report.

The meeting concluded with the singing of a hymn and a closing prayer by Noreen Sidnam.

The service continued with the Eucharist.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Squires  
beckys141@live.com

## STATE OF THE PARISH REPORT

2022 was an exceptionally fruitful year for St. Thomas, despite the personal challenges that I have faced throughout as a result of my vocal cord paralysis. The year began with the introduction of the Reverends Rick Stravers and Heather Barta who served as our supply clergy during my disability from January through March. Rick and Heather were warmly received by the congregation and brought new insights and wisdom through their preaching, pastoral care and liturgical leadership. Much of the early part of the year was also spent getting back to normal, as much as possible, in the wake of the ongoing pandemic.

Upon my return to work we were devastated with the news of the sudden and tragic death of our beloved, Julian Mansfield, great-grandson of Roy and Brenda Hillman. On the other end of the spectrum of life we bid farewell to long-time and active members Paul and Gretchen Humiston who died within weeks of each other. These losses, among others, were keenly felt by the parish and we will forever cherish their memory.

Also early in 2022 St. Thomas received a massive infusion of cash (over \$500,000) into the St. Thomas Endowment Fund, thanks to the generosity and wise stewardship of Ralph and Audra Nickerson. Audra died late in 2021 after a brief illness. She had served faithfully as a deacon at St. Thomas in the past and helped to fund the elevator which was dedicated in memory of her husband.

About mid-way through the year, it became clear despite the remarkable gift to our endowment that our operating expenses were going to outpace our yearly income and parishioners responded generously and with tremendous faith. Through our St. Thomas Booster campaign we were able to raise approximately \$15,000 to offset unplanned expenses.

I am very proud of the fact that throughout the pandemic we have been able to maintain uninterrupted our service to the hungry and homeless through our breakfast and holiday basket programs. In 2022 we were able to finally resume in-person dining at the breakfast program which will again provide much needed opportunities for socializing and developing relationships for this vulnerable population. We also continued our holiday basket program in collaboration with Santa's Helper enabling St. Thomas to reach many more people more efficiently.

2022 saw the arrival of our Bishop Provisional, the Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, who we had a chance to meet online and in person on several occasions upon his arrival and who presided beautifully at the church service on December 18th, leading the ending of a pastoral relationship liturgy.

At the end of May it became clear to me that due to my vocal limitations I would not be able to sustain full-time ministry indefinitely and I made the announcement that I intended to step down from active ministry by the end of the year. I called a Special Parish Meeting in June to present parish financial reports for the previous year, discuss my disability plans, and to hear from our Canon Missioner about the transition process.

On a much happier note, our sister Trish Harris was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons and began serving St. Thomas in the Summer. She brings a beautiful spirit and considerable gifts to our parish and the wider community. For me, personally, it has been a great joy to see her develop from her baptism back in 2012, through her confirmation, marriage, and ordination. What a wonderful gift to St. Thomas she will continue to be.

In July I attended the General Convention of the Episcopal Church where much progress was made in addressing past injustices, particularly against indigenous peoples, and establishing a more sustainable path forward for our denomination. This was the third and last time that I served as an elected deputy from our diocese.

Early in the Autumn we began again in earnest to work through our *RenewalWorks* initiatives: Parish Prayer, Rule of Life, Instructed Eucharist and Community Collaboration. The first two of these initiatives were presented on Sunday mornings to the congregation and the others will be discussed and acted on in 2023. I am immensely proud of the lay-led efforts that have and will continue to bear much fruit in our parish.

Our annual giving campaign, *More Than Enough*, was hugely successful, and we exceeded our pledge goal for 2023 by over \$15,000. This puts St. Thomas in a good position going forward into the transition, and the financial viability of the parish will no doubt be an attractive feature to any possible future rectors.

The real theme of the past year has been the remarkable stepping up of lay leaders to sustain and support our ongoing ministry during the time of transition. I am so encouraged and deeply impressed at the way that you have all offered your gifts of time, talent and treasure to further the work of the Gospel.

I have endeavored to leave St. Thomas in a healthy and wholesome way. Admittedly this has been a long good-bye, but I think that it has been a good good-bye too. Thank you for the beautiful gifts given to me and John at our leaving celebrations, for your generosity in providing us with a financial purse. It has been my honor and privilege to serve you, and I will always have a special place in my prayers and in my heart for St. Thomas.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Brian Coleman  
fatherbrian@mac.com

## WORSHIP

*Worship is at the center of our faith community helping us to strengthen our relationships with God and with each other in our daily lives.*

*As a church, worship is our primary outreach. We offer prayer and praise for and on behalf of the wider community. At St. Thomas our worship engages all our senses and is enriched by the grandeur of our buildings, the dignity of our liturgies and beautiful music. We keep the feasts of the Christian Calendar and our lives are shaped by the seasons of the liturgical year.*

*In worship we:*

*Proclaim — We show forth the Good News of the Gospel through preaching, music, liturgy, scripture readings and prayer:*

*Celebrate — We regularly gather at the Lord's Table to participate in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Though many, we are one body because we all share in one bread, one cup:*

*Experience — We worship God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, conscious of both the presence and transcendence of God.*

### Acolytes

The ministry of the acolyte is a serving ministry of the Church that comes from ancient times. From those days until now acolytes have been faithful and conscientious persons who serve as part of the liturgy and Holy Eucharist and find a place serving God at the altar. It is an honor to be one who serves, and, truly a vital ministry to God and God's people.

It is likely you've noticed the ramping up of acolyte service throughout 2022. After adjustments made during the pandemic, it has been refreshing, humbling, and an honor to continue in the ministry of serving as an acolyte. We have all learned new ways of serving in the same role as we grapple with what is next for our parish. As a team we are called to step up in new ways and drop back in others, as the needs shift. Through it all, I remain blessed to lead (although I don't see it as leadership, but rather fellowship and community), such a patient, kind and accommodating group of individuals. As with any task, we grow through the challenges and I can attest to the personal growth I have gained in my service. Without my place on this team, I would have missed what I see as necessary growth and the deepening of relationships as well as broadening my understanding of what being in communion with one another truly means.

We currently are a very small team and are in need of those that feel called to involvement in a rewarding role, even if it seems out of reach. I promise to train and make anyone comfortable to serve in this capacity. Some of the team, because of varying circumstances; health, career, and other "life things", have needed to step back for now, leaving an opportunity for others to fill those rewarding roles. The current "handful" of people (~ 5 depending on the "level" of service and liturgical calendar) are filling the concentrated but consistent roles of Crucifer, Sub-Deacon, and Thurifer. I hope to have those that are eager to serve again, in 2023. One unfortunate thing I've discovered about myself, through service, is that, while I love the acolyte rolls, I am not great at recruiting, as I believe this is personal discernment process, but hope those reading this will feel led to consider joining this ministry.

### ***Prayerful Call to Action: Roles, Responsibilities and Participants:***

Acolytes serve at each of the weekly services, including Evensong services. The diverse talent and

flexibility of this team is truly great and being a part of such a team is a humbling and fulfilling experience. The weekly Crucifers and Sub-Deacons currently include: Jodi Nickerson, Hans Prechtel, Karmel Addis, and Becky Squires. In 2022, Keith Philips and Val Miller, both valued members of our team will not be able to serve moving forward. Mark Olmstead graciously agrees to serve “in a pinch” as Thurifer, and Charles Grantier has been dependable as the crucifer for Evensong services. When available and with a little coercion (I tend to have some but not much persuasion with them), Claire, Apollo, and Quinn Nickerson have also served a handful of times in 2022. Mahkhi and Aleise Carpenter, Kellan, and Grady Petronsky are in training as torches and eager to get started. There may be others I’ve forgotten to mention who have participated and/or stepped up throughout the year, and if you are one of these folks, please know you are greatly appreciated.

While assisting the Clergy in various roles, blending into our worship experience, lighting candles, and ensuring the space is prepared for all parishioners to worship, our God is glorified as each acolyte brings their own personality and knowledge of tasks to complete each responsibility with reverence and also with fun. Knowing reverence is important, we strive to make serving an experience that is fulfilling, centering, and exciting. The Acolyte team contributes to the vast vitality of our parish through its weekly service. Knowledge, focus, and flexibility are a few of the qualities required of an Acolyte for each Eucharist and Evensong at which they serve. These qualities can enhance the desire to serve, not only our parish each week, but also in our schools, places of employment, homes, and other outreach opportunities. Additionally, I know that it has inspired a heart for service in many of the young people who participate in the program. We are building a team that enjoys service and strives to understand why we “do what we do.” Our hope is for sustained growth in 2023, both in numbers and depth of understanding.

**Please consider being a part of this growing ministry! Whether you’re school age, retired or a seasoned participant, there’s a wonderful role waiting for you to fill. Just contact Jodi Nickerson at the email below.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi L. Nickerson  
jodilnickerson@gmail.com

## **Altar Guild**

The ministry of the Altar Guild centers around the importance and beauty of the liturgy. Altar Guild members understand that every worship service reflects the Church’s devotion to the love of our Lord, our Christian beliefs and our liturgical traditions.

As of January 1/1/2023, the St. Thomas Altar Guild has fourteen members, including one on leave, two on-call members, one new member and one trainee. These members work closely with each other to prepare the Church for the celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments held within the Church’s Liturgical space. Members strive to create a welcoming environment for everyone who participates in St. Thomas worship services. Members build a sacred trust with one another and the clergy. They cherish the beauty of each service. They are humbled by their ministry.

This year the greening of the Church went extremely well. Altar Guild members and volunteers



worked together to green the Church. Changing the colors from Advent blue to Christmas red was made easy because of the commitment shown by the volunteers and Altar Guild members. The Nativity figurines found under the Altar during the Christmas services were a gift from Paul and Gretchen Humiston.

The Altar Guild appreciates the new Advent frontal, pulpit fall, and vestments. These items will add even more beauty and dignity to the season of Advent.

Altar Guild members include:

Jill Ebeling	Julie McDonald	Bev Case (returning)
Monica Gray	Noreen Sidnam	Mary Bourgeois (on call 1.1.23)
Kathy Dingwall (on leave)	Mira Wuerges	Nicole Wiley (trainee)
Bob Harberts	Heather Wiley	Jeanne Grabe (new member)
Brenda Hillman		Apollo Nickerson (on call)
		Keith Phillips (withdrew from Guild)

Many parishioners who are not members of the Altar Guild, gladly volunteer to assist the Altar Guild with special projects such as decorating the Church, changing banners and heavy lifting projects.

The Altar Guild will miss working with Father Brian Coleman. He always assisted us by providing the general instructions needed to make certain that all the services were prepared to show the dignity of each service and each Church season.

In closing, prayerful thanks is given to the families and friends of the Altar Guild members. Their support is vital to the members as they seek to strengthen their faith and Christian beliefs through their service to God, our clergy and our parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Harberts,  
Altar Guild Director  
robertharberts@mac.com

## **AV Tech Team**

The Audio-Visual Tech Team is responsible for the livestreaming of the services in the Sanctuary: we move the cameras, add captions to label the different parts of the service, and hit the all-important "Go Live" button. When needed, we also help set up the three alternate worship spaces, the Chapel, the Lounge, and the Parish Hall. Team members serve at one or two services each month to help get our message out to the world: to our members watching from home to members who have moved or are traveling, and to anyone curious about what we have to offer.

While we deal with very technical aspects of the service, the job gives us the chance to be the eyes and ears of the congregation. We get to know the order of service intimately; we highlight the offerings of everyone in the service. I love that team members get to be expressive in choosing whether to zoom in on a participant, or keeping a wide shot to show the whole church community. We get to share our worship with the world.

In 2022, our members have added more of the Audio aspects of the services to our responsibilities. All of the handheld, lapel, and area microphones can be adjusted to the needs of different speakers and singers, so we have had a more hands-on experience with this part of the technology. New team members will start their training with just the visual aspects and will add audio as they get more comfortable.

This year our members streamed over 100 services to our YouTube and Facebook channels. Our team members are Franz Schirk, Joerg Himmelreich, Laurel Stravers, and Karmel Addis. We would love another member or two to join our team! If you're interested in this cool, behind-the-scenes role, I'd love to get you trained and shadowing a service!

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Stark  
stark.alexis@gmail.com

### **Daily Office Officials**

This prayer practice on behalf of the St Thomas Parish family and to the Glory of God, has quietly continued. Chapel worship takes place at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Off-site service occurs Saturday, at 8:30 and 5:00, with Morning Prayer prayed on Sunday. Choral or Parish Evensong takes place Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

With the addition of Deacon Trish and Charles Grantier joining Mary Bourgeois, Bob Harberts, Roy Hillman and me (taking any open slots), the Parish is well represented! We encourage other interested parishioners to contact one of us for further information.

The Office continues to be offered via Zoom. We are grateful for the regular participation of two friends of the Parish, Judy Fleener and Mother Tina Velthuisen. A parishioner has expressed an interest in joining.

We have endeavored to provide coverage for all speaking roles, so that Fr Brian did not need to place any further strain on his voice. We look forward to Fr Rick Stravers joining us in January.

This ministry, like the Altar Guild or grounds maintenance, occurs quietly and consistently “behind the scenes,” supporting the Parish and continuing the tradition of Daily Prayer. We are grateful to be of service.

Again, please contact one of us if you are interested, or curious, about this ministry!

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Phillips  
solitarymonk51@gmail.com

### **Deacon**

In June 2022, I was ordained a vocational deacon in The Episcopal Church. Bishop Provisional Prince Singh assigned me to the St. Thomas parish in Battle Creek, MI with the understanding that the work I engage in is for The Episcopal Church at large, and if there are needs that arise that are away from the Battle Creek area, I may spend time and energy in other areas besides the St. Thomas parish.

The following is a snapshot of the services that I have been engaged in over the last seven months:

- Offered a Vigil for Healing & Hope after the Roe v. Wade overturn.
- Gathered a group to march in the Battle Creek Pride Parade .
- Serving as a member of the TEMP team in Battle Creek – to ensure that everyone has sufficient shelter when the temperatures are at a level to pose safety risks.
- Serving as a member of the World in Prayer team & write prayers on a rotating basis which are posted on the World in Prayer website and sent to thousands of subscribers each week.
- Facilitating a weekly Life Skills class at the Share Center, a drop-in center in Battle Creek for people struggling with homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues. There is currently one parishioner who attends the class and assists in leading.
- Working a weekly shift at Ministry with Community, a drop-in center in Kalamazoo for people struggling with homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues. I assist them with doing their laundry, clean the showers and escort them to a clean shower, and assist them in a variety of ways to include fostering relationships.
- Officiating Evening Prayer once a week.
- Leading Spiritual Chat and Compline once a week.
- Visiting parishioners and other people who are ill or struggling with life issues.
- Bringing home communion to people unable to get to church for a variety of reasons
- Presented at a break-out session at the annual diocesan convention regarding Deacons Taking it to the Streets.
- Serving on the Pastoral Care team.
- Serving at the altar during liturgical services to include baptisms, and funerals.

Recent additions to my schedule are meetings with a couple whose wedding I will officiate in May, preparing to serve on the Deacon's Council, and assisting the Commission on Ministry in June in order to interview candidates for the diaconate.

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Trish Harris  
tholcomb2011@hotmail.com>

## **Eucharistic Ministry**

Fr. Brian trained some of the Pastoral Care Team to help as Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs). Hans Prechtel, Karen Keese, and Deacon Trish Harris will be bringing communion to our shut-ins and hospitalized once a month. The Church now asks that 2 people go together to do this. The other members of the Pastoral Care Team that will be the second person are Emilie Cummins, Kyle Lendel, and Elizabeth Schirk.

Currently we have members in Assisted Living, Rehab, and homebound. A few are able to come to church once in a while.

Any requests for Communion can be called to the office and they will contact us. We will respond as soon as possible to requests

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Keese  
karen.keese@yahoo.com

## **Greeters**

The Greeters continued to meet and greet both parishioners and newcomers as they come to worship at St. Thomas. They hand out the bulletins or lesson sheet as well as a glass chalice for communion. Just as the ushers are ready to welcome new members so are the greeters. It's a wonderful way to meet and connect with the parish as well as be a friendly face for a newcomer. If you are interested in this worthwhile ministry, please contact Brenda Hillman.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hillman  
royhillman@aol.com

## **Lectors & Intercessors**

Lectors are primarily responsible for reading and leading the Old Testament (first lesson) readings at Holy Eucharist and often at Sunday Evensongs. The lector typically reads the lesson and may also lead the psalm. The New Testament scripture, or second lesson, is typically read by the sub deacon. The lessons follow the church calendar using a three-year cycle and can be found on *The Lectionary Page* online or in *Preparing for Sunday* on our website.

This year, the Vestry's *Parish Growth and Development Committee* has focused on ways to make people feel comfortable and welcome, especially during the Holy Eucharist when pieces of the liturgy may be new and hard to understand. As part of that initiative, we have added a prologue to the readings. The idea is to help make the scripture more meaningful by front-loading some background information relating to it. As expected, it has been appreciated by more than just the newcomers!

The prayers and intercessions follow the formats found in *The Book of Common Prayer*. As intercessors, it's important to make our prayers less rote and more personal by moderating tone of voice and pace; for that reason, many intercessors write their own prayers.

As a member of this ministry, it's possible to choose to be a lector or an intercessor or both. Scheduling is done monthly, and we are looking at ways to accommodate the calendars of all those who are part of this important and rewarding ministry.

Currently, the members include:

Kent Bieberich  
Kathy Dingwall  
The Rev. Mark Engle  
Sharon Engle  
Charles Grantier

Barb Hibiske  
Liz Neumeyer  
Jodi Nickerson  
Quinn Nickerson  
Mark Olmstead  
Kellan Petronski

Yvette Petti  
Megan Phelan  
Keith Phillips  
Hans Prechtel  
Becky Squires

We are always looking to add new voices to speak, *The Word of the Lord*. We hope you will consider participating in this renewing ministry this year. A short training is provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dingwall  
kat.dingwall@outlook.com

## Music Ministry

What a joy it was to begin 2022 with a “normal” (pre-pandemic) schedule of rehearsals and services!

Preparations for the twice-postponed choir tour to the United Kingdom were well underway and the music for the tour provided excellent repertoire choices for the monthly services of Choral Evensong. Additionally, the Choral Scholars supported the other Sunday evening liturgies of Choral and Parish Evensong. While attendance at the services was somewhat disappointing, the musicians continually offered high-quality musical performances to lead the worship life of the parish.

As has become our custom, additional singers from other parishes are invited to join the St. Thomas Choir for larger events and tours. We were delighted to welcome seven singers (noted with asterisks in the roster below) to help fill out our ranks for the England tour. I am delighted that these musicians have chosen to continue singing with us post-tour for our services of Choral Evensong and Lessons & Carols.

It has been nice to welcome some new faces into the choir at St. Thomas, the membership has remained very stable with many long-time members. While a relatively small ensemble, the dedication of these individuals and the quality of music they produce surpasses every expectation and continues to place St. Thomas at the top of liturgical music in the diocese.

### 2022 Adult Choir

<u>Soprano</u>	<u>Alto</u>	<u>Tenor</u>	<u>Base</u>
Marguerite Grupke†	Mary Bourgeois	Charles Grantier*	Sam Gantt*
Yvette Petti	Wanza Grantier†	Nathan Isaacs	Brooks Grantier†
McKenzie Schafer*	Chris Kosmowski†	Wayne Kukuk†	Micah Huisman†
Denise Slaby	Sue Saunders	Randy Turpin†	Eric Rifenburgh
	Becky Squires		
	Alexis Stark*		

\*Choral Scholar

†Guest Singer

The Fall saw the choir resume its regular schedule of Eucharist and Evensong services with a highlight being the annual Festival of Lessons & Carols. We were delighted to welcome our Bishop Provisional, the Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, to preside at this service. Based on his demeanor and comments, it is safe to say he was very pleased and proud to be a part of the service (and impressed with the musical efforts).

There is always room for new voices in the choirs of St. Thomas Church and I heartily encourage anyone interested to get in touch and check us out – it really is a very special way to be involved in ministry and we would love to have you join our merry band of singers.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen G. White, PhD  
Director of Music  
music@StThomasBC.org

### **Parish Contemplative**

As your Parish Contemplative, I do most certainly support, through prayer and guidance, the active works our Parish undertakes. Our efforts are not oppositional, but supportive and complementary. This may seem contradictory; however, our intentions are always to the glory of God. The demonstrable ministries are directed toward the care of God's people.

My labor is to hold up those efforts with God's blessing and support. My role as Parish Contemplative is to hold forth, in an explicit way, the importance and value of God's working in our community. My prayers are to petition God to support St Thomas.

That, essentially, is the “work” of your Contemplative. It isn't as obvious as the active work, but is no less heard in Heaven! Your Parish Contemplative offers up all that St Thomas Parish does, for the blessing and support of God. I petition God, in every prayer moment, in that all of the efforts put forth by St Thomas will be to God's glory!

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Phillips  
solitarymonk51@gmail.com

### **Preaching Circle**

St. Thomas has a Preaching Circle made up of lay and ordained members who feel called to preach during the course of the church year. The members of the Preaching Circle include: Sharon Engle, Trish Harris, Liz Neumeyer, and Keith Phillips. They met with Father Brian on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. This year the Diocese added study requirements for being a lay preacher but since our group has done this for at least seven years under Father Brian's tutelage, we are all “grandparented.” The sessions include discussing and debating ideas about the lectionary lessons for the selected Sunday. Participants present their sermon in order to practice and fine-tune it before presenting it to the congregation. The group debriefs after each sermon to give constructive feedback

and suggestions. New members are invited but will have to complete the Diocesan requirements for being a lay preacher. The Preaching Circle enables the congregation to hear a variety of voices and perspectives during the course of the year.

The meeting time for the year 2023 is not decided as Father Rick's schedule was not yet been established at the time of writing this report. Father Mark Engle volunteered to help the Circle if needed. The next year is more in flux with having a supply and an interim priest. In discussion with Father Rick, he wanted the Circle to preach at least once a month and to help with Holy Week.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Neumeyer  
[neumeyere@yahoo.com](mailto:neumeyere@yahoo.com)

## **Ushers**

The Usher Team, whose members include Lori & Tom Kiess, Judy Gray, Ross Dingwall, Ken Surprenant, Joe Cummins, Bernie Squires, and Hans Prechtel, has continued to help get the church ready for our various worship services throughout the year and help greet worshippers on these occasions.

From time to time, we may ask worshippers to bring the Elements forward and help pass the collection plate if we do not have enough ushers for a particular Sunday. We try to schedule ushers so that they usher the same week each month, but we don't always have enough ushers for every Sunday. We have suffered some unexpected resignations and absences due to winters spent in Florida.

This is an important ministry where there is opportunity to meet and talk to both parishioners and those visiting the church for a specific occasion. If you think you might like to join this important ministry, please contact Roy Hillman.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Hillman  
[royhillman27@gmail.com](mailto:royhillman27@gmail.com)

## YOUTH

*We are called to nurture our children through teaching them about the Gospel and of God's eternal love for them and all creation. We seek to help our children grow in the knowledge and love of God, to increase in faith, and to love whatever is just and true and good.*

*We also recognize that children have gifts to offer us and our community by their presence, their questions, their honesty, and their special, intuitive sense of God.*

*Our work with young people includes:*

*Education — We provide a safe and nurturing environment for learning meaningful and relevant lessons about God's love and Christ's mission to our world.*

*Music — We offer a spirited environment where music is embraced, studied and celebrated as a gift from God, and where children are encouraged to offer their prayers and praise to God.*

*Ministry — We challenge our youth to use their talents in the service of God and others through church activities and in the wider community.*

### **Breakfast Book Club**

We have offered a series of free books including Bibles and various devotional books for children and adults for about seven years. My original purpose was to make sure children had educational materials. I also include flash cards, pencils, and notebooks. The adults also like the latter. Due to COVID restrictions, this has not been utilized as much. However, I do need to keep replenishing the workbooks and flash cards. The other popular item is the small Gideon New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs. I get these from a bookstore called the Blue Vase in Interlochen, Michigan. I have given out at least 75 throughout the year. I also added a little booklet called The Little Black Book of Scriptures as well as the Little Red Book. These are very popular too. I have given out at least 80 of the Little Book. I think it is the small size of these items that is appealing since the homeless person can put it in their pocket and those with a small apartment don't have to take up much room. This year Kiwanis gave me \$300.00 to get workbooks for little ones. I concentrated on phonics, math, and language arts for PreK to Kindergarten. However, next year I recommended that Kiwanis give the monies to the After School Reading Program at 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Baptist Church. Thelma Vaughn runs the program and I also invited her to come over and choose books because I have too many now. She took a selection of the I Can Read series so they are getting out to more children. A thank you to parishioners who donate books, flash cards and other items. I plan to continue this program because it seems to work in spite of COVID.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Neumeyer  
neumeyere@yahoo.com

### **Chorister Program**

The St. Thomas Chorister Program continues to be one of the primary mechanisms for the spiritual growth and education of our young people. Through the consistency of weekly rehearsal, regular participation in the varied worship experiences offered by St. Thomas Church, and travel, our young people receive a musical and spiritual experience unrivaled in our geographic area.

While we bid farewell to a couple of our older choristers as they moved on to the next chapter of their



lives, we were delighted to welcome new choristers to our roster from both within and outside the parish. These young people represent an ecumenical group with great energy and enthusiasm. They dedicate two hours per week to rehearsal and sing for services at least once per month.

#### 2022 Choristers

Mahkhi Carpenter	Apollo Nickerson	Emilyn Vining	Damian Hammond
Faye Grupke	Quinn Nickerson*	Nicole Wiley	*Head Chorister

Our program is open to any child beginning approximately aged 7 – boys remain in the program until voice change and girls are able to remain in the program through high school graduation. Once boys and girls reach high school, they have the option of joining the adult choir. We welcome children and families regardless of their faith background/experience and are eager to share the rich musical heritage of our Anglican Choral Tradition. We fully understand that what we offer is unique and challenging, but firmly believe the musical and spiritual education received is well worth the time, energy, and commitment.

I remain extremely proud of the progress these choristers have made both as young musicians and as leaders. I look forward to the continued development of this group and to providing them with positively life-changing musical and spiritual experiences. This program would not be possible without the parents/grandparents who support it and transport their children to rehearsals and services. A huge debt of gratitude goes to these families for making this part of their child's upbringing a priority.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen G. White, PhD  
Director of Music  
[music@StThomasBC.org](mailto:music@StThomasBC.org)

#### **Church Nursery**

Nursery services continue to be suspended due to the pandemic. We hope to be able to resume offering this ministry when we are able to do so safely again.

Respectfully submitted,

KathyDingwall  
[kat.dingwall@outlook.com](mailto:kat.dingwall@outlook.com)

#### **Post Franklin Food-Pack Program**

Again in 2022, St. Thomas has had the opportunity to support the Food-Pack Program as part of our outreach to the children of our community. Together with First United Methodist, First Congregational, and St. Philip Catholic Church, Hans Prechtel, Bernie Squires, and I coordinate the delivery of food packs on Thursdays during the school year. Each church contributes approximately \$1000 to the purchase of the food packs from the Food Bank of Southwest Michigan and

then delivers the packs to the school.

The packs provide the students and their families with some nutritious food for the weekend when school meals are not available. As of December 19, 2022, we, along with the other 3 churches, delivered more than 1000 food packs to the very grateful students at Post Franklin School for the year 2022. The contents varied but could include cereal, canned fruit/vegetables, canned pasta, juice, canned milk, peanut butter, and healthy snacks. This is a project that involves very little time but has a big impact on the children who may not have food for the weekend.

With grants difficult to maintain and the inflation factor, increasing individual church support is going to be paramount to the continued success of this very vital program. We will be looking for ways to increase our parish financial support and hope you will think of ways you can contribute.

I would invite anyone who would like to experience a warm, put-a-smile-on-your-face opportunity to please contact me at church or on my cell phone!

Thank you for your generosity and support of the Food-Pack Program and to Hans Prechtel, Bernie Squires, and Father Brian for their continued help in making sure that this program continues to serve the needs of the children and their families at Post Franklin School.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Dingwall  
ross.dingwall@outlook.com

## **Sunday School**

Formal Sunday school and youth-focused programs at St Thomas continued to be on pause in 2022, but that didn't mean we weren't also looking for important ways to support our young people over the past year.

In January, 2022, the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan announced the appointments of part-time members of the diocesan staff who would take on roles related to youth ministries with Father Joel Turmo serving 23 churches in the southern region including St. Thomas.

In April, 2022, Judy Gray and Lori Kiess attended the Regional Meeting on Children & Youth Formation via zoom where we had the opportunity to share our hopes and our concerns for our programs, loss of teachers and shortages of volunteers with dwindling class sizes, especially with the hard impact of the COVID pandemic when in-person classes were not possible. We learned that many congregations find themselves in a place much like we are, with their Sunday school programs on pause, slow to recover, and looking for volunteers and ideas to help take the lead to get them restarted in some form.

We were hopeful that we might be able to combine resources with other churches, bringing our kids together for outings, retreats or camps. The missing piece in seeing this come to fruition however continued to be the lack of dedicated coordinators or youth leaders to pull it all together. We are not without hope and Lori Kiess will be attending another Regional zoom meeting this month where we expect some of these ideas will be revisited and perhaps put into action. While not able to lead the youth program, Lori and others will continue to gather and share as much information as possible.

Another new children and youth-oriented offering came this past year from the Congregational Growth

and Development Committee who began providing baskets of small religious-based coloring books and crayons at each entrance where greeters and ushers could hand them out to our little visitors; a wonderful way to extend our hospitality and make their time with us on Sunday even more enjoyable.

And throughout the year at the Sunday 5:00 pm services, St. Thomas offered youth-focused programs where fun and fellowship was shared along with the Eucharist. Deacon Trish Harris led two of the services and assisted in several more. When asked what meaningful experiences she had at these services, she replied that it was very special being part of ...”the small group gathering together at the altar and sharing in communion. Fr. Brian took the time to share about the meaning of the Eucharist and the sacred space it holds in our faith tradition. Children were engaged “close up” and could touch & taste the body of Christ in a way that’s different from Sunday morning. It was also a lot of fun making pizza & listening to 5-8 year olds in conversation, building relationships with one another!”.

We’re not sure what the next steps will be for our youth programs and we continue to desperately need volunteers to step up and lead the way. Be assured, we’re prepared to heartily support those individuals in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Kiess  
[lori.kiess@yahoo.com](mailto:lori.kiess@yahoo.com)

### **Venture Crew**

Venturing is a program to foster stewardship. In Boy Scout troops, scouts focus on leadership;

Venturing focuses on service. The youths in Venturing crew are literally the bosses. They decide the program focus and the activities. The adult team is there to advise and teach them how to achieve those goals. Venturing is completely coed.

Venturing Crew 4316 will be rechartering for 2023. The struggles we began experiencing in 2021 have continued through 2022. Our problems primarily are with recruitment. As BSA in general struggles, the Venturing program gets hit even harder. We are hoping to add new members in the new year and regain our focus on camping, hiking, and community service. If any youth ages 13-20 who has completed the eighth grade is interested, Venturing Crew 4316 would love to meet that young person.

I can be reached at mail below. More information is available in [beascout.org](http://beascout.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Ledbetter, Advisor  
[Tledbett@comcast.net](mailto:Tledbett@comcast.net)

## Discipleship

*Discipleship means answering God's call to share his love with the world in our daily lives, helping to transform ourselves and our communities.*

*Each of us is called by God to ministry, we are ordained in baptism to live our covenant as agents of the Kingdom of God and ambassadors of Christ in the world. We seek to discern our vocation through reflection in study, prayer and in our relationships and experiences.*

*We grow in discipleship through:*

*Formation—We allow ourselves to question, ponder and struggle with the meaning of the Gospel in the company of God and others.*

*Friendship — We bring the healing ministry of Christ to all members of the parish, while building a strong and healthy parish community.*

*Service— We communicate the mission and ministry of this parish to the wider community, inviting others to join us. Through our outreach programs we help those in need and serve Christ in them.*

### Adult Christian Formation

In part due to my vocal limitations, but mostly due to a lack of interest or involvement, there has not been much in the way of adult Christian formation at St. Thomas in the past year. The Friday lectionary Bible studies were suspended mid-way through the year due to lack of participation. In October and November, I offered a weekly book discussion group on Wednesday evenings using the book *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Brian Coleman  
fatherbrian@mac.com

### Breakfast Program

This was the 13th year for the Breakfast Program. We started once again to have in house service for our patrons around March. Facilitating the program as a take out only service for over a year certainly had its challenges. We also started up the Monday thru Friday service this past summer.

The average attendance for the year was around 65 people. This includes the daily and Saturday services. The menu items were reduced a little in 2022. Because of the high cost of cold cereal we stopped offering that item.

As in years past we could not serve or manage this program without the help of our volunteer organizations. A special thank you to First United Methodist Church, St Peters and Trinity, First Congregational, First Presbyterian, Chapel Hill, and Democrats of Calhoun County. St Thomas was also an integral part of the program. This past year would not have been successful without the constant help from Roy Hillman. Bernie Squires kept the program going by buying all of the food needed. A special thanks as well for the other kitchen managers that over-saw the kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Regner  
mike.regner@yahoo.com

## **Choir Trip to England**

In addition to the regularly scheduled services of Holy Eucharist and Choral Evensong, the big focus for the first half of 2022 was the choir tour to the United Kingdom. A group of nearly 30 embarked in late July for a 12-day pilgrimage to Windsor, London, Bath and Bristol. The group of 23 musicians and our traveling partners had many opportunities for sightseeing, shared spiritual and liturgical experiences, and building community through travel.

Highlights of the trip were singing services in both Bath Abbey and Bristol Cathedral, an organ recital by our music director, attending a service of Choral Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral (London), and a day trip to Wales. Each individual will have their own highlights and personal experiences that will have positively changed their lives forever.

A highlight for the Choristers was their participation with the adults in this choral pilgrimage to the United Kingdom. The musical maturity and growth displayed was remarkable and the bonding experienced while traveling has been a tremendous boost to the overall environment of rehearsals. To see and hear them in such important and historic spiritual spaces should make every member of this parish and diocese extremely proud.

A HUGE thanks must be given to all who helped make this trip possible – singers, travel agents and parishioners/community members who supported the fundraising efforts – we couldn't have done it without each and every one of you – THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen G. White, PhD  
Director of Music  
music@StThomasBC.org

## **Church Library**

The Church Library is in two locations, in the Lounge and by the elevator entrance. I do not keep statistics as the library is totally on the honor system. I have signs explaining the system of inviting people to take books and keep them if they desire. I do know people take books because I keep having to refill the shelves, especially the one by the elevator. I do not keep numbers. The books are strictly religious ones to allow our parishioners a richer faith experience and more religious literacy. The only novels I use are religious based ones like *Ben Hur*, *Exodus*, or *The Robe*. This year I added children's religious books in another bookcase by the elevator.

For next year, I plan to add Bibles. Although I always have Bibles in the Breakfast Book Club cases, I did not have them in the Library. As a result of the Hospitality Inventory, I will add Bibles to the Library in case new members do not have one. I have a large stock of books from my own book purchases at AAUW, the Bible Missionary Store, Goodwill, and the Salvation Army Store. I still have a large stock from Deacon Dale Bennett's library and now another stock from Father Brian Coleman's library.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Neumeyer  
neumeyere@yahoo.com

## **Coffee Hour**

Due to COVID restrictions, coffee hour was not available much of the year. However, it has resumed now in a somewhat informal manner. Coffee Hour is often called the 8<sup>th</sup> sacrament and is important for church community connections. Coffee is provided and various groups bring assorted goodies. Now that we are back to regular coffee hour, we will resume the schedule from preCOVID Days. January and August are covered by the Ushers. March and June are done by Vestry members. St. Mary's Circle does April and October. Volunteers from the congregation are asked to cover Sundays in February, May, July, September, November, and December. A signup sheet is provided on the table as you enter the parish hall. Ross Dingwall, Roy Hillman, or Bernie Squires usually make the coffee. It is important to emphasize that coffee hour is not a brunch. A simple set of snacks of some sort is sufficient.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Neumeyer  
neumeyere@yahoo.com

## **Communications**

St. Thomas has been using consistent communications tools for many years. Utilizing the website, email, Realm, YouTube and Facebook have transformed the way people interact with the congregation.

The St. Thomas website [StThomasBC.org](http://StThomasBC.org) received 1,727 unique visitors with is down 3%. Our website is hosted by Wix which provides all the software and editing capabilities online, so at any given time, anyone can log in and update the website with the login and password. This is important for any congregation to have easily-accessible editing capability if one person should no longer be able to continue managing website changes. New pages are added to reflect the changing events and dynamics happening in the congregation.

The United States Postal Service has begun requiring bulk mail to be digitally-processed, so mailing parish letters and newsletters has been outsourced to a local company. This company both prints the letters and processes the mailing at the same time.

Constant Contact email marketing has been utilized at St. Thomas since 2009 and continues to be a great way to send announcements, links to worship text and marketing campaigns, such as the stewardship campaign. Emails go to members and non-members alike, with a total of 356 contacts who receive St. Thomas e-news and public announcements..

The communications work of St. Thomas has been enhanced by the work of the Audio Video Team, spearheaded by Alexis Stark, who has submitted a separate report. Their work with AV technology creates stored videos of each worship service on YouTube, which can be edited for specific sermons, use on our website, or training purposes.

The NewSpirit has been St. Thomas's print newsletter for decades, and continues to be published quarterly. The congregation submits articles, photos and announcements, and it is very much a living history of the life of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Karmel Addis  
karmel@bcppg.com

## **Companions in Christ**

Currently, Companions is a group of approximately 12 women from St. Thomas. It was started decades ago by Joyce Prechtel. Her son Hans enjoys attending when possible. He remains connected to this group as his mother has passed.

The Pandemic hit and these ladies, who have been longtime members of St. Thomas and good friends, were not able to attend church or leave their homes because many had no form of transportation. They relied on family, friends, and neighbors to help get what they physically needed. Five currently live alone as widows. Two other widows have one adult child helping.

I wasn't a member when I started calling them, but I felt a true calling to reach out to them. I am a member of the Pastoral Care team and realized their mental and spiritual needs were not being met. Many had trouble getting the Sunday service on their T.V.s. They missed seeing their "Companions," and we have resumed meeting. I am now proudly a member.

We generally meet in the Parish Lounge and choose a book of religious interest to study together. We also have had three gatherings at one of the lady's assisted living Fireplace Room, which helps some of the members who rely on wheelchairs and walkers. We close our meetings with a prayer.

At present time, we are reading "The Path." It is a journey through the Bible, presented as a grand story. We take turns reading through the chapters and giving our thoughts and interpretations of them. Father Brian joined us when he was able and has been very much appreciated by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Cummins  
emiliecummins8@gmail.com

## **The Count Team**

Preparation of the weekly donations for deposit happens on Monday mornings. Two people are required for this ministry each week. There are four teams of two involved and we rotate fifth week responsibilities. This ministry involves dedication, confidentiality, and careful attention to detail.

We are responsible for recording individual donations, preparing the deposit form and make a copy of all checks to be kept for verification. It is important to not hold funds in the safe for an extended period of time.

Those volunteers who give willingly of their time at least one Monday a month are Sue Saunders, Karen Keese, Mira Wuerges, Kyle Lendel, Roy Hillman, Hans Prechtel and Noreen Sidnam.

We are always looking for additional people to share in this responsibility. If you are so inclined, please contact Noreen Sidnam. The time requirement is no more than 2 hours a week.

We appreciate the trust the Parish places in us. It is truly our honor and privilege.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen Sidnam, Chair  
[ttnsidnam@comcast.net](mailto:ttnsidnam@comcast.net)

## **Holiday Food Baskets**

The Holiday Food Basket program of St Thomas is a ministry dedicated to serving those in need within our community. We arrange to supply food for Thanksgiving as well as Christmas.

St Thomas prepared food boxes and arranged for delivery or pickup for 72 households the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving.

For Christmas, we partnered with Santa's Helper to reach more families while keeping our costs down. Santa's Helpers purchased all the food for Christmas in return for the use of the former "PRIDE" room, which they used for food storage (St Thomas also covered the cost of electricity for their freezers that operated the two months of the year).

When it came to issue the food on December 17th, St Thomas volunteers loaded and delivered boxes for 18 families while Santa's Helpers handled issuing food for nearly 240 additional families that came to pick up the boxes from St Thomas.

We will meet with the leader of Santa's Helper in early 2023 and determine if we should renew our partnership for 2023 (probable) and identify process improvements if indeed we continue our partnership.

We were able to serve so many people because of the great support we had from the Parish. In addition to the donations of parishioners, our volunteers served to call families with instructions for pickup/deliveries, to order food, to pack the food boxes, and to help with deliveries/pickups. Our volunteers performed in an outstanding manner while making the effort enjoyable for all.

It is sad to note that this was the final year of two leaders who have made this program possible. Fr. Brian Coleman has been an ardent supporter of this outreach program and Bob Harberts has been leading the organization of this successful program for many years. It was their leadership initiative that led us to the partnership with Santa's Helpers which has helped St Thomas brighten the lives of many more households during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Harberts  
robertharberts@mac.com

Mike Regner  
mike.regner@gmail.com

Ken Surprenant  
kesbc6@gmail.com

## **Pastoral Care**

The Pastoral Care Team is a group of parishioners who take turns by the week to send cards, make phone calls, visit shut ins and activate the Casserole Brigade when food is needed. We also pray for someone specifically when asked. Our mission is to help our Priest with the work of the Parish. Ensuring all parishioners do not feel isolated from church during ill health or lack of transportation is a part of that.

A highlight of the year has been the continuation of bringing together the senior women of the parish that had been the group known as the Companions. Emilie Cummins, as part of the Pastoral Care Team has facilitated this with phone calls, visits, and providing transportation and arranging places to meet. There have been restaurant meets for birthdays, as well as restarting regular meetings of the Companions. Fr. Brian recommended a book for the group to self-study that is titled The Path. It provides a Bible Study each month for the group to focus on.



Another highlight of 2022 was Fr. Brian conducting a training for the Pastoral Care Team. He went through the reasons and process for taking the Eucharist out of the church and into the home or hospital. He took us around in the Sacristy and showed us where everything was housed and how to pull a kit together. Church policy now is 2 people should go together to give communion. There are now 3 Lay Eucharistic Ministers who can give communion and the rest of the Pastoral Care Team is available to provide the 2<sup>nd</sup> person. Hans Prechtel, Deacon Trish Harris, and Karen Keese are now Lay Eucharistic Ministers. A request to the office will be sent to the team.

Each month, Linda Morrison sends out birthday and anniversary cards. Any donations of stamps are very welcome.

We currently have 2 parishioners in Rehab or Assisted Living and several mostly homebound or marginal as to whether they can get out to church. We will be taking the Eucharist once a month to them and keeping them in touch by phone or visits. We send notes and cards too. We also visit.

We know there are others in the parish who also contribute to our mission, by phone calls and visits and supplies (stamps and cards). We thank you for all you do!

We meet monthly except for December or bad weather, illness etc. Our membership this year is Deacon Trish Harris, Emilie Cummins, Kyle Lendel, Linda Morrison, Karen Keese, and welcome to Elizabeth Schirk. If anyone is interested in helping with this, please contact any of us and we would be glad to welcome new members!

Please remember to notify the office or one of us if you know of someone ill, in hospital, or in need of prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Keese  
karen.keese@gmail.com

## **Reception Committee**

This committee is a volunteer organization supervised by Noreen Sidnam with Becky Squires as backup. Many others are called upon to assist when needed. Our principle function is to plan, prepare and serve funeral luncheons. This year, funeral receptions were prepared for Julian Mansfield, Paul and Gretchen Humiston, and Genevieve Young. Families are asked to reimburse the cost of the food.

We are also available for other reception type functions of the Parish. Our ministry is clearly one of service. We are honored to be able to provide this service to families of our treasured members.

On December 11, 2022, we arranged for a catered luncheon for the parish at the request of the Vestry, giving all an opportunity to bid farewell to Father Brian. Sandwiches and salads were purchased from Schlotzkey's in Battle Creek. The reception committee provided the cake purchased from Continental Bakery. We had serving assistance from the Harper Creek High School National Honor Society; the Reception Committee will make a donation to NHS.

After the service of Lesson and Carols on December 18, 2022, we hosted a community reception for Father Brian, giving members of the community an opportunity to wish him well. Carol Ritchie provided catering support and knowledge assisted by the Reception Committee and friends of the committee.

This committee is not funded by the Parish budget. We are funded only by donations to the restricted account for this purpose. We are grateful for the support which enables us to continue to provide this ministry. This year it was necessary to purchase some new tablecloths to replace those unfit for service.

If you have questions about this ministry, please feel free to ask and if you should feel called to help us, by all means, let us know. You would be welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen Sidnam  
tnnsidnam@comcast.net

## **RenewalWorks**

At our last Annual Saint Thomas Parish Meeting in January 2022, the Renewal/Works Team went through a series of workshops, learned the objectives of the Renewal/Works program, studied the St. Thomas survey data, and developed four key initiatives that we hoped would help move us - individually and as a congregation – closer to God.

Since that time, the Renewal/Works committee has been busy more fully developing each of the initiatives. To facilitate the work, we separated into four smaller working groups, one each to further the four initiatives. Following are the reports of each of the groups.

### **1. Develop a Saint Thomas Parish Prayer** (Liz Neumeyer, Karen Keese, Sue Shafe, Ross Dingwall)

The *Prayer Group* met multiple times in 2022 to complete the following initiative developed by the Renewal Works Team. We were to create a parish prayer and incorporate scripture reading to be used before any parish meeting. We first explored how many groups already did this. We found that the Vestry, St. Mary's Circle, St. Margaret's Circle, and the Altar Guild had prayers. We agreed that these groups should continue with their prayers but that other church groups should begin with a prayer.

The *Prayer Group* developed several and decided to include scripture right in the prayer itself. However, then we looked at other circumstances that might require prayer such as entering church or at home such as meals. So we began to write others. Ross requested one specifically for church yard work, construction meeting, and so on informally known as "The Dirt Prayer." Because St. Margaret's Circle always had a closing prayer, we were inspired to develop several of those using the words and experiences of our Patronal St. Thomas. Even though St. Margaret's Circle has discontinued, we thank them for this idea.

We also felt that many prayers are already in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and parishioners be reacquainted with them as well as encourage them to have a BCP of their own at home. A full report with all the prayers (including Large Print) was provided. Future plans include meeting with Karmel and putting some of the prayers on pocket size cards to ensure ease of availability and use. Another plan is to continue to emphasize the prayers as part of a Lenten discussion group along with the Rule of Life.

### **II. Develop a Saint Thomas Rule of Life** - (Trish Harris, Liz Neumeyer, Franz Schirk)

As tasked by the RenewalWorks team, the *Rule of Life* working group set out to develop a Rule of Life to help the Saint Thomas congregation achieve the RenewalWorks goal of fostering a church cul-

ture devoted to strengthening our spiritual growth in the love of God and our neighbor.

The Rule was to be a guide to the St. Thomas family as a whole and a starting point for each of us to develop a personal Rule of Life. Its elements had to be based in scripture and it had to provide a shared routine of spiritual practices to establish and maintain a relationship with God.

On Sunday, November 13, 2022, after much research, discussion, reflection, and prayer the group proposed the following Rule to the congregation:

**With the help of God, St. Thomas parishioners will strive, as able, to:**

1. **Pray and worship regularly.** *“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.”* (Thess. 5: 16)
2. **Serve and share generously.** *“Do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices, God is well pleased.”* (Hebrews 13: 16)
3. **Promote and practice hospitality.** *“Contribute to the needs of saints, extend hospitality”* (Romans 12: 13)
4. **Explore and apply scripture.** *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* (Psalms 119: 105).
5. **Rest and restore body and mind.** *“Come to me, all you that are weary, and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11: 28)

In the coming year, as part of the overall RenewalWorks project the *St. Thomas Rule of Life* will be consolidated with the products from the other working groups and published in booklet form as well as on the St. Thomas web site. We will also include additional reference and resource materials to assist us all in merging our individual Rules into a harmonious whole. As it says elsewhere: *E pluri-bus unum.*

**III. Instructed Eucharist -** (Hans Prechtel, Judy Gray, Kent Bieberich, Brenda Hillman)

The *Instructed Eucharist* working group has developed a presentation consisting of two parts.

- A. A sermon on the history of the Eucharist, tracing its development from the time of Jesus and the disciples to the present day. The sermon is ready for presentation at any time, pending coordination with Fr. Rick.
- B. Prepared for an actual instructed Eucharist to be conducted on two consecutive Sundays during Lent 2023. We have yet to talk with Fr. Rick as far as the Eucharist itself is concerned (will do that in January).

**IV. Connect with Other Churches -** (Bob Harberts, Barb Hibiske, John Lendel)

Mission Statement: Expanding God’s works and living in God’s love through connecting with other churches and religious organizations to discuss and develop cooperative programs through closer relationships and shared experiences.

The three-member committee has held several meetings via Zoom. Its first assignment was to develop an Inventory of the current and past activities that involved St. Thomas with other churches. The inventory listed at least twenty cooperative endeavors involving St. Thomas and other churches or organizations. Each of the three committee members interviewed key church members to obtain the information found in the Inventory. The list is impressive. It illustrates many cooperative ventures

involving St. Thomas and various churches.

Committee Activities: The committee reviewed the Inventory with the intent of finding current and past activities that would connect St. Thomas with other area churches while propelling St. Thomas forward along its spiritual journey. The committee also engaged in brainstorming to create items not in the Inventory. The committee members have agreed upon nine activities that they believe will assist with achieving its Mission. These items are as follows:

Possible Activities Prioritized:

Priority One List:

1. Explore and implement a Youth Vacation Bible School involving two to four Battle Creek Churches. Implementation date: 2024.
2. Explore and implement a joint evening Advent worship service involving two or more Battle Creek Churches. A social time will follow the service. Implementation date: 2023 or 2024.
3. Explore and implement a joint Good Friday worship service involving two or more Battle Creek Churches. Implementation date: 2023 or 2024.
4. Explore and implement ways for the congregation to develop joint ventures that are independent of the items listed in this report and will achieve the Mission Statement. Also be open to modifying the selected items based on the input from the other churches and religious organizations. Be receptive to long-term projects and relationships.
5. Explore opportunities related to our Mission Statement with St. Gregory's Abbey of Three Rivers, Abbott Andrew; St. Elias Orthodox Church; Order of Julian of Norwich—These organizations are in addition to central city churches previously discussed. Implementation date: 2023—2025. Note: The list of churches and organizations may be too ambitious.

Priority Two List:

1. Explore and implement the use of the Episcopal Church Summer Camp for a camping experience for students from at least three area churches. Implementation date: 2023 or 2024.
2. Explore and implement a program that would involve downtown churches coordinating and tracking services provided to the needy seeking assistance from the churches. Parttime staff would be required and funding would need to be obtained. Implementation date: 2024.
3. Encourage and support St. Thomas music programs that involve other churches. Implementation date: 2023.
3. Explore with the St. Thomas Boy Scout troop activities that the troop could engage in to promote a youth connection with other churches. Implementation date: 2023 or 2024. Explore with Heather Wiley and her Girl Scout Troupes. Implementation Date: 2023—2024.

Next Steps:

1. The Committee will meet in January or February to reduce the list to fewer items.
2. The Committee will meet with the clergy of at least two downtown churches to discuss the feasibility of the Mission Statement and the selected items listed. These meetings will occur before the end of April.
3. After the information is gathered, it will be shared with the congregation around August or

sooner.

4. The congregation can help the Committee by sharing recommendations as to the downtown churches that they feel we should visit first.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Schirk  
eschirk11@gmail.com

Kathy Dingwall  
kat.dingwall@outlook.com

### **St. Mary's Circle**

The officers for 2022 are President, Brenda Hillman; Vice-President, Deb Olmstead; Secretary, Julie McDonald; and Treasurer, Karen Keese.

We started meeting again on a regular basis in January. We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month with the exception of June, July, August, and December. We held our picnic at Station 66 in June.

Our outreach project this year was packaging period supplies for women, which the Charitable Union supplies to schools in Battle Creek. In turn, the Charitable Union provided supplies to St. Thomas to give out at the Breakfast Program.

We were finally able to have a fundraiser this year. We held our cookie-by-the-pound sale in November was very successful even though the storm caused us to reschedule. We combined a White Elephant sale with our cookie sale.

Beginning Balance: \$1775.07      Ending Balance: \$2271.17

We were able to start Fundraising again. Cookie sale was successful. Expenditures were for Donation to Keegan Gregory, Speakers, Flowers, ECW dues, and Christmas gifts to Staff and Rector.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hillman  
royhillman@aol.com

Karen Keese  
karen.keese@gmail.com

### **St. Thomas Night Out**

The third Monday of each month parishioners gather for dinner at a local restaurant. This is purely a social event, with between 10 and 25 attendees. Reservations are requested and we try not to visit the same place twice in a row. There are times we have chosen not to meet due to weather or calendar issues. In 2022, we went to J.B's Whiskey Creek, Clara's, Miller's Time Out, and Lucky Rooster.

Feel free to make suggestion regarding where we go. The facility must be able to handle our number, be reasonably local and take reservations. It is a fun time and good to have a chance to visit with our church friends. Please consider joining us.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen Sidnam  
[ttnsidnam@comcast.net](mailto:ttnsidnam@comcast.net)

# St. Thomas Vestry

## OFFICERS OF THE VESTRY

Kathy Dingwall, Senior Warden

John Lendel, Junior Warden

Becky Squires, Clerk

Charles Grantier, Treasurer

## VESTRY MEMBERS

### Term Expires Jan 2023

Barb Hibiske  
Karen Keese (fill in)  
Hans Prechtel (fill in)  
Michele Reid (resigned)  
Sue Shafe (resigned due to health)

### Term Expires Jan 2024

Kent Bieberich  
John Lendel  
Bernie Squires (resigned)

### Term Expires Jan 2025

Kathy Dingwall  
Charles Grantier  
Franz Schirk

## Senior Warden's Report

What can I say about 2022? When I think about that question, those often quoted words of Charles Dickens spring to mind — “*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...*” To illustrate these words — in February, we began to address building issues pushed aside for lack of money, and we hired a fantastic bookkeeper to rectify our accounts and balance the budget; but, in March, we implemented accommodations to allow Fr. Brian the necessary pain relief to continue his role as our rector and by May, we learned that the accommodations weren't enough, and Fr. Brian would resign within a year.

From that time forward, we sprinted between those two superlative words. We implemented a successful Booster Campaign to offset a \$15,000 budget deficit; began climbing the steps to hiring clergy supply, an interim, and finally a new rector; and at the same time, planned how to say good-bye to a rector whom we loved. Along the way, the vestry grappled with several unanticipated resignations and illnesses — and dealt with the sad passing of dear, old friends as well as the sudden and tragic loss of an 8-year-old boy whose laughter still filled our hearts. *RenewalWorks* stepped in with plans and presentations aimed at bringing us together in prayer and spirit while the committee for *Parish Growth & Development* showed us ways to make people feel more comfortable and welcome.

Despite the sadness that seemed to hang over us with the departure of Fr. Brian growing closer, there were some wonderful things happening. In November, the grace-filled mural given to us by Bob Hibbard in memory of his beloved Shirley was revealed as the missing piece in our beautiful sanctuary. In December, the support of Bishop Singh and the Canon James, both of whom will guide us through this difficult transition, became a tangible assurance; and the awareness of the strength and confidence that we had gained over the past fourteen years was beginning to show us that we could navigate this

unknown path together. We have only to rely on what Fr. Brian has taught us — that we will survive because we know how to face a challenge and come out the other side better than ever. We have the will and the faith in ourselves and in God to step into the future.

I am proud to be your senior warden, and I will always try to support you on our journey.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Dingwall  
kat.dingwall@outlook.com

### **Junior Warden's Report**

This year we have worked to change our philosophy for caring for the building and grounds of St. Thomas from REACTIVE to PREVENTATIVE. We have a long way to go, but progress is being made with the physical needs of our church and rectory. This change comes by trying to be proactive with the challenges that come with maintaining a historic space like St. Thomas. By doing preventative care and maintenance, we can avoid damage and some costly repairs. We are currently attempting to repair damage that is already occurred.

What is also required with this approach are MORE volunteers willing to step up and give a hand, no matter your skill or time availability. I'd like to paraphrase a quote from JFK, "Ask not what your church can do for you; ask what you can do for your church." We are a vital church sitting on the Four Corners of Battle Creek, and it is going to take all of us to maintain this beautiful and historic building.

We have made considerable progress this year toward making this change, and we will continue with your help and input. The following is a list of the projects that have been addressed this year.

1. Repair & strengthened the Van Buren Chapel door.
2. Cleaned and refreshed the sanctuary carpet.
3. Installed new LED lighting fixture in front entrance & hallway.
4. Installed new LED lamps above the front of the altar.
5. Worked toward employing a new cleaning service.
6. Updated boiler inspection for current license.
7. Tested for backflow prevention.
8. Completed the installation of a new flat roof over the upper (parish hall & Sunday school and lower (lounge & offices) parts of the building.
9. Began a multi-year Chapel Restoration project.

For more information, please refer to the Outreach and Facilities Management report.

**REMEMBER WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

Respectfully submitted,  
John Lendel  
jlendel@comcast.net

## Commission Reports

### Parish Growth & Development

Parish Growth and Development (PGD) has been very busy in 2022. There have been lots of exciting things happening and here are a few of the highlights noted below:

**WELCOME PROCESS FOR VISITORS TO ST. THOMAS.** We identify the newcomer (asking for assistance from greeters, ushers, vestry members, parish members, PGD or Priest). The vestry liaison each Sunday during announcements will welcome newcomers and remind them of the welcome card in the pew to fill out and return to anyone in the church. A welcome basket that Sunday will be given to the newcomer and invited to coffee hour & introduced to other parish members. The welcome card information is then entered into Realm and a letter from the church is sent to the newcomer, inviting them back to church & future contact is offered. The welcome card is filed and a follow up process is followed, which is outlined in Realm (with a timeline for the process), to include welcome letter, phone call, tote bag may be given and/or special event invitations. Also, we are looking into including on our website FAQs for newcomers with information about our church that they might find useful.

**HOSPITALITY AUDIT (*TOOLS OF THE TRADE*)** St. Thomas engaged in a hospitality audit this year. This process was very helpful to us in looking at ways to work on strategies to make our visitors feel welcome at our church. This process will be ongoing into 2023 as well. There are 9 *Tools of The Trade* and they are as follows:

- 1) Connection
- 2) Sweet Tunes
- 3) Bread of Life and Forgiveness
- 4) Tasty Treats
- 5) Proclamation
- 6) Tenderness
- 7) Seeing God in Everyone
- 8) The Good Book
- 9) Thanksgiving.

Some of the following have already been accomplished:

- Karen Keese continues to fill welcome baskets and remind everyone on the committee where they are located and to hand them out to a newcomer the same day they arrive at church. We set baskets with small kits for children by the front and back of the sanctuary that the ushers and greeters can offer to families with children.
- Name tags have been put out again in the hallway, and on Sundays. the vestry liaison encourages everyone to put on a nametag. This helps newcomers know who people are in the church.
- Each lector will provide a summary before each Lesson from the book, “Introducing the Lessons of the Church,” by author Frederick Borsch.



- Each committee member will work on at least 1 of the 9 *Tools of the Trade* over the course of 2023 to expand and strengthen our wide-open welcome.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE PGD TEAM:**

Kent Bieberich, Sue Shafe, Becky Squires, Barb Hibiske, Karen Keese and Brenda Hillman.

A big Thank You to Karen Keese for taking over leadership of the group when Sue Shafe was unable to continue in that capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Hibiske  
blhibiske@gmail.com

### **Outreach & Facility Management**

As we began 2022, the commission, which includes John Lendel (Jr. Warden), Hans Prechtel, Franz Schirk, Ross Dingwall, Roy Hillman, Lori Kiess, and Mike Regner decided to take on multiple projects to improve, repair, and save our historic downtown church. We knew that we had our hands full with the number of projects that needed to be done. With prayer and God's help we moved forward.

Bids for the repair of the upper and lower flat roofs (including the elevator) were received. Meetings were held with the various contractors, and we accepted the bid from Tichenor with a 10-year workmanship and 20-year materials warranty. The job took a little over two weeks and with the good weather this fall, they were able to complete the roofs before the first snow.

Motor Shop Electric installed new LED lighting fixtures in the upstairs hallway and installed LED bulbs in the lights at the front of the altar. They will be back to install new bulbs in the stairway as we continue to work on lighting improvements that may also impact the energy bill in the future.

The commission also worked hard to maintain the grounds around the church. This has included the southside flower gardens, elevator entrance landscape, as well as the Garth and the north and westside areas. We try to do this on a continuous basis with a special spring and fall special clean-up to prepare the grounds for Lent and Holy Week.

Outreach is part of this commission. We support all outreach projects including the Breakfast Program, Holiday Baskets and the Post-Franklin Backpack Food initiatives. Each of these initiatives has a Chair and a core of workers. Please give your support by joining in any or all of these projects.

One of the major projects undertaken this year was to begin the restoration of the chapel. We started with the understanding that we needed to work from top down on the exterior. Water infiltration was evident almost everywhere we looked. From capstones to brick to windows, we quickly understood that we needed to have professional help. With the go-ahead of the Vestry and the Trust Committee, we established a beginning budget and moved forward. We hired Randy Case of Architecture+Design as the architect. With his expertise and guidance, we began the process of Chapel Restoration and Structural Integrity. This is Phase 1: making sure that we approach the structure before we do the aesthetics of the interior. A structural survey was done from top to bottom by Sillman En-

gineering and D.C. Byers Restoration and Masonry Contracting. The tentative date for starting this restoration is Spring of 2023. Your OFM Commission will keep you up to date on the progress.

If you have any questions or would like to become actively involved in any of the get-you- hands-dirty projects, please contact any member of the commission. We would appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lendel, Junior Warden  
jlendel@comcast.net

## **Stewardship & Fundraising**

With the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic hopefully behind us, the year 2022 saw St. Thomas move into a more comfortable financial position than the one in which we found ourselves over the two years prior. Throughout the year, the Stewardship and Fundraising Commission has endeavored to be careful and faithful stewards of the parish's resources. We look forward to working in 2023 to manage St. Thomas's current needs in a time of transition, as well as planning for a stable and sustainable future.

The commission is exceedingly grateful for the extraordinary generosity of the St. Thomas community in 2022. During the summer, we successfully completed our "Give St. Thomas a Boost" campaign, which addressed pledging shortfalls from 2021, as well as unanticipated expenses for clergy supply, bookkeeping, and insurance. Then in the fall, our annual stewardship campaign exceeded its original \$210,000 goal. Due to this, our 2023 budget does not draw as much from endowments for operating expenses as in previous years.

The vestry requested two major disbursements from endowments in 2022 for building repair and restoration. The first was for replacement of the flat roofs, which were years past the end of their useful life and in dire condition; this work was completed in the fall. The second was for preliminary work on the restoration and repair of the chapel; we expect work to begin in earnest in the spring of 2023, supported in part by a bequests and donations.

We were pleased to accept a memorial bequest from Bob Hibbard last year, which went in part toward the new mural which beautifies our nave above the door to the old sacristy. Another bequest in memory of George McKay provided a new set of Advent vestments and paraments.

Finally, the Stewardship and Fundraising Commission extends its gratitude to bookkeeper Melissa Wank for her tireless efforts since March to declutter and simplify our bookkeeping. The St. Thomas community can feel confident that their financial generosity is being accounted for professionally, following best practices.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Grantier  
cgrantier@gmail.com

## 2023 Stewardship Campaign

Our Annual Giving Campaign for 2023 adopted the theme, “*More than Enough.*” We set our goal at \$210,000 — a decrease of \$10,000 from our 2022 goal of \$220,000. The campaign included social media posts, along with a pledge packet delivered to each household. Just before the end of our campaign, we passed our goal of \$210, 000 and still had a several people who had pledged in the past but hadn’t filled out a pledge card for this year. So, we decided to raise our goal to \$225, 000 and reach out to those who had yet to pledge. That proved to be a successful plan! As of December 31, 2022, we have received a total of \$224, 849.65!

When I look at the challenges that lie ahead for us, I am overwhelmed by what I’ve already seen. Your response shows that this parish has confidence in the future that lies beyond the transition ahead of us. We have learned the lessons Fr. Brian instilled in us. Thank you for your faith in St. Thomas.

	<u>Total Pledge</u>
34 Pledges increased	\$128,974.04
23 Pledges Unchanged	50,600.00
8 Pledges decreased	17, 384.00
9 Pledges not renewed for 2023	
4 New pledges submitted during this campaign	<u>29,757.61</u>
<u>77</u>	<u>\$226,715.65</u>

## 2022 Restricted Accounts

<b>Accounts</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Debits</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
80002 Memorial	987.24	495.00	2,810.00	3,302.24
80006 Bldg. & Cap. Improve	8,696.03	0.00	0.00	8,696.03
80011 Altar Flowers	( 723.04 )	4,670.85	5,214.63	( 179.26 )
80013 Music Program	8,833.34	18,006.53	20,376.49	11,203.30
80015 Summer Youth Music Program	97.47	42.00	42.00	97.47
80020 Choir Trip	43,977.05	79,670.66	42,597.34	6,903.73
80023 Altar-Reserve Funds	2,603.79	14.00	51.56	2,641.35
80025 Deacon's Discretionary Fund	0.00	0.00	280.16	280.16
80026 Endowment Contributions	1,120.00	5,203.89	4,083.89	0.00
80027 Reception Committee	2,790.70	912.19	1,000.68	2,879.19
80028 Chapel Restoration	52,205.84	52,071.18	10,208.84	10,343.50
80031 Rector's Discretionary Fund	5,422.69	11,933.54	8,407.62	1,896.77
80032 Church of Jerusalem	0.00	40.00	40.00	0.00
80033 Holiday Baskets	1,475.00	2,411.76	2,600.00	1,663.24
80040 Breakfast Program	( 5,946.69 )	16,185.32	28,992.14	6,860.13
80050 Church Window Frames	14,965.42	0.00	360.00	15,325.42
80056 Addison Bequest	( 2,405.58 )	0.00	2,405.58	0.00
80064 Venture Crew 4316	3,019.01	2,095.00	0.00	924.01
80109 Begg Bequest	36,957.96	30,005.30	0.00	6,952.66
80110 Bldg. & Cap. Impro	( 644.83 )	88,173.83	88,918.66	100.00
80112 Holtom Scholarship	6,367.29	2,803.44	1,580.32	5,144.17
80113 Seminarian Support	3,777.38	3,409.44	1,580.32	1,948.26
80128 General In/Out	( 70.00 )	0.00	0.00	( 70.00 )
80129 Pre-Paid Pledge	0.00	30,242.39	53,800.00	23,557.61
80132 St Thomas Booster	0.00	14,761.00	14,761.00	0.00
80140 Contingency	0.00	4,846.23	9,692.46	4,846.23
80500 Restricted In/Out	0.00	8,490.89	8,490.89	0.00
	<b>\$ 183,506.07</b>	<b>\$ 376,484.44</b>	<b>\$ 308,294.58</b>	<b>\$ 115,316.21</b>

## 2022 Budget V. Actual V. 2023 Budget

Accounts	022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>Offerings</b>			
5-00-01 - Loose Plate	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,876.63	\$ 2,000.00
5-00-04 - Pledges	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 223,673.48	\$ 225,000.00
5-00-05 - Non-pledge Offerings	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 11,079.00	\$ 10,000.00
5-00-08 - Special Offerings	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,533.00	\$ 4,000.00
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 241,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 239,162.11</b>	<b>\$ 241,000.00</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
5-01-01 - Fund Raising	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
* 5-01-02 - Miscellaneous Income	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 14,986.23	\$ 29,000.00
5-01-03 - Rental Income	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,744.00	\$ 8,000.00
5-01-07 - Initial Offering		\$ 107.79	\$ 30.00
5-01-10 Interest Income	\$ 20.00	\$ 68.74	\$ -
5-02-11 - Fees (Weddings, Funerals)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,000.00
5-02-12 - Grants	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 26,120.00</b>	<b>\$ 25,006.76</b>	<b>\$ 44,530.00</b>
<b>Endowments</b>			
*5-03-01 - St. Thomas Endow.	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 1,941.14	\$ 40,000.00
*5-03-02 - Fr. Sims Endow.	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 912.64	\$ 20,000.00
*5-03-04 - St. Thomas (BC Found.)	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,670.00	\$ 500.00
*5-03-05 - Laimbeer (BC Found.)	\$ 500.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 500.00
*5-03-06 - Gain/(Loss) on Endowments	\$ -	\$ (76,856.51)	\$ -
<b>Total Endowments</b>	<b>\$ 76,000.00</b>	<b>\$ (71,372.73)</b>	<b>\$ 61,000.00</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 343,120.00</b>	<b>\$ 192,796.14</b>	<b>\$ 346,530.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Diocese</b>			
6-00-01 - Diocesan Pledge	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 34,956.00	\$ 37,300.00
6-00-02 - Diocesan Convention	\$ 300.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
<b>Total Diocese</b>	<b>\$ 35,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 35,356.00</b>	<b>\$ 37,700.00</b>
<b>Personnel</b>			
6-01-01 - Rector	\$ 70,500.00	\$ 70,500.00	\$ 35,250.00
6-01-04 - Interim Clergy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000.00
6-01-02 - Administrative Support	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,957.81	\$ 16,070.00
6-01-04 - Music Director	\$ 55,800.00	\$ 55,799.97	\$ 59,000.00
6-01-07 - FICA Taxes	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,268.67	\$ 4,500.00
6-01-08 - SECA-Rector	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,349.22	\$ 2,700.00
6-01-09 - Payroll Expense	\$ 400.00	\$ 571.35	\$ 400.00
6-01-10 - Pension-Clergy	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 19,251.24	\$ 9,400.00
6-01-11 - Pension-Lay Employees	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,389.02	\$ 5,300.00

\*5-01-02 This includes \$24,000 from AFLAC for supply clergy

\*5-03-01—05 Distributions no longer shown as revenue; have been used for bldg. repairs & pledge revenue.

\*5-03-06 Awaiting 4th qtr. Portfolio gain/loss figures from endowments.

2022 Budget V. Actual V. 2023 Budget Continued

Accounts	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
6-01-12 - Ins — Group Medical	\$ 21,300.00	\$ 24,006.27	\$ 19,250.00
6-01-13 - Income Replacement	\$ 350.00	\$ 398.88	\$ 350.00
6-01-14 - Ins.-Life/Clergy	\$ 300.00	\$ 288.00	\$ 300.00
6-01-15 - Workers Comp.	\$ 250.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 250.00
6-01-17 - Continuing Ed.-Rector	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,369.75	\$ -
6-01-18 - Mileage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
6-01-19 - Continuing Ed.-Mus. Dir.	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,137.00	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 196,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 207,303.18</b>	<b>\$ 179,270.00</b>
<b>Discipleship</b>			
6-02-01 - Pastoral Care	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
6-02-02 - Advertising-Evangelism	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 843.79	\$ 900.00
6-02-03 - Stewardship/Planned Giving	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
6-02-05 - Adult Formation	\$ 500.00	\$ 424.95	\$ 500.00
6-02-08 - Backpack Program	\$ 1,000.00		\$ -
6-02-09 - Holiday Baskets	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 508.27	\$ 2,500.00
6-02-11 - Breakfast Program	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
6-02-16 - Deacon's Ministries			\$ 1,500.00
<b>Total Discipleship</b>	<b>\$ 11,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,777.01</b>	<b>\$ 11,400.00</b>
<b>Worship</b>			
6-03-03 - Printing	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,095.48	\$ 2,400.00
6-03-05 - Altar Supplies	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 1,340.61	\$ 3,800.00
6-03-06 - Instru. Maintenance	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,691.00	\$ 2,125.00
6-03-07 - Organist Sub	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 625.00	\$ 600.00
6-03-08 - Clergy Supply	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,882.06	\$ 1,000.00
6-03-09 - Worship-Other	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 722.40	\$ 800.00
6-03-10 - Offering Envelopes	\$ 200.00	\$ 497.36	\$ 300.00
6-03-12 - Choral Scholar	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,995.00	\$ 7,665.00
6-03-39 - Acolytes	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
6-03-40 - Music Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 803.22	\$ 250.00
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>\$ 23,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,652.13</b>	<b>\$ 19,140.00</b>
<b>Youth</b>			
6-04-02 - Chorister Program	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 541.26	\$ 250.00
6-04-10 - Nur. Attendant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Youth</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 541.26</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>
<b>Administration</b>			
6-05-01 - Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,574.06	\$ 1,200.00
6-05-02 - Online Service	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 4,837.30	\$ 4,500.00
6-05-03 - Telephone	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,783.62	\$ 2,500.00
6-05-04 - Postage	\$ 800.00	\$ 848.42	\$ 800.00
6-05-05 - Bulk Mail	\$ 500.00	\$ 265.00	\$ -

2022 Budget V. Actual V. 2023 Budget Continued

Accounts	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
6-05-07 - Bank Fees & Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 842.83	\$ 500.00
6-05-08 - Vestry	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 930.00	
6-05-10 - Admin-Other	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (143.54)	\$ 500.00
6-05-12 - Endowment Fees	\$ -	\$ 869.78	\$ -
6-05-14 - Rector Search	\$ -	\$ 1,181.23	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 11,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,988.70</b>	<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>			
6-06-01 - Electric-Parish	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 13,617.95	\$ 13,500.00
6-06-02 - Gas-Parish	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 9,448.64	\$ 10,000.00
6-06-03 - Water-Parish	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,659.95	\$ 2,700.00
6-06-04 - Refuse	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,672.24	\$ 1,750.00
6-06-05 - Insurance	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 16,930.00	\$ 17,000.00
6-06-06 - Printer Lease	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,844.45	\$ 3,000.00
6-06-08 - Property Taxes		\$ 136.94	\$ 120.00
6-06-07 - Furniture, Fixtures		\$ -	\$ -
6-06-09 - Cleaning Supplies		\$ -	\$ -
6-06-10 - Maintenance-Church	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 11,088.44	\$ 9,000.00
6-06-11 - Snow Removal	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,580.00	\$ 1,500.00
6-06-12 - Pest Control	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 687.00	\$ 1,200.00
6-06-13 - Security System	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,349.69	\$ 800.00
6-06-14 - Kitchen Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 748.98	\$ 500.00
6-06-16 - Elevator Services	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,537.88	\$ 2,700.00
6-06-17 - Cleaning Service	\$ 8,200.00	\$ 7,480.00	\$ 8,200.00
6-06-18 - Yard Maintenance	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,280.66	\$ 1,100.00
6-06-19 - Building Improvements	\$ -	\$ 59,771.66	\$ -
<b>Total Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$ 62,450.00</b>	<b>\$ 133,834.48</b>	<b>\$ 73,070.00</b>
<b>Rectory</b>			
6-06-24 - Refuse Rectory	\$ -	\$ 39.00	\$ -
6-06-25 - Maintenance-Rectory	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,548.50	\$ 1,000.00
6-06-26 - Gas-Rectory	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,636.40	\$ 1,500.00
6-06-27 - Electric-Rectory	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,505.27	\$ 1,500.00
6-06-28 - Water-Rectory	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,122.22	\$ 1,200.00
6-06-29 - Water Treatment-Rectory	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ -
6-06-30 - Security Sys-Rectory	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6-06-40 - Pest Control Rectory	\$ 500.00	\$ 492.00	\$ 500.00
<b>Total Rectory</b>	<b>\$ 6,650.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,343.39</b>	<b>\$ 5,700.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>			
6-07-01 - Fundraising Expenses			\$
6-09-02 - Misc. Operating Expense			\$
<b>Total Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 348,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 419,796.15</b>	<b>\$ 346,530.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ (4,880.00)</b>	<b>\$ (227,000.01)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

## ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2023 BUDGET

Account	Description	Annual
<b>Assets/Revenues</b>		
50001-000	Loose Plate	2,000.00
50004-000	Pledges	225,000.00
50005-000	Regular (Non-pledging)	10,000.00
50008-000	Special Offering	4,000.00
50101-000	Fund Raising	1,500.00
50102-000	Miscellaneous I	29,000.00
50103-000	Rental Income	8,000.00
50107-000	Initial Offering	30.00
50211-000	Fees (Weddings & funerals)	1,000.00
50212-000	Grants	5,000.00
50301-000	St Thomas Endowment	40,000.00
50302-000	Fr Simms Endowment	20,000.00
50304-000	St. Thomas Fund	500.00
50305-000	Laimbeer Fund	500.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>\$346,530.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
60001-000	Diocesan Pledge	37,300.00
60002-000	Diocesan Convention	400.00
60101-000	Rector	32,250.00
60102-000	Admin. Support	16,070.00
60103-000	Interim Clergy	24,000.00
60104-000	Music Director	59,000.00
60107-000	FICA Taxes	4,500.00
60108-000	SECA-Rector	2,700.00
60109-000	Payroll Expense	400.00
60110-000	Pension-Clergy	9,400.00
60111-000	Pension-Lay Emp	5,300.00
60112-000	Insurance-Group	19,250.00
60113-000	LT Disability	350.00
60114-000	Insurance-Life/	300.00
60115-000	Workers Comp.	250.00



<b>Account</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Annual</b>
60118-000	Mileage	1,500.00
60119-000	Continuing Ed-M	1,000.00
60201-000	Pastoral Care	500.00
60202-000	Advertising	900.00
60203-000	Stewardship	500.00
60209-000	Holiday Baskets	2,500.00
60211-000	Breakfast Program	5,000.00
60216-000	Deacons Ministry	1,500.00
60303-000	Printing	2,400.00
60305-000	Altar Supplies	3,800.00
60306-000	Instrument Main	2,125.00
60307-000	Organist Sub	600.00
60308-000	Clergy Supply	1,000.00
60309-000	Worship-Other	800.00
60310-000	Offering Envelopes	300.00
60312-000	Choral Scholar	7,665.00
60339-000	Acolytes	200.00
60340-000	Music Supplies	250.00
60402-000	Chorister Program	250.00
60501-000	Supplies	1,200.00
60502-000	Online Services	4,500.00
60503-000	Phone & Interne	2,500.00
60504-000	Postage	800.00
60507-000	Bank Fees & Sup	500.00
60510-000	Administration-	500.00
60514-000	Rector Search	10,000.00
60601-000	Electric-Parish	13,500.00
60602-000	Gas-Parish	10,000.00
60603-000	Water-Parish	2,700.00
60604-000	Refuse-Parish	1,750.00
60605-000	Insurance-Church	17,000.00
60606-000	Printer Lease	3,000.00
60608-000	Property Taxes	120.00

<b>Account</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Annual</b>
60610-000	Maintenance-Church	9,000.00
60611-000	Snow Removal	1,500.00
60612-000	Pest Control	1,200.00
60613-000	Security System	800.00
60614-000	Kitchen Supplies	500.00
60616-000	Elevator Service	2,700.00
60617-000	Cleaning Service	8,200.00
60618-000	Yard Maintenance	1,100.00
60625-000	Maintenance-Rectory	1,000.00
60626-000	Gas-Rectory	1,500.00
60627-000	Electric-Rector	1,500.00
60628-000	Water-Rectory	1,200.00
60640-000	Pest Control Rectory	500
	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>\$346,530.00</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$346,530.00</b>
	<b><u>Net</u></b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>

*The 2023 Budget was adopted by the St. Thomas Vestry at a meeting held Thursday, November 17, 2022.*

**Trust Investment Committee Report & St. Thomas Trust Fund Trustees**  
*“Growing the Trust Funds through prudent, long-term investing and Planned Giving”*

St. Thomas Episcopal Church has two endowment trust funds—the St. Thomas Trust Fund and the Father Simms Trust Fund. The trust funds are invested through the guidance of the St. Thomas Investment Committee. The Trust Investment Committee discusses and monitors the performance of the funds with representatives of the Episcopal Church Foundation and State Street Bank. These discussions are held on a quarterly basis via a conference call or a Zoom meeting. The Investment Committee Chair has access to the Episcopal Church Foundation staff and up-to-date financial reports daily.

The St. Thomas Endowment Trust has five trustees: Sr. Warden Kathy Dingwall, Lori Kiess, Gillian Ebeling, Kent Bieberich, and one open position. Lori Kiess replaced Bob Harberts who resigned his position. The St. Thomas Vestry is the trustee of the Father Simms Trust.

The Trust Investment Committee members include the five trustees of the St. Thomas Endowment Trust, plus the Rector of St. Thomas and the Treasurer of St. Thomas. Father Brian has left his position on the Committee because of his leave of absence. Charles Grantier replaced Bernie Squires as Treasurer. Becky Squires serves as the Secretary for the Trustees and the Trust Investment Committee.

Under the management of the Episcopal Church Foundation and State Street Bank, the balances of the St. Thomas Trust Fund, the Father Simms Fund and Perrett Trust Fund have been combined for the purpose of investment strategies and reduced fees. The Perrett Trust Fund is independent of the St. Thomas Trust Fund and the Father Simms Trust Fund. The Perrett Fund is not addressed in this report. The trust funds remain independent trust funds with separate governance structures and with separate fund balances.

The Episcopal Church Foundation’s monthly and year-end reports in addition to the St. Thomas budget reports were used to create the balances and percentages found in this annual report. These are not audited figures.

Transfers received by St. Thomas from the two trust funds and the estimated year-end balances of the two trust funds are as follows:

**Five-Year Summary: Transfers to St. Thomas (Investment Fees are not included in the Transfers):**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
St. Thomas Fund	\$22,209.12	\$25,217.52	\$35,312*	\$30,000	\$81,250
Father Simms Fund	<u>\$ 6,016.59</u>	<u>\$13,208.70</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$56,500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,225.71</b>	<b>\$38,426.22</b>	<b>\$50,312</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$137,750</b>

\*Includes \$5,312 request for AV equipment

**Explanation of the \$92,750 difference in 2022 total transfers when compared to 2021: \$30,000 increase in transfer to General Operations, \$60,000 transfer for new flat roof.**

### Five-Year Summary: Trust Fund Year-End Balances after Withdrawals/Transfers:

<b>Fund</b> <b><u>12/31/2022</u></b>	<b><u>12/31/2018</u></b>	<b><u>12/31/2019</u></b>	<b><u>12/31/2020</u></b>	<b><u>12/31/2021</u></b>
St. Thomas Fund \$847,459.96	\$436,639.14	\$491,288.84	\$496,099.80	\$1,125,938.44
Fr. Simms Fund <u>\$395,310.42</u>	<u>\$402,090.77</u>	<u>\$460,172.06</u>	<u>\$479,344.44</u>	<u>\$ 528,709.69</u>
<b>Total</b> <b>\$1,242,770.38</b>	<b>\$838,729.91</b>	<b>\$951,460.90</b>	<b>\$975,444.24</b>	<b>\$1,654,648.13</b>

The 12/31/2022 decrease of the combined funds is **\$411, 877.75 (24.89%)** when compared to 12/31/2021. This amount is determined by using the totals from the above chart.

In the year of 2022, 7.22% was transferred from the St. Thomas Fund to St. Thomas Church and 10.69% was transferred from the Father Simms Fund to St. Thomas Church. (Percentages based on 2021 year-end balances.)

It is estimated that the Episcopal Church Foundation's 2022 annual investment fee was approximately .60% or around \$8,200.

The trust funds experienced a turbulent investment year in 2022. An estimated decrease of approximately \$260,000 or 15.72% was caused by the reduction in the value of the investments within the two trust funds. Based on a January 1, 2023 "Yahoo Finance US", article, an internet news service, the S & P 500 lost 19.2% in 2022, the worst loss since 2008. The Episcopal Church Foundation and State Street Bank did adjust our investment categories to limit losses.

St. Thomas is a long-term investor. The Trustees and Investment Committee have accepted the advice of the Episcopal Church Foundation and State Street Bank to maintain our investment objectives and strategies realizing that the market does not always go up. The decreases in value do stress the importance of Planned Giving contributions and prudent withdrawals.

At the August 10, 2022 meeting of the St. Thomas Trust Fund Trustees and Trust Investment Committee the St. Thomas Trust Fund Trustees approved an additional \$40,000 for the restoration of the Chapel bringing the Chapel amount approved to \$115,000. As of December 31, 2022 nothing has been expended of the \$115,000. \$25,000 had previously been approved from non-trust fund sources to bring the available total Chapel restoration funds to \$140,000. Just under \$13,000 has been expended from the \$25,000 that is not from the St. Thomas Trust Fund. The approved \$140,000 was approved mainly for Chapel exterior restoration work. It was decided by the Trust Investment Committee and St. Thomas Trust Fund Trustees to postpone discussion regarding restoration of the Chapel interior until additional interior restoration plans are developed and additional input is obtained from assigned committees and individuals.

Also, at the August 10 meeting, the Trustees approved \$30,000 from the St. Thomas Trust Fund for the repair of the Church's flat roofs. To date the full \$30,000 has been expended. The Vestry, in its role as Trustee of the Father Simms Fund, approved \$30,000 for repair of the flat roofs. To date the full \$30,000 has been expended.

A portion of the income from the St. Thomas Endowment is divided equally between our Seminarian Fund and Holtom Scholarship Fund (each fund receives .0538%). A portion of the Fr. Simms endowment is shared with a Reserved Altar Chapter fund (.0125%).

The 2023 St. Thomas Church Operations Budget contains a request to transfer \$40,000 from the St. Thomas Trust Fund to the St. Thomas General Operations Budget. \$115,000 has been previously approved by the Trustees for Chapel restoration. The Vestry, in its role as Trustee of the Father Simms Trust Fund, approved a transfer of \$20,000 for 2023.

Most of the figures used in this report are taken from year-end reports, budget reports, and minutes from the Trustees and Trust Investment Committee meetings. St. Thomas and the Episcopal Church Foundation will refine these figures and make adjustments. Working with the Episcopal Church Foundation in previous years, indicates this process may take a month or two.

A special thanks to Melissa Wank, St. Thomas Bookkeeper, and Brad Roberts of the Episcopal Church Foundation for their assistance with this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Harberts  
robertharberts@mac.com

## **Parish Statistics**

Members as of December 31, 2022 — 329

Increases:

Baptisms: 3

Decreases: 8 Total — 5 members

Deaths:

Teddi Garratt (*homebound member*)

Dave Grabe (*husband of Jeanne, & long-time member*)

Roxie Gribble (*former member*)

Gretchen Humiston (*wife of Paul & long-time member*)

Paul Humiston (*long-time member*)

Julian Mansfield (*great grandchild of Roy & Brenda Hillman*)

William Spaid (*former Canon of the Ordinary & good friend to St. Thomas*)

Genevieve Young (*wife of Alan Young, sister-in-law of Jill Ebling*)