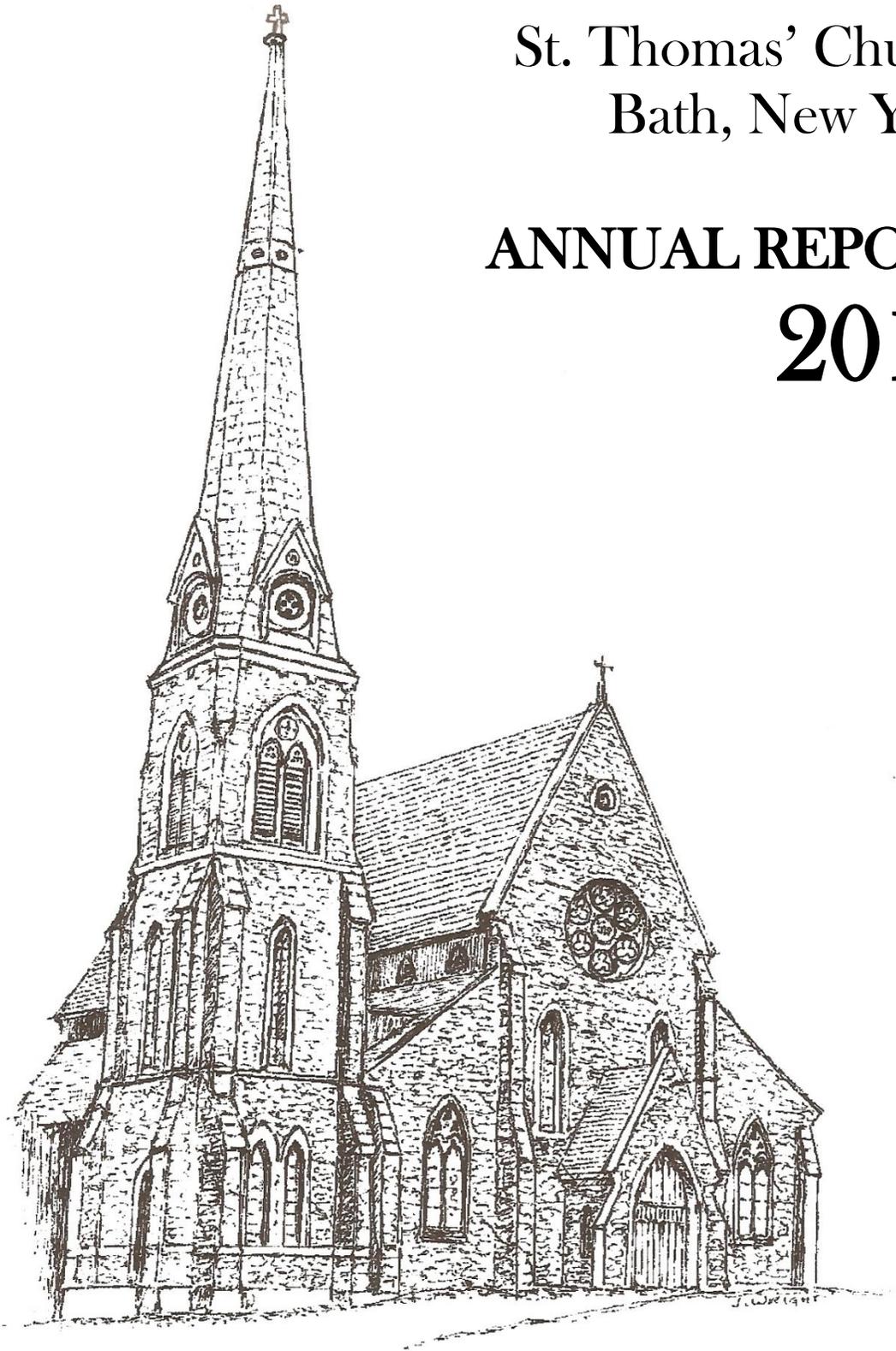


St. Thomas' Church  
Bath, New York

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2018**





## Annual Reports for the Parish of St. Thomas' Church for the Year of 2018

**A**n Annual Report for the parish is first of all, an historical record of what happened in this parish during the past year. It is a gold mine of information for the archives. But perhaps more importantly, it is a reminder of what has God led us to do and the surprising abundance of God's grace. We might also use this report to help us identify areas of ministry which need our attention. Each annual report is a benchmark for the future.

### Senior Warden

As I wrap up my term as your Senior Warden, I want to thank all of you for your support and friendship. We, as a church family are going through a transition period, which has been challenging at times. I want everyone to know that this should be looked on as a learning time and that God will help us through it as he always does. The Vestry has been and continues to work very hard to pursue a new Rector for our parish. In the meantime, we have been very fortunate to have Reverend Kit Tobin and Father Michael Hopkins help us with our services and pastoral care.

You can see from all the committee reports that follow, that much is being accomplished every day by many people. I feel extremely grateful to know and work with so many dedicated persons willing to give up time to further our church missions.

My report last year had to do with believing. I look back on that report and still feel the same overwhelming strength that God, my family and all of you have provided me with to continue to BELIEVE. I hope that all of you, my church family, will continue to believe that St. Thomas is destined to continue to do great and wonderful things for all of us and for our community.

*Carin Tobin*

Senior Warden

## Christian Education and Formation for All Ages

### Godly Play Sunday School & Children's Activities

We have had a good year of Sunday School using the Godly Play method. We have anywhere from two to eight kids. One of our commitments is that no matter how many kids show up, they get the same lesson. On All Saints' Sunday we were very happy to celebrate the Baptism of two of our kids, Theron and Emmett Rodrigues.

We commend to everyone our Godly Play Creed:

God is love.

God loves to make things.

One of the things God made is you,  
and one of the things God made is me.

God sent Jesus to be our Good Shepherd.

God sent the Holy Spirit to help us love one another.

The Good Shepherd is the patron of Godly Play, and we now have a Good Shepherd banner that can be seen around church which was a gift from Father Michael and his sister, Linette Bulkley, who did most of the work on it. We also painted our Godly Play Room this year. Come down and see!

We had several other activities for children and families this year including our Christmas Eve Service, Hallowe'en Party, A Visit from St. Nicholas, and our annual "Mass on the Grass." Many thanks to the many people who helped make these events happen, especially Cinda Wheat, Nancy & Woody Latour, Gloria Moran, the Brundage/Prusha family, Roxanne Gaylord, and Angela Bauer.

*The Rev. Michael W. Hopkins*

Sunday School Coordinator

## Curious Christians Adult Study Group

*Curious Christians* is a group of adults and teen(s) that meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings throughout the program year. Our first study of 2018 was “Understanding Russia.” We examined what we knew (and didn’t know) about Russia, discussed stereotypes that we had encountered, and learned about the crucial role of religion in Russian history and culture, both prior to and after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. We also viewed a three-part video “The History of Orthodox Christianity” which covered the founding of the Christian Church, the rise of Byzantium (Constantinople) as the center of Eastern Orthodoxy, and the spread of Orthodox Christianity to Russia in the 16<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of Ivan III.

During the season of Lent, our sessions focused on the topic of – sin!! This playful, yet serious study traced the origins of the famous list of Seven Deadly Sins, or Vices, and the corresponding Heavenly Virtues that we as Christians should aspire to practice. Participants were asked to notice examples of both the vices (easy) and the virtues (maybe not so easy) in their daily lives, and then reflect upon ways to address the former and nourish the latter.

Our final study prior to summer break was a return to basics: Bible 101: The New Testament and the Book of Acts. Following an overview of the themes, histories, and personalities of the New Testament, we focused on the stories of the works of Jesus’ disciples after his death, resurrection, and ascension.

In September, *Curious Christians* hosted our 5th annual “Welcome Back Sunday” All-Parish breakfast. Parishioners had an opportunity to enjoy food and fellowship in between the 7:45 and 11:00am services, and learn about Christian Education & Formation programs here at St. Thomas.

The timely topic of Civil Discourse was the theme of our discussions throughout the fall season. Using a curriculum written by members of the Presiding Bishop’s Staff and published by the Episcopal Office of Government Relations, we sought to discover ways to engage with others respectfully, even in disagreement and debate. We also examined our responsibilities, within the context of our baptismal covenant’s call to “strive for justice and peace amount all people, and resect the dignity of every human being,” to provide a sacred space within which such discourse can safely take place.

Our Advent curriculum also came from the national church -- part of the “Journeying the Way of Love” initiative – and was based on the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. In the stories of the Annunciation, Mary’s visit to Elizabeth, the birth of John the Baptist, and the birth of Jesus, we sought a pattern for living the Way of Love as individuals and as a community.

*Curious Christians* continues to have an average attendance of 10-12 participants. We always have room for more, so please consider this an open invitation to drop in anytime and explore with us! I am so grateful to all who participate and continue to share their knowledge, experience, humor, and faith. I am especially thankful to have had John Roy as a member of our group. John attended our very first “Welcome Back Sunday” Parish Breakfast, stayed for class, and just kept coming back. We will miss him.

*Roxanne Gaylord*

Facilitator

## Music Ministries

Throughout the past 13 years, Carl Johengen and I have worked collaboratively as Co-Ministers of Music. I am exceedingly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Carl. Upon learning of his impending departure, the task of carrying on by myself seemed daunting. But – of course, I am not by myself at all. St. Thomas is blessed with so many talented and dedicated musicians. Please know how thankful I am for your support, understanding and flexibility. Working together, we will strive to maintain the high musical standards for which St. Thomas’ is known, putting the message of Christ first and foremost, so that, through the music that we sing and play, those who worship here may hear the Good News.

Parishioners who attend the 11:00am Sunday service continue to experience a varied repertoire of hymns – some are familiar favorites, some are new and challenging! Our service music changes with the seasons of the church year. Prior to his departure, Carl facilitated the donation of a concert grand piano from

Wells College to St. Thomas'. The gifts committee subsequently approved a \$1515.00 expenditure from memorial funds to cover the cost of a protective cover, a new bench, and a humidification system for this instrument. Once it was acclimated to its new surroundings, the piano was tuned and immediately put into service. The grand size and deep tone of this instrument makes leading worship from the piano, rather than the organ, a viable alternative in our large worship space. This was particularly helpful in the first several months following Carl's departure, allowing me time to "get acquainted" with our pipe organ, which I am now playing with some regularity.

St. Thomas' organ is tuned twice annually and continues to be well maintained by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders of Bristol. Despite the expert care they provide, the organ has issues which arise from time to time, signaling that more significant investment may be needed soon. The parish has been fortunate that the organ continues to be usable, but we might want to consider looking into larger repairs or replacement in order to ensure that we have a reliable instrument for years to come.

Our other pianos (chapel and choir room) are in good condition, receive regular use, and are tuned as needed, generally twice a year. For those times when we may want music in the Great Hall or other areas of the church, we now have a portable, electronic keyboard, generously donated by Teri Van Vliete.

### **St. Thomas' Choir**

The choir sings at the 11:00am Sunday service throughout the program year, enhancing our worship and revealing their high level of dedication to our parish. In 2018, the Choir regularly included: Bill Arnts, Barbara Fowler, Nancy Latour, Hope Anne Long, Ray Long, Dale Magee, Adam Peck, John Roy, Deb Scharf, Becky Stranges, John Stranges, Teri Van Vliete, and Kathy Morris, whom we were pleased to welcome as our newest member. Kathy has been a delightful addition to the soprano section. Sam Arnts joined us for the Halloween Scholarship Benefit Concert and for Christmas Eve, and Lydia Arnts sings with us whenever she is home from Ithaca College. I would like to offer a special thank-you to my husband, Bill Arnts, who can now be seen conducting the choir on Sunday mornings while I accompany the group. His willingness to share increasingly more of his time and talent with us has made this time of transition run much more smoothly.

In addition to Sunday mornings and special services, the choir shares their musical gifts with our larger church family and the local community. In October, the choir again took part in the annual Halloween Scholarship Benefit Concert, performing a medley of songs from the musical "Cats," by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Many hours of extra rehearsal time are needed to make this concert possible. On December 6, members braved the cold to sing carols in Pulteney Park for the Spirit of Christmas celebration. For the first time, we were paired with a group of carolers from another church -- The Community Church on Liberty Street. We enjoyed meeting these folks and combining our talents to spread some holiday cheer. Due to a scheduling conflict, we were unable to participate in the annual Community Advent Lessons and Carols Service this year but hope to return in 2019. On December 14, seven members of the choir were joined by Sam Arnts, JoAnn & Bob Brundage and Bobbi Jo & Chloe Prusha to carol to our housebound members. This tradition holds a special place in my heart, but the memory of 2018 will remain particularly poignant, as we lost two of our parishioners, Dorothy Goodrich and John Roy, shortly after our visit. John had been a member of the choir since I came to St. Thomas in 2005, and for many years before. We will miss him dearly.

### **Music Opportunities for Youth**

Our Celebration Band continues to be the primary musical vehicle for youth here at St. Thomas, providing the parish with festive instrumental music on various occasions. In 2018, this included music for the fourth annual Scholarship Benefit Concert in October (see below), and for the 7th consecutive year, the 4:30pm service on Christmas Eve. The group has grown consistently, both in skill and numbers. Members of this year's Celebration Band included: Sam Arnts, Connor Bell, Cassidy Case, Brandon Gardiner, Olivia Gudeahn,

Taylor McUmbler, Colin O'Neil, Chloe Prusha, Brianna Sinsebox, and Daniel Watters. Returning from college to join the Celebration Band this year were Lydia Arnts, Logan Ingraham, and Cody McUmbler. Joining our student musicians were Bill Arnts, Adam Peck, Deb Scharf, John & Becky Stranges, and Mary Watters-Gaylord.

### **St. Thomas Community Ringers**

I began working with the St. Thomas Community Ringers in September. In 2018, this ensemble played for the 11:00am Sunday service in February, April (Easter Sunday), May (Mother's Day), October, and at the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, an annual tradition. The Ringers also share their time and talents beyond our church walls, providing the music for the Haverling Baccalaureate Service each June. This year, we also played for the Spirit of Christmas celebration in Pulteney Park on December 6. The bells and the Ringers were all extremely chilly, but the music was received warmly by those attending the event, especially a few young children who had never seen a handbell choir before.

Ringers during the first half of the 2018 Calendar Year included: Debbie Bartlett, Amy Gardiner, Brandi Graham, Nancy Latour, Lori Longwell, Cheryl Muller, Sarah Peck, Deborah Scharf, Teresa Simmons, Cindy Wager, and Dodie Zajac. This fall, Alicia Sherer and Dale Magee returned as full-time members, exchanging spots with Amy Gardiner, who has taken a leave of absence, and Deb Bartlett, who has stepped away from ringing in order to care for granddaughter Julia. Substitute ringers included Sue Annis, Bill Arnts, Amy Gardiner, and Gloria Hare.

### **Scholarship Benefit Concert – “They Only Come Out at Night”**

This annual event is both a musical happening and an outreach initiative, as the funds raised support the St. Thomas First Generation Scholarship. The \$1,000.00 award is given annually to a graduating Haverling High School Senior who will be the first in his/her family to attend college.

2018's concert comprised various musical interpretations of cats, owls, ravens, werewolves, and other nocturnal creatures. Special guests included Vicki Mosgrove, Executive Director of the Finger Lakes SPCA, and two adorable shelter cats. Thanks to Father Michael Hopkins, who arranged this visit and donated \$200.00 to the FLSPCA on St. Thomas' behalf. Thanks to all the musicians who put in so much extra rehearsal time, to Severina Weeks for ushering and hosting the reception, and to Dale Magee for creating the set.

This year's concert proceeds totaled \$745.78. After allowing for expenses of \$218.88 (for the purchase of music) the net total raised for the Scholarship Fund came to \$526.90. The Scholarship fund also received several donations in memory of Shirley Hill, ensuring that our First Generation Scholarship initiative will remain viable until June of 2020.

*Roxanne Gaylord*  
Minister of Music

### **Altar Guild**

The members of St. Anne's Altar Guild continue to carry out their duties behind the scenes in a quiet and efficient manner. Parishioners arrive at church on a Sunday morning to find the altar prepared for worship, candles burning brightly on the altar. But, unless you have served on the altar guild, you may not realize what goes into these sacred preparations.

Each altar guild member is paired with a partner; each team serves for two weeks at a time on a rotating basis. Every week, a team prepares the altar, arranges the sterling silver vessels in proper fashion, places spotless linens correctly, changes the church frontals to the color matching the season of the church year, replaces and refills candles as necessary, and myriad other tasks. At least twice a year, all sterling and brass items are polished. During Easter and Christmas seasons, special preparations are undertaken. All candle holders are cleaned, ribbons pressed, poinsettias and lilies arranged, and aisle candles erected. On those Sundays where flowers are given in memory or honor of loved ones, the Altar Guild sees that they are delivered to house-bound members following the service.

Serving in 2018 were: Dale Magee, Director, Nancy Latour, Barbara Fowler, Hope Anne Long, Carin Tobin, Severina Weeks, and Tracy Squires, assisted and advised by Carolyn Wyatt and Mary Paddock, former directors and emeritus members. Together, these dedicated volunteers prepared Eucharist for approximately 115 regular church and chapel services, 5 funerals, and 52 home/private communion services. Staying within an annual budget of \$500.00, incense, candles, wine, miscellaneous supplies and altar/travel kit linens were purchased. Our guild encourages others to join us. It is both fulfilling and allows us to serve God.

*Dale Magee*  
 Guild Director

## Outreach

### Red Door Community Kitchen

Red Door Community Kitchen continues to provide a needed service to the Bath Community. The following are our numbers served over 3 years.

- 2016- 1,863
- 2017- 2,501
- 2018- 2,318

We have 6 teams that volunteer A LOT of time to continue this program. This year we were pleased to have 2 new teams that replaced teams that had to drop out. Bath Baptist Church joined us as a team, and also a small group of friends created their own team. In addition to our teams, a kind gentleman donates fruit cups each week.

Our partnership with the Food Donation Center (Pizza Hut) continues, and we get a generous donation of assorted pizzas from them which our guests enjoy. Varieties of pizza are served each week along with a hearty soup, green salad, dessert, other items and assorted beverages.

*Helen Monroy*  
 Red Door Coordinator

### The Community Garden at St. Thomas

St. Thomas Community Gardeners were highly successful over 2018. From May to October, 742 pounds of produce were provided to Catholic Charities - Turning Point and the Red Door Community Kitchen. Tables below depict the beds' numbers/titles and list the vegetables grown. Most importantly children, and adults received thousands of servings of produce they would not have enjoyed but for the work of many gardeners. Community Gardeners have sustained this effort for the 9th season partnering with the Rochester Diocese, Cornell Cooperative Extension and many others to significantly push back against food insecurity in this community. Perhaps the most significant development this year is the Coordinator's growing appreciation for learning to be an effective community gardener. As I lean into the mission, I realize all that needs to be accomplished far exceeds my abilities, time and energy. I have learned through many sources that coordinating a Community Garden is probably one part growing vegetables and four parts growing community. Please pray for participants to engage with us to: plan and execute best gardening practices; identify stakeholders that will work with us in interdependent teams.

#### Garden Beds:

1. The Pear Tree	6. Green Thumb Gardeners	10. Presbyterian Planters
2. Martin Quick House	7. Pro People	11. St. Mary's Catholic Church
3. Centenary U. Methodist Church	8. Oopsey-Daisy Acres	12. Bath Rotary
4. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church	9. Bath Masons	13. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
5. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church		

### Herbs and Vegetables Grown:

basil	broccoli	cucumbers	lettuce	onions	peas	radishes	spinach	tomatoes
beans	cabbage	beets	carrots	potatoes	peppers	Swiss chard	squash	

### Highlights:

- April: Earth Day kickoff and blessing of the garden by Father Brad, dedication of bed 11 to Betty Langendorfer.
- May: first harvest (radishes) delivered to Turning Point. Haverling Students join our team along with Steve Watters and Charles Seaman. Turning point staff and volunteers take over bed #6.
- May: Submitted grant applications to Rochester Diocese, and to NYS Agriculture and Markets through Cornell Cooperative Extension, money received from St Thomas.
- June: planting completed, compost class held.
- July: visited St. John's garden and kitchen in Canandaigua.
- November: squash cooking class held by Jon Sterlace, Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Program Educator (ten attended). Class coordinated through St. Thomas, Turning Point and Cooperative Extension.

### Sustainment:

I will be contacting the Gardeners, supporters and stakeholders to answer how best to organize going forward to sustain our enterprise and do this good work even better. The gardeners should meet at least once before planting begins to plan their beds. I will be contacting the gardeners to meet with them to gain their perspectives to answer what is good and what they would like to improve.

*Ray Long*

Community Garden Coordinator

### Church World Service Crop Hunger Walk

The 35th annual Crop/Hunger walk was once again hosted by St. Thomas church. We raised \$1,215.00. 25% of this total will be donated to local food pantries.

*Severina Weeks*

Crop Hunger Walk Organizer

### Pastoral Care

A Pastoral Care Committee was developed with members of the parish providing a number of services for those in the parish needing assistance. We also add people to the prayer list at church. John Clinton Bradley helped set up Google groups which facilitate information sharing and he is the technology manager of the groups.

Members of the parish needing assistance have volunteers who are their 'guardian angels'. These people enlist the help of other parishioners for various tasks. There were 17 people assisted this year.

Birthday visits: Groups visited 3 homebound members to help celebrate their birthdays.

Cards:

- Birthday cards have been sent to people with reminders from the Cards Google Group. Barbara Fowler, Carin Tobin, Gil and Linda Ferris, Severina Weeks, Helen Monroy, Teri VanVliete, Deb Scharf, and Mary Paddock are members of this group.
- Get well cards are initiated by the guardian angel who sends an email to people in the Cards Google group.
- Valentine cards were sent to our housebound by Nancy Latour and Easter cards by Severina Weeks.

Meals: Various members of this group provide meals short-term for those in need. At least 2 people received meals this year.

Appointments: Barbara Fowler has taken 2 people to various medical appointments/pharmacy

Shopping: Carolyn Wyatt takes 1 person grocery shopping and Barbara Fowler does shopping for 1.

Visits: At various points guardian angels and others have visited people in need, sometimes to free family members to do other tasks; to visit; and as needed, to see those who are nearing the end of life. Barbara Fowler, Severina Weeks, Hope Anne Long, the Woody and Nancy Latour and Bill and Kathy Leonard have all assisted in this.

Miscellaneous: The Latours have a loan closet of devices to assist people needing help in ambulation, toileting, bathing, etc.

Communion: Members of the Eucharistic Visitors team provide parishioners who are housebound communion on a monthly basis. Mary Paddock has picked up the two parishioners who Fr. Brad visited in addition to the two she visits. John Clinton Bradley is a new member of this group and he takes communion out once a month. Woody Latour has taken communion to 3 different parishioners. Nancy Latour has just added a person and Terry Bilancio is also available.

## **Bereavement Ministry Report**

Funeral reception:

1. A funeral reception was held 1/26/18 for James VanVliete with 75 attending.
2. A memorial reception was held 5/5/18 for Walter Ferris with 25 attending.
3. A memorial reception was held 5/23/18 for Marlene Smith with 25 attending.
4. A funeral was held 6/11/18 for JoAnn Evans.

Deaths in the parish/parish family:

1. Katherine Fleishman's service and luncheon were held in Cohocton at her former church. Fr. Brad officiated and Carolyn Wyatt and Barbara Fowler were lectors.
2. After Cynthia (Sis) Jones died there was no service. There was a family only graveside service on 6/3/18.
3. Gertrude Manning Stuart Goodrich died and the service was held in the chapel at St. Thomas with about 50 attending on 3/26/18.
4. Shirley Hill's funeral was at St. Thomas on 3/31/18 with around 400 attending. The luncheon reception was held at the Pleasant Valley Visitors building.
5. A brief graveside service was held for Janet Campbell on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Internment:

1. JoAnn Evans was interred in the Columbarium on 6/11/18.

Niche purchases:

## 2018 Goals:

1. Continue to assist members of the parish in pre-planning their funeral services when requested. In process: 2 were completed this year.
2. Prepare biographical information about people whose cremains are placed in the Columbarium. One was prepared for JoAnn Evans.
3. Publicize information about the Columbarium and discuss with anyone interested.
4. Continue to coordinate funeral luncheons as needed, see above.

## 2019 Goals:

Unchanged from 2018.

*Barbara Fowler*

Bereavement Minister

### **Ushers**

The ministry of ushers is one of hospitality. An usher is an important part of our church, as it is sometimes the first contact of welcome a visitor or parishioner sees. The welcoming process includes greeting, assisting in seating, delivering the Sunday service bulletin, counting attendance, being a bell ringer, and assisting with communion and the offering. Ushers assist at funerals and special services.

The duties of the ushers in 2018 have been faithfully executed by Sam Arnts, Cassidy Case, Gil Ferris, Brandi Graham, Amalia Pellon, Michaelene Ahrens-Schultz, Tracy Squires, Carin Tobin, Severina Weeks and Dick Winnett. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do in this important role.

*Carin Tobin*

### **Property Commission**

The objectives of this committee are to facilitate the care and maintenance of our church and rectory; to coordinate the application for grants/funding projects and follow through on their expenditure; supervise all aspects of buildings and grounds care and policies. 2018 was both challenging and rewarding.

Church and Parish Hall –

- February -- the Chancel was repainted
- April – Repairs were made to Godly Play Room and downstairs hallway. Room was also painted.
- June – the N/A Room floor was repainted, scrubbed and waxed professionally
- June also saw a church-wide indoor clean-up
- July – 4 trees in south church yard were trimmed
- August – Cloister Ramp was once again shored up. (this will need replacement in the near future)
- November – a tarp was installed over the lower south Nave roof to try to prevent future leaking until new church roof is installed. This should occur late spring 2019.

Rectory –

- March – Tree was removed due to storm damage
- March – New electrical board on the furnace
- September – November –
  - Old cast iron main drain line was replaced with PVC pipe
  - First floor living space completely repainted as well as the “rec” room in basement
  - The water issue on south side of basement was taken care of by water-proofing the wall, installing new window wells and insulating as well as new wall board installed
  - 2 other windows that were leaking were replaced as well as wells installed
  - South side of lawn was graded away from the house

Many items, including a new kitchen electric stove, new electric dryer, new kitchen storm door, new light fixture in dining room, new bathroom exhaust/fan/light, dehumidifier as well as carpet cleaning, and lawn mower were all donated. As well as many trips to landfill and manual labor were used to get the rectory in tip top shape for a new priest.

*Severina Weeks*  
Chair

## **Fundraising**

Fundraising is broken into two categories, Operating Budget Fund and Special Projects. The Operating Budget Fund events raise money for the day-to-day expenses of the church. In 2018, the goal was \$4000 *which was surpassed at \$5,352.00*. The Special Projects Fundraising events raised money to pay for the roof of the church. This year we raised \$8,455.20.

This year, Bonnie Albee designed all the publicity flyers and tickets for the events until she and her husband Paul moved to Vermont. Bonnie, bless her heart, continued to design them for us even after she moved. Barbara Fowler printed them and then provided them to members of the Vestry who signed up for distribution in various places. Process for pre-sale tickets sales this year was changed and was very successful. Severina Weeks handled distribution of all tickets for pre-sale and tracked them as they returned.

### **OPERATING BUDGET**

1. *Sauerkraut/Octoberfest Supper*

Organizers: Woody & Nancy Latour

Profit: \$1,258.00

Note: We need signs for the sandwich board for this event were donated this year.

2. *Festa Italiana*

Organizer: Nancy Latour

Profit: \$1542.00

3. *Chicken BBQ*

Organizer: Barbara Fowler

Profit: \$1,001.00

4. *Mother's Day Brunch*

Organizers: Gloria Moran & Fundraising Committee.

This event replaced the bazaar, which was discontinued due to decreasing profits. It was highly successful and will be repeated in 2019.

Profit: \$1502.00

**TOTAL: \$5303.00**

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDRAISING:**

1. *On-line magazines*

Organizer: Barbara Fowler

Profit 2017: \$97.20

Recommendation: Publicize more

2. *Dessert Auction*

Organizers: Linda Ferris, Barbara Fowler

Profit: \$1627

Recommendations: Ken Corey as auctioneer and his decision to make \$10 the beginning bid helped to increase profits this year. We also sold the 'leftovers' from the tasting for 75% of the winning bid.

3. Norwex Party Sales:

Organizer: Barbara Fowler

Profit: \$272

4. Steuben County Teachers Luncheon

Organizers: Linda Ferris and Barbara Fowler

Profit: \$409 to the Roof Fund

Recommendations: Continue to provide such catering events when possible.

5. English Funeral Catering

Organizer: Barbara Fowler

Profit: \$650

6. Ferris Funeral

Organizer: Barbara Fowler

Profit: \$5,000

Family donated money to the Roof fund.

7. Food Will Win the War

Organizer: Linda Ferris

Profit: \$400

**TOTAL: \$8455.20**

GRAND FUNDRAISING TOTAL: \$13,758.20

MISCELLANEOUS Fundraising

1. Shoes that Grow Southeast District

Organizer: Barbara Fowler

Profit: \$517.79

*Barbara Fowler*

Chair

## Fellowship

Fellowship is experienced through our interaction with one another in the love and knowledge of God. Manifestations of Fellowship can take many forms and can be either accidental or intentional. Only intentional fellowship activities are reported here. It is nice to note that more spur of the moment gatherings are happening within our church family such as going out to dinner before seeing a play in which the children of the parish are involved.

- Plays/movies
  - "The Post" with 7 attending
  - "The Longest Hour" with 9 attending
  - Concert at Ithaca College 4/29/18 with 6 attending
  - "Book Club" with 4 attending
- Dinners/lunches
  - Lunch 6/6/18 with 8 attending
- Other events
  - Shrove Tuesday at the Latour's with 26 attending

- Alfred Tech for Plant sale 5/11/18 with 8 attending
- St. Thomas Day celebration doesn't get reported because it happens so late in the year. On December 21, 2017, there were 43 people who attended the celebration at the Latour's.
- Sports events:
  - Red Wings baseball game with 12 attending
- This year there were more informal get togethers for lunch, etc. as people were able to attend.
- Nine individuals and 6 groups provided Hospitality Hour refreshments 40 times this year.

*Barbara Fowler and Nancy Latour*  
Co-chairs

## Grow Team

During 2018, the Grow Team continued to implement the recommendations we made to the parish in 2017. Here are some of our accomplishment for the year:

- We debriefed our inviting and welcoming activities for Christmas Eve.
- We purchased and installed a Wi-Fi extender so that visitors can access Wi-Fi in the chapel and church.
- We conducted a name tag "pilot test" during Lent; this included providing name tags for vestry members and ushers.
- Based on positive feedback from the name tag pilot test, we provided name tags for all parishioners who attend services on a regular basis.
- We purchased a carousel for sorting and storing the name tags of parishioners who worship during the late service. The carousel resides in the narthex.
- We also placed hooks in the chapel for sorting and storing the name tags of parishioners who worship during the early service.
- We held "Social Media Sundays" on April 8 and 22 to train parishioners how to use Facebook as an invitation tool.
- We purchased a welcome banner and table drape. The ushers put the banner outside the front door of the church during the late service on Sunday mornings. The table drape adorns a welcome table in the narthex.
- We started Instagram and Google My Business accounts.
- We started a CafePress shop from which members can purchase items with the parish logo.
- We again hosted a welcome table during the Steuben County Dairy Festival on Saturday, June 2, 2018. We distributed 48 free bottles of water and 120 free cheese sticks.



*Figure 1: Our parish growth model*



*Figure 2: A sample name tag*

- We discussed the possibility of installing a temporary or permanent labyrinth and holding labyrinth walks.
- We wrote articles for the parish newsletter, including why to wear name tags, how to access the weekly sermon podcast, and how to use Facebook to invite non-Church-goers to visit.
- We discussed the possibility of subscribing to an online giving system.
- We held a *Bible Tastings and Wine Study* series.
- We engaged in several inviting and welcoming activities for Easter. These included a video advertisement, a page on the website, an event on the Facebook page, invitations to infrequent communicants and families with children, an ad in the Southern Tier Shopper, and an outdoor banner. After Easter, we debriefed these activities.
- We interviewed five households who are no longer attending services to learn what factors affected them.
- Over the summer we engaged in an appreciative inquiry process to discover our best work during the past year, dream how we might build on our best work during the coming year, design what we will do during the coming year, and plan how we will deliver our design.
- We expanded and enhanced the parish website.
- We increased the number of people who like our Facebook page from 263 to 291.
- We hosted a fall fellowship potluck dinner on November 14, 2018. 25 parishioners attended the event.
- We asked the Finance Committee to include growth activities as a line item in the 2019 budget.



*Figure 3: The welcome banner and welcome table drape in use during the Steuben County Dairy Festival*

Throughout 2019, the Grow Team will continue to meet on the first Wednesday night of each month, from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm, in the Memorial Room, to plan, implement, and evaluate strategies to improve how we serve the community, invite non-church-goers to visit, welcome visitors, and connect newcomers and established members. We invite all interested parishioners to participate.

Visit <http://stthomasbath.org/grow-team/> for more information.

*John Clinton Bradley*  
Facilitator

## **Diocesan Convention and Southeast District**

At Diocesan Convention on October 27<sup>th</sup>, the delegates to convention:

- Approved the Budget for 2019
- Approved Amendment to Canon 7, concerning Trustees Vacancies. Before convention, the Constitution & Canons of the Diocese did not provide for a process to fill a vacancy in the Board of Trustees. The Amendment in Section 4 now reads: “Any vacancy in the Board of Trustees, occurring by reason of death, resignation, or removal from the Diocese, may be filled by the vote of the remaining Trustees, until the next Diocesan Convention.”

- We read reports from: Commission on Ministry; Diocesan Council Summary of Minutes; Standing Committee and Official Acts; Trustees; Reports from NE, SE, SW and the Rochester & Monroe Districts.
- We also voted on nominees to Standing Committee, Trustees, Diocesan Council, Commission on Ministry and Disciplinary Board. No one from the SE District ran for office.

St. Thomas delegates are: Gil Ferris, Roxanne Gaylord, Barbara Fowler and alternate John Roy.

In the SE District this year, the delegates to convention chose *Shoes that Grow* as our annual project. Each parish is encouraged to raise at least \$500 to be sent to that group before the end of January. St. Thomas has exceeded that figure.

*Barbara Fowler*  
Delegate to Convention

### **Gift Review Committee**

The Gift Review Committee is comprised of former Wardens of St. Thomas'. Current members include Teri Van Vliete, Nancy Latour, Woody Latour, Dale Magee, Bill Arnts, Gilbert Ferris and Mary Paddock. This committee is tasked with making recommendations for use of funds bequeathed to the parish.

During the 2018 year, the parish was the recipient of a grand piano, a gift from Carl Johengen. The Gifts Committee approved \$1515 from memorial funds to cover the cost of a protective cover, a new bench and a humidity system for the piano which is used weekly during Sunday services in the church.

*Mary Paddock*  
Chair

### **Treasurer's Report**

Once again, St. Thomas' ended the 2018 financial budget year solidly in the black. The financial report documenting our current financial status is appended to this report.

The report provides both our adopted 2019 budget *and* the final posted financial report for 2018. Our budget for 2019 reflects a decrease in congregational pledging at almost eight percent over what was budgeted, and that is a result of deaths, moves and changes.

The Vestry adopted a fair budget with a huge decrease in pledges due to deaths, moves, and changes. We are very careful with our spending and cost savings were realized in under-expended budget lines as you look at the percentages under the expenses. You will also see on the Income side several lines are over the 100 percent that we budgeted. That is why the Vestry has faith that even though we are proposing a shortfall in the proposed budget, God will see that we will make up the difference.

Our endowment is managed by Genesee Valley Trust in Canandaigua and we receive income from basically two sources that we consider our endowment funds. The endowment is doing quite well. The other source of "endowment" income is the Moore Trust (average value around \$673,508). We take a fixed percentage of that and in 2018 that was \$32,835. We were finally successful to take full control of the Moore Trust by getting it from Bank America, which Fr. Brad struggled with for six years. We were hoping to take greater returns this year, but because of the volatility of the market, the bank recommended that we lower our take in 2019. We draw very conservatively from these funds and have not increased our dependency on these funds for several years—again because of the congregation's generosity.

The year-end figures show that in 2018, we received 96.27 percent of our anticipated annual income and expended only 86.99 percent of our budgeted expenses providing a fund balance of more than \$19,000. This is largely due to not having a priest or another Minister of Music that provides this large surplus at the end of the

year. We continue to practice careful stewardship of the Finance Committee, the Vestry, and the staff. We will continue to rely on their fiscally sound management in 2019.

The people that I work with to make these reports possible are a wonderful team! Lori Kennedy, our bookkeeper, is a huge resource. If anyone has a question, she can find the answer. Her computer skills and financial expertise are a true blessing to this congregation. I would not be able to do this job without Roxanne Gaylord who assumes most of the day-to-day responsibilities in her Administrative Assistant role. Severina Weeks does the writing of our checks. With Roxanne, Severina, and our office helpers (Hope Anne Long and Barb Fowler), the process continues to be in good hands. The people that we rely on for answers at the Diocesan level are a true gift to us as well.

You can be assured we continue to be fiscally sound. I look forward to working with you in 2019 providing guidance for continued opportunities for our faith community of St. Thomas' with a strong and secure financial foundation.

*Nancy Latour*  
Treasurer

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### THE VESTRY for 2018

Senior Warden, Carin Tobin

Junior Warden, Tracy Squires

*Ending their service Jan. 2019:* Gil Ferris, Barb Fowler, Cinda Wheat

*Ending their service Jan. 2020:* Michaelene Ahrens-Schultz, John Clinton Bradley, Laura Underhill

*Ending their service Jan. 2021:* Mary Paddock, Robert Scharf, Deb Scharf

Clerk of the Vestry: Severina Weeks

Parish Treasurer: Nancy Latour

Assistant Treasurer: Severina Weeks

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Gil Ferris (ending service in Jan. 2019)

Roxanne Gaylord (ending service in Jan. 2020)

Barb Fowler (ending service in Jan. 2021)

### PARISH STAFF

Supply Priest: The Reverend Kit Tobin

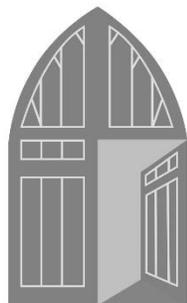
Priest-in Residence: The Rev'd Michael W. Hopkins

Administrative Assistant: Roxanne Gaylord

Office Support: Hope Anne Long, Barbara Fowler

Minister of Music: Roxanne Gaylord

Sexton: Joe Prunier



**St. Thomas'**  
Episcopal Church, Bath, New York