



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



Volume 7—Issue 5

May 2019

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## Reflections on Our First Month Together

*The Rev. Dr. Melanie Duguid May*

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you as Pastoral Leader at this parish of St. Thomas, Bath. I have been warmly welcomed by so many of you; arriving at the end of the Lenten season and just in time for Holy Week planning, I have been immersed in rhythms of life and worship here. I am glad and grateful.



Several things have impressed me during this first month. I am impressed by the deep commitment and compassion of this parish. The parish may not be large when looking at the numbers, but when it comes to ministry and mission—feeding people, caring for one another, being a witness to Christ in the community—you act as if you were! I am impressed by the gifts and graces, the talent, that is present in those of you with whom I have had an opportunity to work. I am impressed by the beauty of St. Thomas. When we gather in the church, or the chapel, on Sunday mornings I find myself recalling the psalmist's words: "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Ps. 96.9). Yes, it is the soaring architecture. More than this it is the chancel choir, and on Easter Sunday the bell choir and the celebration band. It is the work of the altar guild. It is the spirit of the saints who gather.

I look forward to getting to know you better in the coming weeks and months as we work together and as we have the opportunity to visit in other settings.

As to my working style, I seek to work collegially. When I am at the parish, my study door will be open, if possible. I hope we will grow in our sense that the ministry and mission of the parish are the responsibility of all of us together, whatever our distinctive tasks may be. Likewise, I hope we will grow in our ability to communicate clearly and directly with one another, and to tell our story and proclaim the good news in the wider communities of Bath and Steuben County, and so on.

Each month I will submit a detailed written report to the vestry under the headings pastoral (visits, appointments, and so on); preaching and liturgy (worship planning, sermons, Eucharists, and so on); administration (meetings with committees, with the Wardens, with vestry, and reports and so on); outreach (e.g., community activities and events, Red Door Kitchen, Turning Point, and so on); and diocesan (diocesan and district meetings, clergy meetings and retreats, and so on). These reports will be available to anyone interested, if requested.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

In general, I will be at St. Thomas on Wednesdays and Thursdays, although this will vary from week to week depending on offsite meetings or visits. Roxanne will have my weekly schedule, upon request. I am always an email away: [REDACTED]

Finally, for the last nearly ten years I have co-led pilgrimages to Israel Palestine, sponsored by Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. These pilgrimages have typically been scheduled every other year. Long ago, a pilgrimage was scheduled for this month of May. I will depart on Sunday, May 12, and return on Friday, May 31. During those weeks, Kit and Michael will be present as sacramental leaders, and on call for pastoral emergencies. I will be with you again on Sunday, June 2, as we anticipate our celebration of the Feast of Pentecost on the following Sunday, June 9. If there is interest, I would be very happy to schedule a time to report and reflect on my pilgrimage with some of you.

Now and always, my prayer ascends for all the saints of St. Thomas! I wish you joy this Eastertide!

**Welcoming Melanie to St. Thomas' Episcopal Church**

Melanie preaching.



Melanie holding a welcome banner made by the kids.



Melanie beside Kit at the altar.



Melanie cutting a welcome cake at coffee hour.

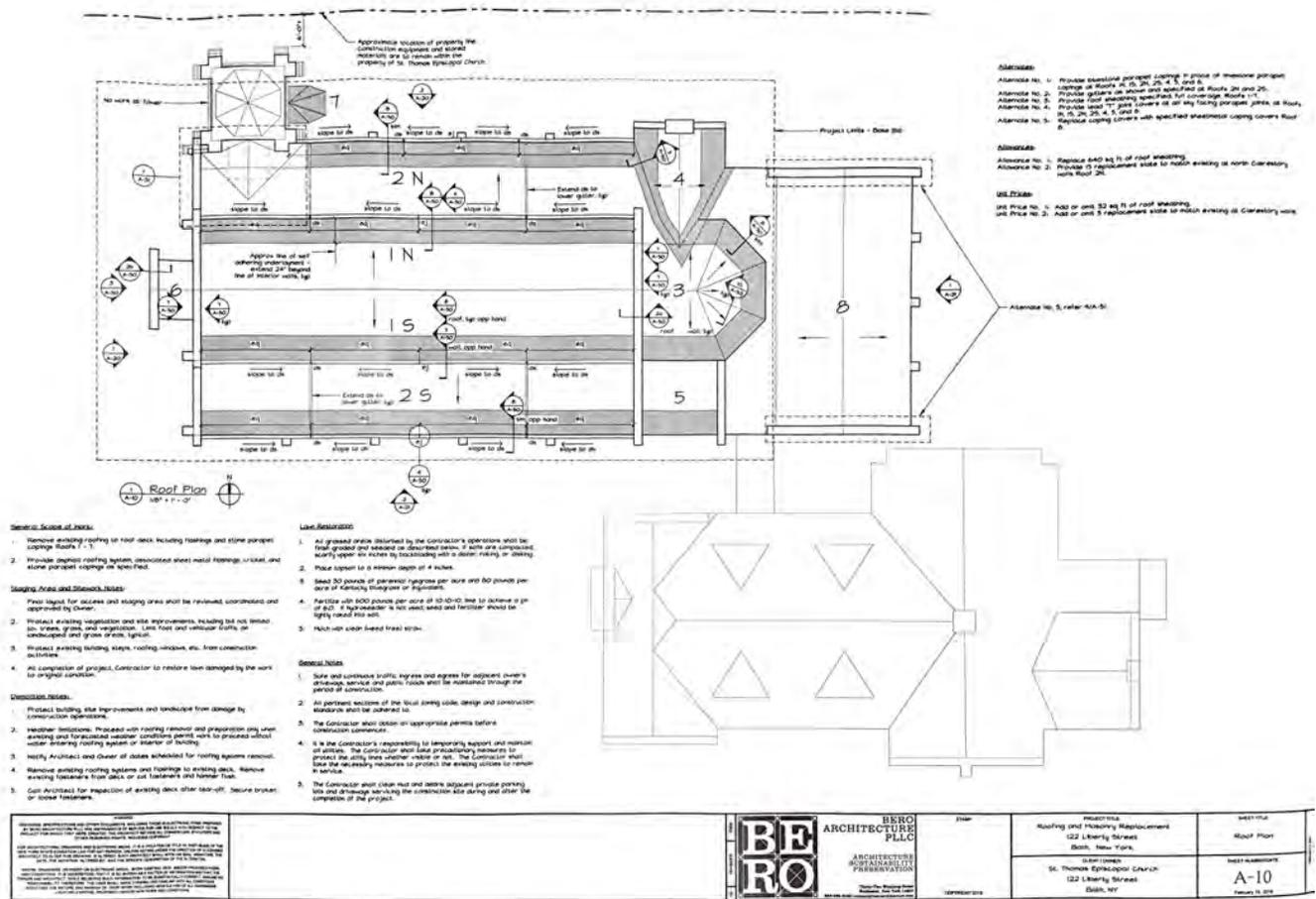


# Progress on Roof Repair

On April 24, during a special meeting, the vestry voted to accept a proposal from Charles F. Evans Company of Elmira to replace the roof and masonry of our church building.

The bid price of **\$536,337** is significantly higher than earlier estimates. Thankfully, we have raised **\$388,963**—from capital campaign pledges and donations, fundraising events, grants, and bequests—to fund the project. We will cover the shortfall of **\$147,374** by “loaning” money to ourselves from our endowment. We plan to repay the loan, with interest, over a period of 10 to 20 years. The vestry is researching additional fundraising strategies to pay off the loan more quickly.

Thank you to the members of the Roof Committee, the Finance Committee, the Fundraising Committee, and individual donors for bringing this critical project to the verge of actual construction!



One of the architect's drawings of the project.



Additional contributions to the roof fund are gratefully accepted. You can give by writing a check made payable to “St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church” or by clicking the “Give” button at [www.stthomasbath.org](http://www.stthomasbath.org).

## Hello, Doug!

After more than a year of exceptional service, Joe Prunier retired as our sexton at the end of April. The Personnel Committee advertised the job vacancy on Facebook and in the Southern Tier Shopper. After reviewing more than a dozen applications and interviewing five candidates, the committee choose Doug Hoad to be our new sexton.

Doug began working for us on April 27. He will spend an average of 10 hours a week cleaning and maintaining our facility. Doug reports directly to Melanie.

Doug is a native of Bath and works for the Veterans Administration. Doug served in the United State Marine Corps from 1983 to 1987.



*Doug Hoad*

## Bath STEPS Walk—May 11

*Barbara Fowler*

If you look at the Catholic Charities website (<https://www.catholiccharitiessteuben.org/>) you will find statistics concerning poverty in Steuben County that come from the 2017 US Census' American Community Survey. The first time I saw these figures, I was shocked:

- 35,000 of our neighbors are living in poverty or are at risk of falling into poverty – even though the majority are working.
- Single parent households: 42% live in poverty, more than 5x the rate for married couples.
- Children are the most vulnerable: Of those living in poverty, 21% are children under 18, and 27% are children under 5.
- The NYS Department of Education reports 51% of our students qualify for the free and reduced-fee lunch program.
- Lack of jobs that pay a living wage is a major cause of these poverty conditions as is lack of affordable childcare and lack of transportation.

Turning Point helps with:

- food pantries
- housing
- utilities
- connecting with doctors
- health insurance
- prescriptions
- transportation
- financial guidance

St. Thomas has supported the STEPS Walk very generously in the past. Help me to do the same this year. Please walk with me or donate for the team.



Visit <http://stthomasbath.org/bath-steps-walk/> to donate online.

## Godly Play: The Lord's Prayer

*The Rev. Michael Hopkins*

During May, our Godly Play Sunday School will be working with the Lord's Prayer. Our goal will not only be to memorize the prayer. The prayer will give us plenty to wonder about. Some of our prompts to wondering might help adults interact more with the prayer also:

- I wonder why Jesus told us to call God "Our Father?"
- I wonder if you can remember some of the stories Jesus told to teach us about the "kingdom"?
- I wonder what it feels like or what it looks like to have the kingdom come "on earth as it is in heaven"?
- I wonder what "daily bread" is? And how does it feel to be given it?
- I wonder how you know when something is evil? And how does it feel to be "delivered" from it?
- I wonder why this prayer is about "our" and "us" and not "mine" and "me"?



As we work our way toward Pentecost, we are reminded that the prayer is an outline for how the Holy Spirit shows up and works in and through us.

## Vestry Notes

*John Clinton Bradley, Junior Warden*

The vestry held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 10. Here are the highlights:

- We accepted the minutes from the March 20 regular meeting and the March 27 special meeting.
- Pastoral Leader Melanie Duguid-May described her preliminary plan for ministry with St. Thomas'.
- I shared the final, signed letter of agreement between Melanie, the vestry, and the bishop.
- We voted to hire a new bookkeeper—Jennifer Heagy.
- We voted to add Melanie as a signatory on the rector's discretionary fund check account.
- I described the process the Personnel Committee is using to advertise the sexton position and interview applicants.
- Senior Warden Mary Paddock presented Charles F. Evans Company's bid to replace the roof and masonry of our church building. The bid included six "alternates." We voted to ask Architect Virginia Searl which alternates we should accept and decline. We asked the Finance Committee to develop a plan for financing the project with the alternates that Virginia recommends. We agreed to hold a special vestry meeting on April 24 to vote on the bid and funding plan.
- I reported on who had (and had not) completed Safe Church training.
- Bob and Deb Scharf reported on a professional appraisal of the "crazy quilt." We approved Barb Fowler and Linda Ferris's proposal for preserving and displaying the quilt.
- Melanie asked vestry members to review two handouts related to committees and groups, and to send any corrections to her.
- I explained that the parish now has a free G Suite for Nonprofits account, which will allow us to take advantage of many Google applications.
- Barb announced the May 11 STEPS Walk and requested support.

Parishioners are welcome to inspect the official vestry meeting minutes in the parish office during parish business hours, which are 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

## Fundraising Committee Report

*Barbara Fowler*

We raise money for the operating budget and special projects. Operating budget fundraisers include Festa Italiana, Mother's Day brunch, Chicken BBQ, and Oktoberfest.

The church's special project now is, of course, the roof fund. We are always looking for new ideas for fundraising and for people to help.

In March, the Magistrates dinner in March was cooked and served by Cindy Wheat and Linda Ferris. The event raised \$182 for the roof fund. They are organizing the dinner for April too. Various fundraisers this year so far have raised \$3,367 for the roof including the Dessert Auction, Traveling Vineyard party, Norwex party and the Magistrates dinners.

We have a lot of fun organizing and preparing for these events which, over the years, have included:

- Brunches, luncheons, and dinners for various organizations including retired teachers, the historical society, Daughter of the American Revolution, First Congregational Church of Corning, and Gary Ostrander's class reunions
- Christmas centerpiece class
- Silent Auction
- Rotary holiday dinner
- On-line magazine sales
- Trash & treasures sale

We are always looking at other fundraising ideas. Do you have any? Would you like to help in any way? Please contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].



## Pastoral Care at St. Thomas

*Barbara Fowler*

About two years ago a group of lay people at St. Thomas re-organized our lay pastoral care program. About a year ago we did some more organization and people signed up to assist parishioners in need.

Each person we assist has a "guardian angel" volunteer, who coordinates various needs and also updates members of the group about the parishioner they are helping.

### ***What We Can Do:***

- Transportation to doctor and other appointments
- Transportation to grocery shopping
- Grocery shopping
- Delivering meals
- Calling/wellness checks
- Visiting
- Staying for short times during the day for folks who can't be alone

- Sending cards and/or asking others to do so too
- Taking folks out for meals
- Solving problems
- Suggesting communion at home

### ***What We Cannot Do:***

- Lengthy visits over three hours
- Bathing, dressing

# Mother's Day Brunch

Featuring a delicious array  
of brunch offerings, including  
Omelet Rolls, Croissant Sandwiches,  
Soups, Strawberry Salad,  
Waffles and more.

*Sip on a complimentary Mimosa  
as you enjoy your meal*

*Seatings will be at  
Noon and 1:30 p.m.*

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**Sunday, May 12**

**St. Thomas Church,  
122 Liberty St., Bath, NY.**

Reservations required. \$25 per person; \$10 children under 12;  
children under 5 free + Call Severina Weeks 776- 1635 for reservations.



## Community Garden At St Thomas (CGST) News

*This is reprinted from a newsletter that Ray Long distributed to everyone who volunteers in our community garden.*

### **Welcome Gardeners**

Thank you so much for your willingness to contribute to the gardening project. Catholic Charities reports it is making a difference. The produce we grow improves food security and contributes positively to the health and well being of our friends and neighbors having a hard time making ends meet.

This year marks my fifth year working for the CGST, and the third year serving as Gardener/Coordinator. As I write, it is another damp cool morning and fogged in on Mossy Bank. CGST planning was presented to the steering committee in February and to all gardeners at a potluck on March 1. Four of eleven tasks planned are complete or nearly finished. Due to a very cool, wet spring, planting is three weeks behind the timeline envisioned. At this point, all cool season crops should be in. I am sharing this to point out CGST is not where it needs to be at this time and to request your prayers and help.



*The garden in summertime.*

### **Assignments & Plans**

This year, the garden beds will change minimally in terms of the signs. These are posted for each family or organization. Please plan to help with your bed and others as needed. What will be planted in each bed will change. I have set up a five-year rotation cycle. I will share this with you as we work the garden together. Most of the cool season vegetables will be grown in beds 1–6. These include peas, lettuce, cole varieties, and root crops. Squash and cucumbers will be grown in beds 7-9, potatoes in 10 -12, and tomatoes in 13–15. Gardeners will not need to provide seeds, we obtained many of the seeds including seed potatoes and onions

### **Scheduling Work**

I am proposing we change how we work from previous years, feeling adjustment is needed to sustain our effort long-term. Work is scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11am to 2pm, and Saturday from 9 am to noon, weather permitting. Changes will be posted and notification of changes will be e mailed. This schedule is posted under the Community Garden tab of the St. Thomas website (<http://stthomasbath.org/community-garden/>).

**On Rogation  
Sunday, May 26,  
immediately after  
the late service,  
we will bless the  
community garden.**

The goal is to shift from the model of a group of gardeners growing beds independently to one managed and worked together as a team. The objective is to grow community within our group. As our team is more established I think we will become more interdependent. It is my prayer that our community will be evident and demonstrate long term self sustainment as a result. As the host and the Gardener/Coordinator I am committed to volunteering 12 hours per week. I need about 24 additional work hours committed weekly to the gardens. Please coordinate within your organization for a two hour commitment each week in the above schedule. An email outlining this need will be sent to the Gardeners. Please email me at [REDACTED] or call/text me at [REDACTED] to reserve your time.



# Parish Calendar for May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play	<b>29</b> Allen Swanson's Birthday Ethan Buckley's Birthday	<b>Apr 30</b> 6:00 PM Bath Beach Body Fit Club	<b>1</b> 11:00 AM Red Door Kitchen 1:00 PM Wardens & Pastoral Leader Meeting 6:00 PM Grow Team 6:30 PM Bath Peace and Justice Group	<b>2</b> 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:15 PM Voice Choir Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Bill Arnts & Roxanne Gaylord's Anniversary 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play	<b>6</b> Melanie Away Deb Scharf's Birthday	<b>7</b> 6:00 PM Bath Beach Body Fit Club	<b>8</b> Rachel Tuller-Thompkins' Birthday 11:00 AM Red Door Kitchen 6:00 PM Vestry	<b>9</b> 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:15 PM Voice Choir Practice	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Earl Burd's Birthday 9:00 AM STEPS Walk Bath 2:00 PM Champagne Whirl-a-Ways Square Dance
<b>12</b> Melanie Away Lauren Latour's Birthday 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play 12:00 PM Mother's Day Brunch (1st Seating) 1:30 PM Mother's Day Brunch (2nd Seating)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Hannah Moran's Birthday 6:00 PM Bath Beach Body Fit Club	<b>15</b> 11:00 AM Red Door Kitchen	<b>16</b> 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:15 PM Voice Choir Practice	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Melanie Away 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play 12:00 PM Sacred Site Open House	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Deadline for Newsletter Submissions 6:00 PM Bath Beach Body Fit Club	<b>22</b> 11:00 AM Red Door Kitchen 5:30 PM Magistrates Dinner	<b>23</b> 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:15 PM Voice Choir Practice	<b>24</b> Jim and Carol Guisinger's Anniversary	<b>25</b> Deadline to File for Part 2 of Sacred Sites Grant Gil Ferris' Birthday 7:00 PM Champagne Whirl-a-Ways Square Dance
<b>26</b> Melanie Away Dee Dee Manago's Birthday Richard Winnett's Birthday Rogation Sunday 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play 12:30 PM Blessing of the Community Garden	<b>27</b> Mike and Kathy Morris' Anniversary	<b>28</b> Brad Benson & Carl Johengen's Anniversary David & Sean Morris' Birthday 5:00 PM Finger Lake Sierra Club 6:00 PM Bath Beach Body Fit Club	<b>29</b> 11:00 AM Red Door Kitchen	<b>30</b> 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:15 PM Voice Choir Practice	<b>31</b>	<b>Jun 1</b>
<b>2</b> 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Curious Christians 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Godly Play	<b>3</b> Michael Hough's Birthday	<b>Notes</b>  <b>Our parish calendar is online at <a href="http://stthomasbath.org/parish-calendar!">stthomasbath.org/parish-calendar!</a></b>				



During May, we're collecting canned vegetables for Turning Point.





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## *Crossroads*

May 2019 Issue

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www.stthomasbath.org



## **New Education for Ministry Group Forming**

*John Clinton Bradley*

I'm forming a new EfM group for Episcopalians who live in the southern counties of the Diocese of Rochester. Nancy Grear, the EfM coordinator for the diocese and an experienced EfM mentor, has agreed to serve as the co-mentor for the new group.

The group will meet weekly between Labor Day and Memorial Day. Most of the meetings will take place online using the Zoom virtual meeting platform. The first meeting, and a few other meetings, will be held at a central location in the Southern Tier. The day and time of meetings will be determined by participants. Each meeting is 90 minutes.

Tuition is \$375 per year. However, our parish budget contains a \$200 scholarship for any parishioner who wants to participate. So, your cost would be \$175. You can pay your enrollment fee by check or credit card.

EfM is a four-year program designed to provide lay people with the knowledge and skills they need to minister in the church and community. Participants learn about the Hebrew scriptures during the first year, the New Testament during the second year, church history during the third year, and theology and ethics during the fourth year. Participants also learn how to share their faith journeys, reflect theologically, deepen their spiritual lives, develop a consistent personal theology, and explore their personal ministries.

For more information about EfM, visit <http://efm.sewanee.edu>. To register, please contact me at  or . The registration deadline is July 1.

