



MESSENGER

From the Rector's Deck...

Friends,

On Sunday, January 27th, St. Thomas held its Annual Parish Meeting at 10:00 AM following a 9:00 AM all-parish worship service. Everyone I have spoken with has given the day rave reviews. Highlights of the day include:

- Worshiping together as one congregation. Many people commented on how great it was to have everyone together – 5 o'clockers, 8 o'clockers, and 10 o'clockers!
- New Vestry Members. Will Ferris, Hooman Mirzaei, and Becky Ventorini were all elected to the Vestry by acclamation.
- The St. Thomas Cross. The Vestry has established a new honor at St. Thomas – the St. Thomas Cross. This award is given to a member of the congregation who has served “above and beyond the call of duty.” Our first recipient was awarded the St. Thomas Cross at the Annual Meeting: Toby Bush. Toby has led the stewardship team for several years – this year surpassing both the pledge goal and the financial goal. And he leads our Pumpkin Patch efforts with enthusiasm (and a great hat). Congratulations Toby, and well done.
- A strong financial report. Treasurer Pat Smith provided the attendees with an easy-to-understand and comprehensive financial report. You can read it in the Annual Report, which was emailed to you.
- Upbeat updates from officers and staff. Rick Montfort (Junior Warden), Rev. Anne Turner (Associate Rector for Pastoral Care), Joy Warburton (Parish Administrator), Susan Allen (Family Minister), and Walter Koehler (Minister of Music) each gave updates on what's happening in their areas of ministry.
- A slideshow. I presented the highlights of 2018 in my Rector's report with a Power Point slideshow. I had fun looking back over 2018 for the highlights – and others told me that they enjoyed being reminded of all that happened at St. Thomas in 2018.

Do you want to know what I am most grateful for? How strongly I sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit at work throughout the meeting. I have marveled, ever since my arrival at St. Thomas, at your resiliency. St. Thomas went through a lot in 2016 and 2017. And we acknowledged that at the Annual Meeting. But, what I saw and experienced on Sunday was the new life and new energy that has been building in our congregation. The Spirit is at work at St. Thomas – I can't wait to see where she takes us!

Gratefully,

Rev. Fran

The Episcopal Church Women

The St. Thomas ECW is an active group whose members include all women of the St. Thomas parish. Its primary mission is to reach out to those in need, but it also aims to be of service within our parish and to each other. ECW is a wonderful way to experience being in a community together with gladness of heart and a lightness of spirit.

2018 was an exciting year for our ECW with many highlights and accomplishments. A few are listed below:

- ❖ As is tradition, on February 20 the ECW hosted the first of the Lenten Soup & Salad series dinners that take place each Tuesday during in Lent at the church.
- ❖ In March, \$500 was distributed to the charitable organization, Casting for Recovery.
- ❖ In July, a check for \$483 was issued to Pere Ajax Kesner from Ascension Church in Beraud, Haiti representing donations collected from the St. Thomas' Book Group gatherings. The funds are intended to go toward his church's discretionary fund.
- ❖ The two annual ECW fundraisers which raise funds for Inreach and Outreach projects were very successful in great part to the generosity of the congregation. The May "Bake Sale" netted \$1,125.00 and the December "Treats and Treasurers" sale netted \$2,760.
- ❖ United Thank Offering (UTO): \$1,091.55 was raised during the Spring 2018 ingathering and was distributed to the Virginia diocesan UTO coordinator. The UTO program began in 1915 by a female delegate to that year's Episcopal Church convention and was meant to encourage women to make their own donations for mission work. Today, local congregations which collect UTO offerings can make proposals for the use of the money to their Bishops, who then forward the proposals to a decision-making group. UTO funds are used for both domestic and overseas missions.
- ❖ On July 14, a check for \$100 was presented to Bishop Shannon Johnston when he visited St. Thomas' in celebration of our parish's new ministry. The funds will go toward the Bishop's discretionary fund.
- ❖ In the late Fall, donations were distributed to two other charitable organizations: \$750 to SHARE and \$500 for the McLean-Falls Church Children's Center.
- ❖ The ECW Book Group continues to draw strong attendance in its 20th year with monthly meetings, a yearly spring potluck, and a December book exchange and dinner.
- ❖ Throughout the year improvements continued to be realized as part of the ECW Kitchen Renewal Project. In addition to the new refrigerator, two new dishwashers were purchased, a new microwave oven, and service equipment (pots & pans, sharp knives, cooking utensils and hand towels) to make working in the kitchen safer and more user friendly.
- ❖ As in previous years, in December the ECW sponsored the annual St. Thomas' Christmas ornament. The ladies created a special ornament in celebration of Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith joining St. Thomas in 2018. Small silver crosses with a heart cut-out were purchased and were placed on top of a card that featured Fran's favorite Ionain prayer. A 2018 red ribbon was attached to all of the ornaments that adorned the Christmas tree in the Narthex. The tradition is a lovely keepsake to carry on the holiday tradition where families are given an ornament at Christmas services.

The ECW officers for the 2018 term were:

President: Becky Ventorini
Treasurer: Kathleen Leach
Secretary: Barbara Wicks
UTO Representative: Kadri Kallikorm-Rhodes

For 2019, the St. Thomas' ECW looks forward to another successful year of giving to the various ministries of our congregation and outreach organizations who have become part of our legacy.

Book Group News:

Please don't forget to place the following dates on your calendar for the balance of the 2018-2019 Book Group season. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Pacelli at (703) 256-7834 or patchwork1@verizon.net.

February 20, 2019: Discussion of "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande will be led by

Fran Gardner-Smith and the evening will be held at the home of Pat Smith.

March 20, 2019: Discussion of "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng.

April 17, 2019: Discussion of "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas.

May 15, 2019: Salad Supper and Summer Book Exchange

Our next ECW meeting:

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, March 17th for the next ECW meeting which will be held at 8:50 am in Hudson Hall.

With kindest regards, joy, and blessings,

Becky Ventorini, ECW President

Nici Bush, ECW President-Elect

"Within your heart, keep one still, secret spot where dreams may go."

~ Louise Driscoll



FRAN ON VACATION

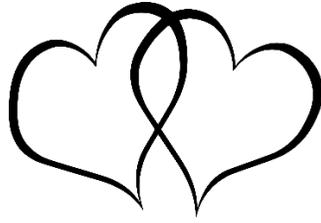
Friends, I will be on vacation from Sunday afternoon February 3 through Friday night February 15. David and I are traveling to Los Angeles to visit his sister and her husband. Both have had health issues and we are looking forward to spending time with them. From there, we are taking a short cruise from Los Angeles to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

While I am away, I will not be checking email or voicemail. I want to be fully present to our family and rest. Rev.

Anne will be here and on call for the duration of my time away – and Joy, Susan and Walter will be working hard while I am gone. (As they always do, of course!) In a real emergency, all the staff know how to reach me. I will miss you while I'm gone and look forward to returning to our life together on Saturday February 16th.

Blessings! Rev. Fran

You Are Invited



Peter and Rick are Getting Married!

The Rev. Peter Gray, who was the part-time Associate Rector at St. Thomas from 1976 until his retirement in 2004, and his partner Dr. Rick Michaelson, a retired oncologist, are getting married! Peter and Rick will be married in New Jersey on February 24th.

We will bless their civil marriage at St. Thomas on Sunday March 3rd during our regular 10:00 worship service. Peter and Rick hope you will all join us for this celebration. They are providing a special coffee hour in honor of their marriage following worship.

The service for the blessing of a civil marriage is lovely – and in some ways is like the baptism service. It asks the couple to reaffirm the commitment they made in their civil marriage, calls upon God to bless their relationship, and asks those who witness their vows to support them in their relationship and with prayer.

As we celebrate a baptism in the midst of our Sunday worshiping community, I think it's fitting to celebrate marriages (and the blessings of civil marriages) in just the same way for those who are so inclined.

March 3rd promises to be a wonderful day of celebration for Peter and Rick and for our community. I hope you will join us.

Next ECW Book Group meets at 7:30 pm on Wednesday February 20 at Pat Smith's home. She is located at 7204 Elizabeth drive in McLean.
Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith will lead us in a discussion of "Being Mortal"
by Atul Gawande.
If you have any questions, please contact Jane Pacelli at 703-256-7834
or patchwork1@verizon.net.

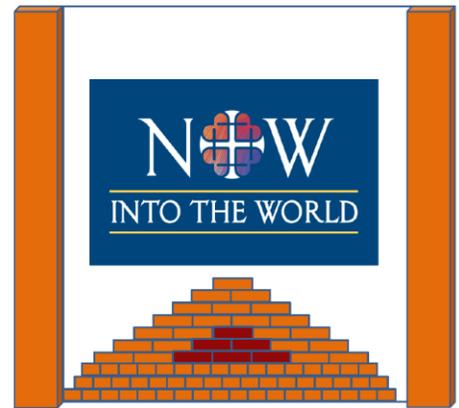
Stewardship Update

The St. Thomas Pledge Campaign was an unqualified success. We are delighted to report that we have exceeded both our target (79) for the number of people pledging and our target pledge total (\$400,00).

Thank you to everyone that has pledged to St. Thomas!

Our final numbers as of Wednesday, January 30th are 85 pledgers and our pledged total stands at \$401,280. Thank you to all of you!

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee — thank you to all of you for your support of our church and our community.



Toby Bush (tobygbush@hotmail.com),
Melinda Fairchild (meldavid7815@gmail.com),
Jean Kemp (kempsol@verizon.net),
Steve Wickman (wickmansb@msn.com),
Cleta Raymond (cletaraymond@gmail.com), and
Fran Gardner-Smith (fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org)



Thank you St. Thomas ... you are amazing!!

A few months back we sent a letter asking for support for a MELAS research study for our Kate's rare disease. This small NIH sponsored study at GWU, working with CNMC, gives us great hope for Kate's future.

We have been successful in identifying potential participants for the study. Two participants joined the study in Dec and Jan and we have identified 3 more families. We just learned last night that two of those families will be visiting DC in March!!

Your outpouring of support for the study has been humbling and will help these families with their trip to DC for a biopsy. So many of you have offered to help drive which takes away a major concern about getting around DC. Two St. Thomas families have also offered to act as host families which will help to make the trip much easier from a health perspective. Rev Fran has also agreed that we can borrow the wheelchair from St. Thomas when needed. Your financial generosity has been fabulous. So far we have paid for an airline ticket for an 11-year-old boy from IN and we are excited to help a single mom and her 2 teenage boys travel from OR in March. Our current plan is to help the two remaining families with smaller, specific needs.

We understand that our efforts are moving the MELAS study closer to clinical trial. We feel so hopeful about the study and so grateful to all of you.

Thank you and we ask for your continued prayers for all families affected by MELAS.

Warm regards,
Mary and Byron Knight

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS @ ST. THOMAS

FEBRUARY & MARCH

FLOWER GUILD WORKSHOP

Hosted by the St. Thomas Flower Guild

Instruction by Martha Furniss

Date: Feb 23, 2019



Time: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Cost: \$15.00 per person

We welcome anyone interested in learning or practicing flower arranging skills. Topics covered will include: designer basics, flower choice, demonstration, hands-on arranging, as well as constructive criticism. You will make your own arrangement to take home to enjoy! Please call St. Thomas to sign up, no later than Feb. 16th.

Workshop is limited to 15 participants.

Art and Soul

February 16, 2019

11:00AM to 3:00PM

Suggested donation \$25 -- see website for more dates and details. Please make checks payable to Holy Cross with "Art-n-soul" in the memo line.

We also accept cash, and credit cards (\$1 Card Service fee).

Scholarships and multiple person family discounts available. (Two for \$40)

www.art-n-soul.net

Email: info@art-n-soul.net and let us know if you plan to join us.



March 5 – Pancake Supper at 6:00 pm



Three Services at 7:00 AM, 12:00 PM, and 7:30 PM



Lenten Soup Suppers and Formation Program

Tuesdays in Lent – March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9

Soup Supper at 6PM

Lenten Program at 7PM

Lenten Program Topic – Forgiveness

We'll be using a five-week video session with the Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton called *Embracing Forgiveness*. From the program notes: *Embracing Forgiveness* is welcome balm for a culture struggling for civility and reconciliation. Master storyteller and teacher

Barbara Cawthorne Crafton leads us in a revealing and helpful exploration of what forgiveness is *NOT*, first of all, and then what it *IS* and how to find it in our lives, on both the personal and communal level.

I hope you will join us for this helpful program.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Treasurer's Report December 2018

Highlights

Net Operating Revenue (\$000's):

- Net operating revenue for December is a deficit of (\$14.9) and year-to-date (YTD) is break-even. \$14.1K was transferred to the property reserve.

Revenue (\$000's):

- Total Revenue for the year was \$461.5K, (\$3.3K) lower than budget. Plate revenue was (\$11.1K) lower than the unrealistic budget, and pledges were \$5.1K higher than budget.

Expenses (\$000's):

- Total Operating Expenses were \$461.5K, (\$3.3K) less than the year's budget, and included a \$14.1K transfer to the property reserve.

Balance Sheet (\$000's):

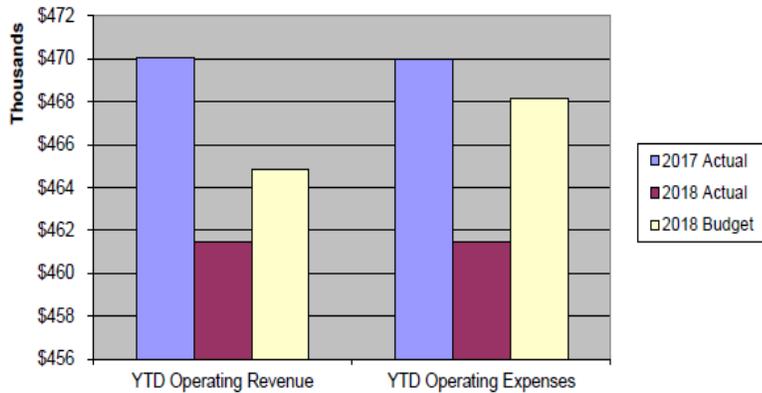
- Operating Cash is \$65.6K but will jump to \$81.5 on January 1 when Prepaid Pledge revenue is available as operating cash. The operating cash balance would have been \$95.6 on January 1 if the \$14.1K transfer to the Property Reserve had not been made.

- The Property Reserve is \$50.6K, thanks to the year-end transfer of \$14.1K.

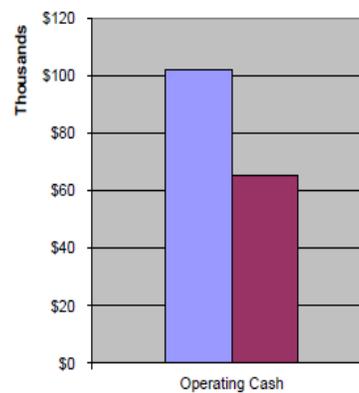
Results by Month (\$)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Operating Rev.	74,129	36,412	26,387	53,190	22,643	23,908	15,963	51,444	33,291	20,461	57,373	46,294	461,495
Operating Exp.	26,446	40,603	37,847	39,290	37,603	42,984	42,598	32,568	37,349	31,214	32,217	60,774	461,493
Net Operating Rev.	47,683	(4,191)	(11,460)	13,900	(14,960)	(19,076)	(26,635)	18,876	(4,058)	(10,753)	25,156	(14,480)	2
Operating Cash	94,064	92,334	93,641	116,588	101,226	82,528	47,912	68,969	65,680	56,311	96,241	65,635	65,635

Year-to-Date Operating Revenue / Expenses



Cash



FEBRUARY PARISH CALENDAR

					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 5PM— HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II 6:00 PM-- Celebration
3 8 AM— HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II 10 AM— HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II 10 AM— SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:40 AM— CONFIRMATION CLASS	4 1:00 PM ANN NEWLAND 4:00 PM-- WOLF TRAP ASSOCIATION MEETING, HH	5	6	7 7:30 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 7:45 AM— MEN EATING BREAKFAST 5PM— EVENING PRAYER, RITE II
10 8 AM— HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II, 10 AM— HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II 10 AM— SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:40 AM-- CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM	11 1:00 PM ANN NEWLAND	12	13	14 7:30 PM— CHOIR REHEARSAL	15 OFFICE CLOSED <i>MESSENGER SUBMISSION DEADLINE</i>	16 11:00 – 3:00 PM ART-N-SOUL CLASS, HH 5:00 PM VISITATION, HH 5PM— HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
17 8 AM— HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II, 10 AM— HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II 10 AM— SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:40 AM— CONFIRMATION CLASS	18 1:00 PM ANN NEWLAND 7:00 PM— VESTRY MEETING	19 1:00 PM STAFF MEETING	20 7:30 PM— ECW BOOK GROUP	21 7:30 PM— CHOIR REHEARSAL	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 5:00 PM – HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
24 8 AM— HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II, 10 AM— HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II 10 AM— SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:40 AM— CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM	25 1:00 PM Ann Newland	26	27	28 7:30 PM— CHOIR REHEARSAL	1 MARCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM— Setting up Hudson Hall 5:00 PM-- HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Recall and Reconnect - Join Us for a Listening Sessions

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter into a new chapter together in the Diocese of Virginia following the retirement of Bishop Shannon Johnston and my becoming Ecclesiastical Authority, I invite us into renewed mission together in Christ's name. I invite us to look back – not to the recent past – but to our roots in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to a deep recollection of who we are called to be and what we are called to do in his name.

.Strengthened by that recollection, I invite us to connect more deeply than ever with one another as lay people, deacons, priests and bishops, and to connect more powerfully than ever with a world so in need of the Good News we have to share in Christ Jesus. Summarized in two words, I invite us to RECALL and RECONNECT.

We will engage this work of recalling and reconnecting in five Community Listening Sessions that will take place around the Diocese during the season of Epiphany. I hope you will attend one. Each session will include a time for your Bishops and other diocesan leaders to talk about our deepest longings and heartfelt desires for our Diocese, followed by time for us to listen to yours.

Here is the schedule for the Recall and Reconnect Listening Sessions.

Saturday, February 9, 1-3 p.m.

St. Barnabas, Annandale

Wednesday, February 13, 5-7 p.m.

Emmanuel, Woodstock

Saturday, February 16, 5-7 p.m.

Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond

Monday, March 4, 3-5 p.m.

St. Margaret's School, Tappahannock*

*We hope to broadcast this listening session via Facebook Live.

What we hear from each other in these sessions will shape subsequent opportunities for sharing as we deepen dialogue and grow in community. What we learn will strengthen us to go Now Into the World. Please do plan to be a part of this time.

Faithfully yours,



The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff

Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority



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703.442.0330
Pastoral Care (571) 549-1458
www.stthomasmcleanva.org

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS

5:00 PM – HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

SUNDAYS

8:00 AM – HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:00 AM – HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Nursery care available on
Sundays from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

1st & 3rd Sundays

11:40 AM – Confirmation Class through May 2019
for 7th Graders & up.

2nd & 4th Sundays

11:40 AM – Music Program for 3rd Graders & up.

SHARE MCLEAN – URGENT NEEDS

The Food Pantry is in dire need of the following supplies!

Baby

Baby Wipes (unscented)**

Diapers- Sizes 5 and 6 especially

Personal Care

Sanitary Pads and Tampons

Flushable and/or Baby Wipes

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes

Household

Toilet Paper**

32 -50 oz Laundry Detergent**

Food Items

48 oz Canola or Vegetable oil**

2 lb Bags of White Rice

Canned Beans (*Chickpea, Black, Kidney, White, Pinto*)

Canned Fruit or Applesauce

Canned Veggies (*Corn, Peas, Mixed, Green Beans*)

Cereal/Oatmeal

Pasta Sauce in Plastic Bottles or Cans

Canned Soups (*Pop-top*)

Canned Meat (*Tuna, Chicken, etc.*)

Peanut Butter in Plastic Bottles

Pasta/Spaghetti

Snacks/Granola Bars (*Suitable for school aged children*)

** Starred items are staples that run out most often.

Consider buying these items first if you are only picking up a couple things!