ST. THOMAS VISION STATEMENT

It is the continuing vision of the parishioners of St. Thomas Church to establish our church as a community center for diverse activities and programs for children, youth, and adults of all ages—a village church that is a hospitable haven providing comfort, peace, succor, and spiritual inspiration to all. We seek to be a worshipping community that calls all members into deeper levels of communion with Christ and each other and inspires them to go forth to seek and serve Christ in the world.

ST. THOMAS CORE VALUES

Core values are the “Why” of St. Thomas. They are the foundation of both the parish’s missional identity and vision. In response to the Listening Process in 2017, the Vestry adopted the following as the parish’s Core Values:

♦ Worship that calls all into deeper communion with God
♦ Welcome, inclusion, and ongoing care of one another
♦ Community engagement and service
♦ Ministry to equip young people for lives of value, faith, and meaning
♦ A culture of generosity
# St. Thomas Episcopal Church
## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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The meeting was called to order by Father Ken Brannon at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary of the church.

Judi Fuller was appointed Clerk for the Annual Meeting.

There were no additions to the agenda offered from the congregation present.

Art Dahl moved and Laurie Ahern seconded that the minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting be approved as written. The motion passed.

Father Ken opened his remarks with:
- Sharing his experience at the recent Maine walkabout and noting how often he mentioned St. Thomas for its strength and vitality, noting how the parish is living into its stated Core Values.
- Thanks was expressed to all committees and ministries for their dedicated service.
- Thanks to the Deacons and staff who faithfully serve.
- Noted that there have been wage adjustments made in the staff compensation to bring them into equitable alignment, but raises, as such, have not been given across the board.
- Thanks to Jon Thorson for his service as Senior Warden and announced the appointment of Georgia Stewart as Senior Warden for the coming year.
- Thanks to Wally Morgus for his tenure as Treasurer and the outgoing members of the vestry (Vickrie Cutler, Garry Pearson, Georgia Stewart) for their work on the vestry.
- Thanks to John Ashton for two years as Chair of the Stewardship Committee who will be followed by Josh Pate serving in that role.
- Thanks to Rachel for her work as Interim Sunday School Coordinator.

Jon Thorson expressed his gratitude for serving as Senior Warden and assured the congregation that they were in good hands with Georgia Stewart as the next Senior Warden.

Brad Musbach, Junior Warden for the past year, reviewed the improvements and repairs during that time: the Labyrinth repair and repainting, the addition to the Columbarium, the training on the defibrillator. Next year we will turn our attention to the boilers/heaters and the recently broken baptismal font.

Heather Black, Chair of the Nominating Committee, noted the numerous suggestions that have been submitted for consideration for vestry and convention seats.

- Vestry: Tom Benson, Alison Burpee, Rebecca Waycott
- Convention Delegates: Tom Archie, Liz Hickey, Andy Kerstetter, Jima Rice, Sabrina Roblin, Mardi Shepard
- Convention Alternates: Todd Stewart, Connie Hoffman, Meredith Skillman, Linda Bergerson

The chosen slate, which served as the motion, was presented to the vestry in December that approved the slate, which served as the second, and were all approved by acclamation.

John Ashton, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, congratulated the congregation on a most successful Annual Giving Campaign. Both numbers of participants and the amounts pledged were up from past years.

Brett Moellenberg, Managing Director of Playhouse,
- reported that it was a year of great growth and increased numbers for the Summer Theater Project and the Family Mainstage Theater productions as well as the August Company B camp. More attention and effort will be directed at the June camp which showed lagging attendance this year.
- also noted was the accounting fact that Playhouse is now bearing the weight of their entire payroll and associated burdens (in the past, payroll was carried by the Church). This has a huge impact on their bottom line.
- Page Klune is now the chair of the Playhouse Charter Committee.

Wally Morgus, Treasurer,
- reported that the parish is thriving due to 1) the generosity of the congregants, 2) the volunteers and staff, and 3) the skillful leadership of the vestry and rector;
Senior Warden Report  
by Rebecca Waycott

2019 has been a year of many changes at St. Thomas. The biggest change was the departure of Fr. Ken and the Brannon family when Fr. Ken accepted a job as Vice-Rector at St. Michael Episcopal Church in Dallas. We celebrated his 12 year tenure here with a beautiful service and goodbye party in early June. Right before Fr. Ken’s departure, St. Thomas hired Kathleen Bean (at that point a Deacon) to be our Associate Rector – a position we have long thought about filling. Kathleen and our Deacon Wayne Schmidt were ordained by Bishop Brian Thom to the priesthood at St. Thomas in early July, and our Interim Rector, Rob Gieselman joined us in mid-August. The church has been running smoothly under the leadership of Rob and Kathleen as well as the hard work of our talented staff.

In October the search process for our next rector began under the guidance of the Search Committee chair, Heather Black, and her excellent committee. As part of the preparation for our new rector, it was decided that the rectory was in sore need of a major remodel. An open house was held at the rectory in early July so that our church members could see the situation for themselves. Every person that I heard from was in agreement that this remodel was long overdue. As one builder said, this 40 plus year old house had lived out its life.

Interior demolition and reconstruction of the rectory began in October with the work scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2020. The project is in the competent hands of our contractor and church member Tim Carter of Idaho Mountain Builders with interior design by Allison Paige. Work is overseen by a Construction Committee and Design Committee. The official launch of the Capital Campaign to fund this project will take place at the Annual Meeting.

Other preparations as we get ready to welcome our new rector include restructuring the church offices to better accommodate our growing staff. Both of our priests absolutely need a private space for conversations and work. Research is being done to see how best to remedy the space situation as simply as possible. We hope to have this project completed this winter.

2020 will be an exciting year for all of us at St. Thomas as we await the arrival of our new rector and enjoy our prayer and fellowship together, perhaps sampling one or more of the different worship opportunities and ministries aside from Sunday services. I realize that it may seem that we are asking much of you financially, and we are. However, this is the year that we prepare to have all in order for our new rector (and perhaps family). We want to offer this new rector the best that we can, and it is costing money to do so. We have not had a capital campaign in 20 years, at which time our church was expanded and remodeled; but we are all enjoying the fruits of that campaign. Now it is our turn to undertake these capital projects as we prepare for the future.

I write this report with much thanks to our clergy, staff, and Vestry as well as the many committees who do so much to make St. Thomas the vibrant church that it is.

from previous page

- he reported the good news that income was up (actual vs. budget) and expenses were down and that there was a healthy pledge level for future revenue.
- he presented the proposed 2019 budget, pointing out the two new staff positions (Children’s Ministry Director and Sexton) and that there were some staff salary adjustments but no raises for 2019.
- since the Vestry had moved (by approving the budgets), Art Dahl seconded that the proposed Operating Budget and the Playhouse Budget for 2019 be adopted. The motion passed.

The Rector’s Cross was presented to Becky Smith for her remarkable service to the church, serving as a loving and loyal parishioner for many years.

There being no further business, Fr. Ken asked Joel Bejot to lead all gathered in the Doxology.

Art Dahl moved and Jima Rice seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by acclamation and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi Fuller, Clerk
Dear St. Thomas Family,

In August, when I first arrived in the valley, I expected to find a strong and dynamic parish, well-managed - and so you are. The Bishop's canon, Lucinda Ashby, had advised me, “Your charge is not to fix the parish. It isn’t broken. Rather, we would like you to hold St. Thomas together - as it is - until a new rector is called.”

Simple enough, I thought to myself, with visions of sugarplums and snowboarding dancing in my head. Indeed, you have made my job easy, for all the reasons Canon Lucinda hinted at, and then some. Yes, Father Ken’s departure left gaps in the St. Thomas ministry palette; so did the departure of parish stalwarts like Todd and Georgia Stewart. Yet, so many of you have stepped forward to fill these gaps by continuing vital ministries, and even expanding them. Thank you.

The one area of church work that, candidly, Canon Lucinda suspected might be the area you might be hesitant to tackle is administration - and certainly not because administration is weak. To the contrary, Father Ken and Judi Fuller have administered St. Thomas quite capably. Rather, the reason Canon Lucinda was concerned is exactly because the St. Thomas administration is run so efficiently. From a canonical (church law) viewpoint, administration is the vestry’s primary job, not the rector’s, and Canon Lucinda hoped that, during this interim period, the St. Thomas vestry would assume full ownership of administration, even as so much of it is being handled well.

In fact, your vestry has stepped forward to assume responsibility for administration, and will continue to do so, assisted so capably by Judi. When new vestry members are impanelled in February, my plan is to connect each vestry member with an administrative and/or ministry aspect of the parish, so that when your new rector arrives later in the year, that person will have the freedom to manage ministry first, and administration second.

And, my impression is that you are quite comfortable with your clergy offering a strong spiritual ministry. I think here of the recent addition of Kathleen as your Associate Rector, and her work with Sister Joyst, Taize, the Labyrinth and other worship-planning activities (Sacred Space), and so many other ministries. You may have noticed what fun Kathleen and I have working together, the genuine appreciation and respect we have for each other. We are enjoying a tandem ministry, although as the new year dawns (I am writing this report on December 31), I see our work diverging in important ways.

Kathleen will continue working with the ministries listed above, plus provide pastoral care for parishioners, as needed. Also, she intends to form a second women’s group early this year, and I have asked her to tackle several other ministries, such as the formation and coordination of a more intentional new member ministry (a/k/a Welcome Committee).

Personally, my work expectation for the balance of my time with you is to manage those areas of ministry and responsibility that will fall naturally to your next rector, such as overseeing pastoral care, managing staff, working with the vestry, helping with adult education, planning worship, and aiding worship groups (altar guild, music, ushers, etc.), and fight fires, as necessary.

Beyond these typical responsibilities, I also have three goals in mind. First, I intend to continue to restore the act of Sunday worship to its center by assuring that all aspects of worship comply with prayer book norms. For example, you will notice a simple alteration to the lector’s phrase spoken following Scripture readings at the 9:30 service. Instead of saying, “Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people”, the lector will now say, “The Word of the Lord”, as called for in the prayer book.
Second, you may have noticed an effort to de-clutter and simplify the worship space. Your staff and I have done this in order to return the space to its original architectural simplicity to the extent possible. We’ve simplified other areas of worship, as well, eliminating some embellishments and reigning-in announcements.

For both the first and second goals, my intent is to provide your next rector a simplified baseline from which he or she can expand and develop worship and ministry with you.

Third, you will, over the coming months, experience several new worship and other practices. We are implementing these practices to broaden the congregation’s worship experience and to help the congregation adapt to worship change - as your new rector will be excited to introduce you to new ideas. A recent example is the use of Rite II during Epiphany for the 8 a.m. service.

I hope you can tell from our services that I believe worship can and should be both joyous and often fun - a celebration in which we connect earth to heaven and heaven to earth.

On a more of a somber note, the one area of work that needs your attention is stewardship. You called Kathleen as your first associate rector this summer, and as we all know, she is a natural and wonderful gift to St. Thomas. More-over, given the expense of living in the valley, having such a priest at your doorstep, ready to serve, is a true gift. Yet, it is a gift that comes with a price: eleven percent. An eleven percent increase in pledging is the additional cost of having an associate rector, but it is also an important investment in your future - an investment that is already yielding a healthy spiritual and membership result. However, not nearly enough families increased their 2020 pledges over 2019. If you are able to do so, would you consider increasing your pledge to help stage a strong future for St. Thomas?

Meanwhile, I am enjoying watching you as a congregation planning expectantly for your next rector. Your search committee is working especially hard - and will update you as they are able. Rebecca Waycott, as your Senior Warden, is effectively a one-person capital campaign team, assisted ably by Tom Benson, your treasurer. They, with your vestry, anticipate launching a capital campaign at the annual meeting, on January 26. You’ve heard all along that the purpose of the capital campaign is to raise money for rectory improvements, but that description is inadequately narrow. The broader purpose is not just rectory improvements, but setting the stage for the next phase of your church life. Yes, the largest portion of capital funds will restore the outdated rectory, but a modest portion of funds will help reconfigure office spaces to accommodate your associate rector, and to fund interim expenses. The campaign kicks off now, at the annual meeting, and your help is needed. I’ve already donated, and I ask you to do the same.

While we are talking about money, let me observe how often it seems as though churches ask for support. For those of you who have two homes and worship in both towns, you are asked for financial support from two churches. On the other hand, most Episcopal churches, St. Thomas included, carry little or no debt. These parishes do not carry debt because generous parishioners in past generations built and paid for the facilities we now enjoy. Every so often, current worshippers are asked to do their part, to build or restore facilities for the upcoming generation. It is our way of saying, “Thank you”, to those who came before us. I hope you will join your vestry and me by being as generous as you can with both with stewardship and the capital campaign.

I cannot express adequately how much I enjoy being here with you, and, as you might expect, I am enjoying the valley (and mountains) just as much. Each and every time I step into the quiet of the wilderness, I feel the tangible presence of God. When a mountain breeze blows against my neck, I know it as the breath of God. And when I spot an elk or deer or coyote, I am astounded at the handiwork of the Creator. Thank you for letting me join you here in this special and sacred place.

Peace and 2020 blessings,
Rob
Twenty years ago, when my husband and I bought a sheep ranch near Craters of the Moon, I could not have imagined how God would direct my path in such a way that I would be called to serve as your first Associate Rector! But such is the goodness of God. It was a joy to be ordained to the priesthood on July 8th here at St. Thomas along with my seminary classmate Wayne Hedberg Schmidt, who was raised up by this parish.

I was privileged to serve as the bridge during the summer months between Ken’s departure and the arrival of our Interim Priest, Rob, officiating and preaching each week and assuming new duties, particularly in the area of pastoral care.

The Associate Rector not only serves a liturgical role, preaching and celebrating in rotation with other clergy, but also provides additional capacity to support lay ministries and launch new initiatives, all with a goal of offering more opportunities for people to grow in faith and take that faith out into the world. My focus is offering more worship and spiritual growth opportunities for this diverse community, with a special emphasis on women and families.

To that end, in October we launched a new ministry for women, designed especially for moms of school age children. “Sister Joyst” ("sistering" is a carpentry term for strengthening a sagging beam with two more beams) meets every Wednesday morning at 8:15 a.m. for centering prayer and reflection on selected readings or topics. Thanks to Sara Gorby and Liz Hickey for their faithful support of and participation in this ministry.

Faithful to the vision of St. Thomas as a village church and a place that welcomes families, some of my plans for 2020 include offering another contemplative gathering for women of all ages, interfaith Labyrinth walks, a new summertime creation-centered worship service, and gathering a newcomer welcome committee.

One highlight of the year was blessing the sheep at Trailing, alongside Rob and Rabbi Robbi Sherwin (see below).

I am so grateful for the generous mentoring of Ken Brannon and Rob Giselmann and the warm welcome I’ve received from this wonderful church community and my fellow staffers. What a gift it is to be with you all!

Peace,

Kathleen+
The committee tasked with finding the next rector of St. Thomas church has been at work since October, taking measured and deliberate steps with assistance from The Rev. Canon Neysa Ellgren Shepley of the Diocese of Oregon and with general oversight from Bishop Brian Thom of Idaho. The search committee is made up of the following members: Heather Black, chair; Sabrina Roblin, chaplain; Tom Archie; Tom Benson; Gretchen Boe; David Caldwell; LeeAnne Linderman; Sylvia Miller; Sara Pettit; Ann Scales and Sandor Szombathy.

In the fall the committee worked with multiple formats to obtain feedback from its parishioners, through an online survey, in person discussions, and listening sessions. Questions such as “Why do you come to St. Thomas/What makes it special?” and “What are your hopes for St. Thomas going forward?” were among a number of questions posed. Much fruitful information was culled from these discussions and the committee feels it has a good sense of our parishioner’s priorities. This will prove helpful as we assemble our parish profile, and again as the interview process takes place in the spring and early summer.

At this time, the committee is meeting to build our parish profile. This is a document that will outline:

- the parish’s resources of human talent and commitment,
- its programs of worship and ministries, outreach, strategic plans and finances, education and fellowship,
- and its vision and hopes for the future.

The intent is to show prospective candidates all that our church is and hopes to be to see if their needs and personal mission align with ours and to encourage them to apply.

Once the profile is assembled, there will be a link on the St. Thomas website to this document (though we will also have some hard copies available). There will also be additional links to other pertinent information on the St. Thomas website that should prove informative to any potential applicant. Once all relevant information is assembled, we will move into the next phase of placing ads and sorting through applications. This will be done in conjunction with our consultant and our bishop.

We plan to have the parish profile and related information completed by the end of February, if not before. The advertising and collecting of applications process will begin at that point. The interview process will get underway once applications begin to arrive and is expected to take five to six months to complete.

The committee continues to ask for your prayers as we go through this search process. You can offer your own prayer or you can use the following to help us in our work:

“Gracious and loving God, please help us discern your desire as we call a rector who will show us the wonders of more fully becoming your disciples, who will walk the difficult roads with us, and lead us closer to your Kingdom. Keep us committed to one another in the task, and give us strength and perseverance to listen to your guidance and to the people of this church. Fill us with your joy and grace in the task. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.”
Treasurer’s Report

The overall financial condition of St. Thomas remains strong due to the continued generosity of our members and the financial discipline of our leadership, staff and volunteers.

2019 financial performance was impacted by several factors not anticipated at the time the 2019 budget was prepared.

1. Rector Expenses – The gap in time between Father Ken’s departure in June and Father Rob’s hiring as Interim Rector in August resulted in a positive budget variance of $22,800.
2. Associate Rector Expenses – The hiring of Kathleen Bean as our Associate Rector in July was not budgeted and resulted in a negative budget variance of $30,900.
3. Compensation Costs – Church staff costs were $26,300 below budget as the expected hiring of a sexton did not occur. Instead this individual continued to work as an outside contractor resulting in a $18,500 negative variance in Church Operating Expenses.
4. Snow Removal and Lawn Care Costs – These expense categories were a combined $9,800 over budget due to the record snowfall last winter.
5. St Thomas Playhouse (STP) – STP’s net deficit for the year which we account for a Ministry Outside the Congregation Expense was $26,700 higher than budget due to lower than anticipated enrollment in certain STP programs and a less successful annual fundraising campaign.
6. Assessable Income – Plate and pledge offerings and unpledged grants combined were $43,600 below budget. To offset this shortfall $38,000 of the annual anonymous grant of $47,000 was recognized as Assessable Income versus the $20,000 assumed in the budget. The remaining $9,000 of this gift has been deposited to our Unrestricted Endowment Account. Also $10,400 was transferred into the operating account from Other Fund Balances.
7. The 2019 Net Operating Loss was $1,100 versus a budgeted Net Operating Profit of $9,100.

2020 Budget Highlights

1. The 2020 budget includes a full year of costs for the Associate Rector (additional $36,000), an increase in hours worked for our Children’s Ministry and Electronic Media Coordinators (additional $20,000), annual cost of living adjustments for staff and a smaller net deficit at STP ($32,000 improvement).
2. The 2020 budget assumes that these expense increases will be funded by higher pledge offerings and additional transfers from Other Fund Balances resulting in 2020 Net Operating Profit of $100.

Fund Balances - as of December 31, 2019

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<td>Families</td>
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<td>Haiti (total)</td>
<td>4,636.81</td>
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¹The Spending Policy for St. Thomas Endowment Fund authorizes an annual distribution of monies from the Fund equal three percent (3.0%) of the most-recent three-year moving average of the market value of the Fund as calculated as of December 31 each year. Monies so determined (the “Annual Distribution”) may be transferred, in whole or in part, to the Operating Account(s) of St. Thomas Church for any purpose as approved by the Vestry. From time-to-time, the Vestry may determine that any or all of the Annual Distribution is not required for operating purposes and, therefore, is not to be transferred to the Operating Account(s) (the “Non-Transferred Annual Distribution”). Any such Non-Transferred Annual Distribution shall be reinvested in the Fund.

²The Anonymous Grant (Line 4527) is a gift we receive each summer in the amount of $47,000. This annual donation is part of a twenty-year, one million dollar gift begun in 2009. There are no restrictions on the use of this money, although the vestry prefers to place it in long-term funds when possible. 2020 will be the 12th year of this grant.
## St. Thomas Playhouse

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<tr>
<td>Net</td>
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## St. Thomas Church Operating Fund

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2019 IN REVIEW

Junior Warden Report
by Brad Musbach

2019 was an enjoyable and interesting year as Junior Warden.

♦ When Father Ken announced his departure last spring, we decided it was time to address the condition of the Rectory. After many discussions with housing experts representing multiple fields, we formulated our plans over the summer and began work last fall. We have been blessed with a smooth process thus far and are currently on schedule to complete the project by July 1st. I would like to thank David Caldwell, Craig Johnston, Tim Carter, Allison Paige, Liz Hickey, and especially Rebecca Waycott for their contributions. Rebecca’s commitment and expertise has been invaluable and working with her has been a pleasure.

♦ Another major project from last year was a redesign and replacement of the Church Boiler System.

♦ Smaller projects included the replacement of the bathroom light switches with motion sensors and the refinishing of the teak furniture on the downstairs patio.

Work is underway on carpeting the choir loft stairs, reworking the sound system, and issues of church security.

Parish Register
2019

MARRIAGES

July 6, 2019  Mary Jane Bauter and Craig Turner Peterson
July 27, 2019  Betty Griffith Cox and David Shelby Cronin
February 24, 2018  Whitney Hayes Bren and Peter Joseph Hughes
August 31, 2019  Katie Viola and Austin Pitzer
September 14, 2019  Blair Charlotte Belling and Charles Edward Strickland
December 7, 2019  Katherine Hillyer Weihe and Eric Andrew Dobbie

BAPTISMS

March 3, 2019  Quinn Aibhlinn Jameson  Born: August 6, 2018
March 3, 2019  Avery Sutton Jameson  Born: August 6, 2018
April 20, 2019  Lynne Marie Nicholson  Adult
August 11, 2019  James August Patton  Born: August 15, 2018

CONFIRMATIONS, RECEPTION, REAFFIRMATIONS

October 27, 2019  Maunsel Carter Stephens Hickey  Confirmed
October 27, 2019  Lynne Marie Nicholson  Confirmed
October 27, 2019  Elaine Ruth Houston Phillips  Confirmed
October 27, 2019  Michael Thomas Phillips  Confirmed

BURIALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES

January 23, 2019  James Whitney  Departed: January 12, 2019
January 26, 2019  Robert “Ben” Bradshaw  Departed: January 7, 2019
June 3, 2019  Frederic S. “Tony” Mabbatt  Departed: February 9, 2019
July 25, 2019  Mary Sandra Mckew  Departed: July 18, 2019
August 9, 2019  Ruth M. Lieder  Departed: July 15, 2019
The US stock market finished 2019 with the best annual return since 2013. Last year was brutal on returns and it was nice to see a cyclical recovery that impacted our portfolio positively. The S&P was up 31.5%, the Russell 2000 was up 25.5% and the broad bond market was up 8.7%.

The St. Thomas Endowment shared in the gains in the overall markets increasing from $452,074 to $527,738 without any withdrawals. This is without the Operating Reserve and Capital Fund that is primarily invested in short term fixed income vehicles.

Our US stocks matched the S&P 500 index with a 31.5% gain, while being diversified, and the fixed income portfolio increased 7.6%. Since our Asset Allocation is a conservative target of 60% Equities and 40% Fixed Income, our total return for 2020 was 16.7%, behind our benchmark of 18.5%. The difference was due to both the Inflation Protection portfolio and the Bond portfolio maturity structure that is not as long as the index.

Our portfolio is managed by Clear Rock Capital with oversight by the Investment Committee that has structured the Asset Allocation to help mitigate risk and provide long term total return potential.

Note: St. Thomas has three investment accounts:
1. The Endowment Account - monies held with severe limitations on use
2. The Unrestricted Endowment Account - monies held with no restriction on withdrawal but intended for major capital expenses
3. The Cash Reserve Account - short term invested monies to be used as needed for operations

The theme of this year’s Stewardship Campaign was “Shining Our Light”. Most of our members participated and did just that, donating to a wonderful cause that does so much good in our lives and in our community. Your generosity illuminates our Church because it enables St. Thomas to continue and expand its mission.

As of the date of this report we have raised $512,074 in pledges which assures that we will be able to comfortably continue all our activities in 2019. It represents 97% of our goal.

In terms of donors, 169 families and individuals have made pledges. Unfortunately this is a dip from last year, when 183 families pledged. The good news is that we have an opportunity to exceed our monetary goal by a significant margin if we can get the number of pledgers up to last year. If you haven’t yet pledged, I urge you to do so as soon as you can and support all the good work St. Thomas does in the community.

Our Committee this year consisted of Laurie Ahern, Christine Kraatz, Mary Colhoun, Karen Robideaux, Thomas Benson, Patience Ziebarth, and me, with Judi Fuller providing her customary invaluable administrative assistance and Father Rob providing his vision, leadership and encouragement. This proved to be a very successful team and I am sure the Congregation is most appreciative of their efforts. Special thanks to Tom Benson for his wonderful remarks on stewardship at services during the Campaign.

It was an honor to serve as Committee Chair this year. The Congregation made our job easy. All the Committee has to do is ask (and occasionally remind) and our members enthusiastically respond. We have a wonderful church community that people feel strongly connected to and want to support.

Thank you again for shining bright and supporting St. Thomas’ mission.
St. Thomas Church is home to an open Book Club which welcomes readers from the entire Wood River Valley community. Members do not need to be St. Thomas parishioners to attend. This ministry has a substantial outreach in our valley. There are some 55 plus members on the email list who attend when they are in town with no RSVP required. Our meetings are often attended by 15-20 members. Friends are always welcome. We choose both fiction and nonfiction books and take turns leading wide-ranging discussions. Every meeting is begun with a prayer written by longtime parishioner, Ann Taugher, asking for a healthy discussion and understanding of differing points of view.

Some selections for 2020 are:
2/10 Bitterbrush Country by Diane Peavey
3/9 One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow by Olivia Hawker
4/13: America’s First Daughter by Stephanie Day and Laura Kamoie
5/11: Ordinary Grace by William Kent Kruger
6/8: The Dutch House by Ann Patchett
Please contact Laurie Ahern for any questions: lahern1681@gmail.com or 208-622-3939.

It is the job of the Altar Guild members to attend to all the “behind-the-scenes” tasks that make our church services run smoothly, thus providing a meaningful worship experience for all. We are the priest’s liturgical partner. We work in pairs, preparing the altar for all services, including Baptisms and Weddings and Funerals.

We have a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers. Thank you all: Betsy Ashton, Beverly Boas, Lynn Campion Waddell, Catherine Carley, Vickrie Cutler, Lise Holt, Barbara Shelton, Mary Ann Sym's, Chris Vik, and Patience Ziebarth. Welcome to our newest members, Mary Colhoun, Sheila Witmer and Karen Robideaux.

We are always looking for new members to join us in this meaningful work. If this kind of service to St. Thomas appeals to you, please contact Mary Malkmus at 208-622-3949.

As acolyte scheduler and trainer for the past 5 years, I would like to give a huge round of applause to the parishioners who have served this very important ministry. Their commitment and enthusiasm demonstrates a true community spirit that St. Thomas strives for. My thanks go to Heather Black, Ragna Caron, Dydy and Doug Cleven, Carter Hedberg Schmidt, Ida Belle Gorby, Carter Hickey, Bob Kesting, Mike Leach, Mary Malkmus, Helen Morgus, Ann Scales, Mary Ann and Chris Sym's, Phebe Thorne, and Lilly Whitesell. All of you serve faithfully and continue to be there at any time to make sure the calendar is covered. My thanks to each and every one of you.

Acolytes serve during regular Sunday services at 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. We also serve at Evensong, holy day services, funeral and memorial services.

This past September, Rob Gieselmann and Kathleen Bean hosted an acolyte training at St. Thomas. At that time, we welcomed new members to the “Fire and Bell Gang.” Our new members are Eavan Brown, Karley Johnston, and Lizzie Loving. We all received a refresher course and had a great question and answer session. This training was well-attended and appreciated by all.

Rob, Kathleen, and I always encourage new members to this most important ministry. If you feel that you can commit to one Sunday a month to serve at God’s table, this could be your opportunity to give of yourself to a ministry that is so rewarding.

I hope that all members of the congregation will consider this opportunity. Never too young, never too old!!! You may contact me at mardi.shepard@gmail.com, 208-720-7631, or call the parish office, 208-726-5349.
Community Labyrinth
by Maryanne Whitcomb & Kathleen Bean

In 2001, members of St. Thomas, the W.R. Jewish Community, and others worked together to fund and build the labyrinth that graces the upper patio of the church today. The design is identical to that laid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France around the 13th century.

In the summer of 2018, the labyrinth was repaired and repainted by the contractor who did the original work. Annual maintenance, to negate the effects of intense sun and freezing winter conditions, will continue to be an ongoing challenge for the labyrinth committee.

During 2019, the labyrinth was highlighted publicly in two new ways:

♦ During the evening hours of October 3rd, Rev. Kathleen, joined by other interfaith clergy leaders, led an “Interfaith Labyrinth Walk.” The invitation was issued community-wide, mentors were in attendance to offer orientation and guidance, and Ellen Sanders offered contemplative cello music to add to the beauty of the evening.

♦ The Winter Taize services this year also chose to highlight the labyrinth by temporarily lighting its surface on Wednesdays in the late afternoons. The media publicity then made invitations to the community members to walk the labyrinth, quietly and privately, prior to the services beginning at 5:30 p.m. The beautiful glow of the solar lights has enticed some walkers to brave the cold temperatures!

We plan to offer several community labyrinth walks during the summer and fall of 2020. If you are interested in joining the committee to assist in the planning and offerings please contact: Kathleen at kathleen.bean@stthomassunvalley.org.

Adult Education Committee
by Don Liebich, Chair

The 2018 Adult Education program began with a number of sessions coordinated with the Sun Valley Center for the Arts Big Idea Project entitled “This Land is Whose Land” which focused on immigration and refugees. As part of this series we had a forum conversation with the Wood River Jewish Community on the “Diary of Anne Frank.”

Asmaa Albukaie, a Syrian American woman, shared her travel journey to the United States, reflected on life in Syria, and described her experiences living in Idaho. St. Thomas Forum had a two-part series entitled “Give Me Your Tired and Poor” in which we examined U.S. immigration policy: current status, policy choices and ethical issues. We also had a session in which we discussed what we learned from considering the theme of “This Land is Whose Land” and how we are called to act in response.

Other programs included three sessions on the experience of pilgrimage. Rev. Bill Harper led a session on Travel: Pilgrim or Tourist; Brenda Powell discussed her pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago and Devra Mary discussed her pilgrimage to Kumano Codo in Japan.

During the summer, we were fortunate to have Irwin Sentilles return to lead a series of lectures on “First Century Views of Jesus.” We also had a class on “Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?”

We are looking forward to another series of interesting, thought provoking and spiritually enhancing programs. Jim Rice and Don Liebich have been coordinating this ministry. If you are interested in participating or have suggestions for future topics, please contact either one.
**Columbarium**  
by Heather Black

The committee, comprised of Beverly Boas, Sally Horn, Heather Black, Gretchen Boe, and Carolyn Wicklund, with oversight from interim priest, Rob Gieselmann, administers the maintenance and use of the Columbarium and recommends policy to the vestry. The committee meets twice a year, in June and October. Members serve a three-year term. There were no retirements from the committee this past year.

As of December 31, 2019, the balance in the Columbarium Fund was $30,747.03. An additional unit of 64 niches was installed in 2019. That brings the total number of regular niches available to 46; currently niches are priced at $1,000. There are 9 niches available for customized urns which may be currently purchased for $2,000. There are 13 name plates available on the Memorial Board; these are currently available at $300 each. When the name plates are filled on the existing board, the committee will install an additional Memorial Board which has already been purchased. Once a Columbarium space has been reserved and purchased, there is no additional expense or annual maintenance fees. All purchases are non-refundable. Prices will be increased on March 1, 2020 (nameplate $500, niche $1500, customized niches $2,500.)

In the fall of 2019, a sign with the word “Columbarium” on it, was purchased and will be affixed to the arched entry into the Columbarium space in the spring. This purchase was made as many people are unaware of the Columbarium’s location.

The date for this year’s “Hole in the Wall Gang” celebration is yet to be determined, but is expected to again be held in July. This gathering is meant to be a celebration of life party for those who currently have purchased niches or name-plates. Please visit the columbarium which is being maintained beautifully and seasonally by Beverly Boas. All members of the committee are available to review the process for reservations or to answer any questions.

**Eucharistic Visitors**  
by Bobbie Dahl

Last fall was a time of change for the Eucharistic Visitor Ministry. Georgia Stewart moved to California, and Helen Morgus and Mardi Shepard joined our team.

On November 3, 2019, Rob Gieselmann and Bobbie Dahl trained and certified both Helen and Mardi to be Eucharistic Visitors. At the same time, Bobbie Dahl, Connie Hoffman, Pat Jorgensen and Maryanne Whitcomb received recertification.

We, together with our St. Thomas priests, Rob and Kathleen, conduct a short service and give Home Communion to those homebound parishioners who have asked us to. Eucharistic Visitors gave communion 98 times in 2019.

During the visits, we unpack our little black box, which contains a linen cloth that delineates our temporary communion table, a container of consecrated wafers and a cruets and chalice for the consecrated wine.

Once a month, at the 9:30 service, the black box is placed on the altar. Toward the end of the service the Rob picks up the box and calls all Eucharistic Visitors in attendance to come forward for a blessing.

Maryanne Whitcomb kindly took over the chair of the ministry from May - August while Bobbie was away.
MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Flower Guild
by Betsy Ashton

Our Flower Guild provides two altar arrangements every Sunday except during Advent and Lent. We also provide special arrangements and displays at Christmas and Easter. We bought new garlands with lights for Christmas this year and used more live greens, wreaths, and white poinsettias in the Nave, red poinsettias in the Narthex. I hope everyone approved of our changes.

The Flower Guild is able to provide fresh flowers because of the very generous donations from our congregation. Donations are made throughout the year for memorials for which dedications are made in the Sunday bulletins.

We have a very dedicated group of volunteers that happily enhance the weekly services. Our members are: Becky Smith, Chris Vik, Christina Culver, Dookie Tingue, John Stevens, Laurie Ahern, Liz Hickey, Lynn Campion-Waddell, Mary Colhoun, Mary Malkmus, Page Klune, Pat Davies, Patience Ziebarth, Randi Filoon, Sandra Willingham, Sheila Witmer, and Vickrie Cutler. New members are always welcome. Contact me at taadah@ashton.fm or 208-309-5092.

Green Team
by Mary Malkmus

The Green Team is a St. Thomas ministry that endeavors to advocate, educate and articulate protection of the environment. The Team intends to develop ministries and projects that are faithful and effective in promoting environmental stewardship and the sanctity of creation.

This year we celebrated Earth Sunday with special songs and prayers. In Adult Education Rev. Bean led a discussion on “Food and Faith”. The children made prayer cloths which were proudly flown at the Church entrance. We held two successful highway clean-ups with our friends from Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Hailey. We now have a “Trout Friendly” lawn! We also had two “Bike/Bus/Walk/Carpool to Church Days”. We have reordered our sturdy “Reduce, Reuse Recycle” St. Thomas tote bags. They are available in the office for the cost of production. Junior Warden, Brad Musbach, came to a meeting to discuss what can be done to make the Church and Rectory more environmentally friendly. During the month of September, we again celebrated the Season of Creation, along with people of faith around the world. Each Sunday we offered prayers of thanks for God’s gift of creation and for the courage to be good environmental stewards.

For Adult Ed we showed the film “Tapped” about the bottled water industry. We hope you appreciate (and make use of) our Service booklet Green tips.

Many thanks to the faithful members of this Ministry: Linda Bergerson, Red Bloedel, Susie King, Marylyn Pauley, Patty Sloan, Richard Waycott, Pat Davies, Suzy Orb, Molly! Goodyear, and Rev. Kathleen Bean.

We try to meet once a month...for only 1 hour! Come join the fun!! Call Mary Malkmus at (208) 622-3949.

Garden & Grounds
by Kaye Kearns

The winter of 2019 was very hard on the St. Thomas gardens. The weight from the heavy snows broke or damaged many branches and woody shrubs. However, when spring finally arrived, the garden came back and filled in beautifully! The summer was glorious and all the plants and shrubs continued to flush out and provide weeks of enjoyment.

As always, it takes many hands and tools to maintain the gardens. We have wonderful volunteers who keep it looking beautiful with their time and skill. I am so grateful for the time and dedication of our volunteers: Betsy Ashton, Margie Gould, Sally Horn, Mary Malkmus, Helen Morgus, Mardi Shepard, Lynn Whittlesey and Sheila Witmer. Thank You!

Shawl Committee
by Pat Jorgensen

Our first shawl was completed and delivered to Marc Oliver twelve years ago this January. Since then we have created and delivered well over 200 shawls. We have a committed group of knitters but we are always looking for new members.

We meet at 4:00 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month in the Fireside Room. The shawls are knitted and delivered to members of our congregation to show God’s love and caring while they are experiencing special needs or events in their lives.

The words of thanks and appreciation are so rewarding and it is obvious each recipient feels “knit together” with our warmth and love. Come and join us and if you have any questions call Pat Jorgensen at 208-726-8302.
A new year has begun, bringing old and new things. The old is that I am stepping down after three years as Chair. The new is that we have two ladies, Lisa Strait and Pat Molinari, taking over the responsibilities. They both have been on the committee for a year and will do an excellent job.

It has been both fun and a learning experience for me to head the committee. However, I could never have done this without the wonderful help and support from the committee members; Carolyn Wicklund, Suzie Pearson, Dydy Cleven, Dell-Ann Benson, Shirley Tallackson, Lisa Strait, Pat Molinari, and Christina Cernansky. Thank you so much! Judi, you were always so helpful and made things easy, thanks!

Many events took place in 2019. Here are some of the highlights:

- The Annual Church Meeting and Brunch in January.
- Pentecost celebrated with red cup cakes provided by the Youth Group and other yummies by Hospitality.
- Together with the Vestry we hosted a farewell reception for Father Ken and his family in June. The weather was nice and warm in the early evening and the send-off party took place on the patio.
- In July Kathleen Bean and Wayne Schmidt were ordained priests by Bishop Brian Thom. A special reception on the patio followed the service.
- In August a big crowd gathered at Sheila Witmer’s beautiful home for the Annual Church Picnic.
- We welcomed Rob Gieselmann, our interim priest, in August with a special coffee hour on the patio.
- A send-off coffee hour was organized for Lucinda Ashby on her last visit to St. Thomas before she left Idaho to become the Bishop of the Diocese of El Camino Real in California.
- Bishop Brian came in late October for his annual visitation. Hospitality hosted a special coffee hour including his favorite “pigs in a blanket”.

It has been a turbulent year in Haiti, and as we start the New Year we are ever mindful of the many blessings that you St. Thomas Parishioners and the Haiti Relief Team have made possible for the Haitian children we serve. For that, we send a heartfelt "Thank You."

We started off 2019 with a community dinner at the Community School in April, working together with the teachers and children there and from Hemingway Steam School our own Ida Belle Gorby. All were invited to "Come and See" and it included a Haitian dinner cooked by our HaRT ministry and a slide show of pictures of our 2018 trip to Mirebalais, Haiti. We made $1900.00, about 40 people attended, and we all had a good time.

Next, in May we had our Annual Haiti Micah Sunday where HaRT puts on a Haitian coffee hour and we have an adult education about the Haiti Micah Project. This is where St. Thomas Parishioners generously donate to child sponsorships or to education. In 2019 we totaled $14,354.

In December, the Haiti Relief Team put on another Coffee Hour which raised $855. We have been able to send $2000 from our Relief Account to assist them. Thank you to everyone for participating to help others.

Haitians are suffering every day from political unrest, high food prices, inflated currency, and fuel shortages. Throughout the country, civil unrest has shut down normal commerce. Because of safety concerns, schools in Mirebalais have been closed for several weeks, and our daily meal program has been temporarily suspended.

The good news is that the children, under the care of the Haiti Micah Project, are safe and healthy. We owe much to the dedicated Haitian staff in Mirebalais who have braved the dangers of the streets to assure that the children have food and necessities. Tutors have been hired for the children in their homes to maintain their schooling. These social and economic difficulties underscore the importance of our work and give added purpose to our ministry together.
Music Ministry
by Joel Bejot

Music Director:
Over the course of each service, an average of 19 musicians have sung or played with us. This is well over 10% of our average attendance, which is a great place to be. Much of our growth was due to additional bell-ringers, instrumentalists, and larger choral events. THANK YOU to all who sing or play for God at St. Thomas. Are you our next musician?

Organist:
In 2019, I played for 72 Eucharist services (including weddings and funerals), and 22 other services. I practice regularly, and have been learning a lot of new music written by women. Stay tuned for a recital announcement!

Choirs and Other Services:
Parish Choir: We have done great work this year! In addition to singing hymns and anthems nearly every week, the choir sang the Fauré “Requiem” on All Saints’ Sunday. I am always happy to meet and encourage new singers.

RSCM Choirs: We have had a great year so far. We have two groups of kids, divided by age. We use the RSCM “Voice for Life” curriculum. These kids learn so much, and have so much to offer the church and the community. I always look for ways to collaborate with those around our state and area, and last week’s visiting choir was an example of that.

Evensong Choir: We offer evensong on the 3rd or 4th Sunday of the month at 5:30 April – December. Our little choir worked on a lot of great music. Three different priests and laypeople officiated the service on a rotating basis.

Handbell Choir: We still have a set of Malmark Handbells borrowed from St. Michael’s Cathedral in Boise. We have 9 ringers that meet on a regular basis, and they ring in church about once a month.

Other Services:
Sacred Space: In January, we resumed a new service entitled “Sacred Space.” The service was led by a few singers and myself. The service was characterized by Bible readings, poetry, lectio divina group homilies, and less formal music.

Taizé: Last year, a few singers and myself helped lead each Taizé service, which added a lovely layer to the music. In December, the service resumed with some returning singers.

St. Thomas Playhouse:
I supported a couple of the numbers at the Girlfriend Lunch. For Company B #1, I was the Music Director. And, for the fall show, I played and adapted the piano part with the small orchestra.

Other:
In February, we produced a talent show for Shrove Tuesday.
In July, I attended the Association of Anglican Musicians Conference in Boston. It was amazing.
In December, I led an Adult Ed hour on the lack of women’s voices in our hymnody, and what we might begin to do about it.

We can't do it without your support. Because of you, they are able to feed the hungry, house the homeless, love the unloved, and educate fertile minds.

While Haiti’s problems sometimes seem intractable, our work through the years has resulted in hundreds of children living healthier and happier lives. Our friend and the President of the Haiti Micah Project, Father Joseph, has put it “The Holy Spirit is at work through our outreach ministry which has benefited so many. There is hope and purpose in our ministry together. The children we nurture today will soon be the adults who will meet Haiti’s future challenges.”

All are invited to sponsor a child and/or to join in the work of HaRT. For more information, Please contact Doug or Dydy Cleven. dydycleven@hotmail.com or (208)720-6219 dougcleven@gmail.com or (208)720-8219
Pastoral Care Team
by Maryanne Whitcomb & Marylyn Pauley

The Pastoral Care Team enjoyed a smooth transition during the summer months - with both Interim Rector, Rob Gieselmann, and Associate Rector, Kathleen Bean, partnering to offer leadership and guidance to the pastoral work of its members.

MISSION STATEMENT - With the goal of coordinating with the various other St. Thomas ministries in carrying out the St. Thomas Core Value Two (Welcome, inclusion, and ongoing care of one another), the pastoral care team began further defining its role as stated in its Mission Statement. The final draft is very near completion and will be publicized early in 2020 via an article in “The Lift”.

TRAINING - In the course of working on the Mission Statement, the Pastoral Care team also made a new commitment to receive quarterly training on key topics, conducted and directed by clergy. In January, the topic planned is “importance and means of maintaining confidentiality in pastoral care”. Other topics being considered include: “scope of pastoral care team members’ outreach and assistance to those we serve”, “community resources available for care” and “the art of listening.”

NEW MEMBERS - Two new members joined the team in 2019: Elaine Phillips and Gretchen Boe. They now join long-time members: Jeanne Cassell, Connie Hoffman, Pat Jorgensen, Marcia Liebich, Marylyn Pauley, Patty Sloan, and Maryanne Whitcomb in offering support and comfort for those in need within the St. Thomas family.

PRAYER CARD – UPDATED - The primary work of the Pastoral Care team continues to be the maintenance of the parish prayer list. Recently, the team moved to update the green “Prayer Request Card”, that is completed when someone is added to the parish prayer list. Two important choices are now featured. The first is in stating how long the person is requesting prayers: 2 weeks, 4 weeks, or indefinitely. The second is the opportunity to request a public listing (named and posted on the bulletin board) or private and not publicly posted. Anyone wishing to add themselves, or a friend or family member, to the prayer list may do so at any time by filling out the afore-mentioned card that can be obtained in the church office. Permission of the person for whom the prayers are requested must always be given in advance. Completed prayer cards should be turned in to Parish Administrator, Judi Fuller.

2020 - The Pastoral Care team is looking forward to working together with the other St. Thomas caring ministries, such as Stephen Ministry, Eucharistic Visitors, the Shawl Committee, and others, in offering Christian care to one another in times of need.

Taizé
by Maryanne Whitcomb

“Taize Prayer” takes its name from the Taize community of France, founded in the early 1940’s by Brother Roger. For more than 60 years, until his death in 2005, Brother Roger worked tirelessly to open ways to heal the divisions between Christians and among people in general.

Taize Services were first held at St. Thomas Church in 1994, based upon the worship style of Taize. The services began this year on the first Wednesday of Advent, December 4th, and will continue into Epiphany, ending on February 19th. Traditionally, Taize is a candlelit meditative service that incorporates repetitive song and chant, scripture reading, prayer, and several periods of group silence. During 2019, two welcome additions were made to the service. One is the invitation for an individual attending to light a small votive candle, on tables near the steps to the altar, just prior to the service as an offering of special prayer. The second new option has been to temporarily light the community labyrinth, located on the upper patio, to enable the attendees to walk prior to the service, should they so choose.

As in years past, the Taize services are led by clergy and laypersons alike and are freely open to any member of the community seeking the solace and comfort of this beautiful meditative experience.
Ushers
by Mike Menser

We now have 16 fulltime ushers who serve our church throughout the year. Our goal as ushers is to welcome all who enter our doors to make them feel welcome and appreciated.

One way we feel we can accomplish this is to have additional female ushers and families to participate as ushers. Nothing warms the heart like young faces greeting you before the service. So, if you are so inclined to join our team please contact Judi or me. The second way we feel we can accomplish our goal is by you continuing to wear your name tags. So often we recognize a face but forget a name. So, wearing your name tag is definitely a help to us seniors. Thirdly, our ushers are providing blue visitor name tags to those who are visiting us so our members can recognize them. So please when you see someone wearing a blue visitor name tag greet them with a friendly smile and a warm hello and introduce yourself and welcome them into our church.

Lector Ministry
by Claudia McCain

How wonderful it is that 25 members of our church family have been through training to act as lectors for our church services! These individuals spend about two hours once every three years to learn about reading the Lessons and Prayers of the People. Their training includes learning about the books of the Bible from which the readings are derived, the Lectionaries, the service Tracks, the specific ways to begin and end a scripture reading, as well as practicing readings.

As I always remind the Lectors during training, what a beautiful gift it is that we have the opportunity to share the word of God through the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles with our church family. We are blessed that so many of our friends volunteer to share their hearts and talent through their reading with our congregation.

Stephen Ministry
by Helen Morgus and Art Dahl

DEFINITION: St. Thomas Stephen Ministry is a group of compassionate parishioners who confidentially help members of the congregation navigate through bumps in life. They receive detailed on-going training and are knowledgeable in a wide variety of community resources and in the skills of Christian compassion.

BACKGROUND: The first group of six St. Thomas Stephen Ministers was trained and commissioned in 2018. With Father Ken making referrals, they were matched with people who requested care. Since then, Stephen Ministers have cared for eleven parishioners.

THE YEAR, 2019: In April, four more people completed training. The team of Stephen Ministers meets bi-monthly for peer supervision and continuing education. Seven are caring for parishioners, and one is available as of this report. Referrals are made through Rob and Kathleen, with support from Helen Morgus.

LOOKING AHEAD, 2020:
- Stephen Ministry will continue to work with other ministries to meet St. Thomas’ Core Value 2: Welcome, inclusion and ongoing care of one another; this work may entail shared trainings in relational skills
- Stephen Ministry will offer the course, Discovering God’s Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts as a five-part Lenten series on Mondays in March
- A new Stephen Minister class will be formed in late summer and begin training in the fall

THE TEAM: Art Dahl, Margie Gould, Don Liebich, Marcia Liebich, Helen Morgus, Sabrina Roblin, Rebecca Waycott, Maryanne Whitcomb and Alyson Witmer

If you could use some help from a Stephen Minister, contact Rob or Kathleen. If you are interested in training or any other aspect of Stephen Ministry, talk to a Stephen Minister. They wear blue name tags on Sundays.
“Equipping young people for lives of value, faith and meaning” is one of the core values of St. Thomas. With this value in mind, we set goals to increase participation and deepen parental engagement.

We have added two new Bibles to our classroom. The Message Devotional Bible features notes and reflections from Eugene H. Peterson and is written in contemporary language. The Live Youth Bible features discussion sections. We have incorporated these Bibles into our Youth Group as a jumping off point for conversations around what is happening in the world, our schools, and in our community. We are still honoring our time by gathering prayers each week. They range from surgery and wellness of family and friends to ‘let it snow!’ The prayers are thoughtful and help us check in with each other.

Youth Group has increased by about 3 on average weekly attendance to 8-10 each week, with some weeks coming in low due to outside activities and summer schedules. The attendance is reflected in youth participation in the worship services (as acolytes, lectors, singers), those attending youth group during the 9:30 service, youth serving as nursery care people and participation in community service opportunities like Ketchum Community Dinners. We are so grateful for the energy young people bring to ministries throughout the church. A new goal for 2020 is to name our Youth Group!

Looking to deepen parental engagement, Kathleen has begun to lead a Wednesday morning mother’s group called Sister Joyst. This time is for reflection, prayers and check in. It is a welcome start to the day in the life of a mother. We look forward to offering a parent-focused adult education and/or a retreat in the future. With the success of the Family Good Friday service in 2019, we are creating a TGIF2 (Thank Goodness It’s Friday Family) service as an alternative to Sunday morning. This service will be experience-driven and lead by Kathleen Bean. Families will hear the word and worship together in a way that conversation is continued after families leave the service. There will be two offered this winter. We are also encouraging busy families to consider Sacred Space on Sunday evenings January through March.

We have so many wonderful traditions at St. Thomas with our young people. As we look to the future and the hiring of a new Rector, the sky is really the limit! Please join us by increasing and deepening your involvement with youth and family ministries as we continue to grow a strong faith community for our children and youth.

Highlights from 2019:
- Walking the Labyrinth
- Conversations about Mary the Mother of Jesus and the life of Jesus
- Lenten Wooden Cross Art collaboration and installation
- Potlucks at Bev Boas’ & The Hickey’s homes
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Talent Show
- 4 Graduating Seniors: Isaac Brannon, Annie Kaminski, Audra Mary and Ella Wolter
- Confirmation of Carter Hickey
- 5 youth acolytes that serve monthly (more are welcome to join the Fire & Bell Gang)
- Family Good Friday Service & Way of the Cross Stations
- Decorating gingerbread houses
- Lots of yummy food projects and ornaments to grace our Christmas trees

Classics:
- Wagon Days
- Nativity Pageant
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- The Giving Tree

Special thank you to: Sara Pettit, Page Klune and Mike Menser for their mentorship of our young people, to Mardi Shephard for leadership of acolytes, to Rob Gieselmann and Kathleen Bean for their presence and guidance, and to Liz Hickey for her support.
MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

High School seniors and their Moms.

Rev. Kathleen Bean and Youth Acolytes

Bishop Brian Thom with the Rev. Rob Gieselmann and confirmands.

Gathering for Easter activities

Lenten Practice: Wooden cross art collaboration

Youth Group walks the labyrinth
The new season and new year always bring warm reflections on the year past. January was a great start to 2019 with Sunday School attendance at a high note and the children a-buzz with the new lessons. Even with all the snow we managed to get the families here for worship. During Lent, the Children and Youth made a collaborative wooden Cross Installation in the Narthex as a gift and a reflection how things broken can be beautiful and loved as a Lenten practice.

With Father Ken Brannon’s departure in early June the children had an opportunity to make a parting gift for the Brannons and for them to discuss with Father Ken all the things they love about St. Thomas.

We had a full summer with Grand Days of Summer. All our parishioners who helped teach the children brought many of their talents to the program; for instance, Page Klune with voice overs, Dr. Steve Pauley with Astronomy and Michael Leach with Search and Rescue. We are so fortunate to have such talented parishioners who are willing to share with the youth of St. Thomas.

The start of fall brought us interim priest, Rob Gielsemann, Wagon Days, Blessing of the Backpacks, 4 new families, and a few changes to the Sunday School Program. We now meet for Sunday School up by the Children’s cross in the Narthex before the service. Maybe you have seen us there, greeting you as you hang up your coats? Please say hello and welcome to the new faces you see. We have also added a new Sunday School teacher, Margot Shuford. Margot is from Atlanta, Georgia, and has a background in Godly Play. We are so blessed that she and her husband, Robert have decided to call the Wood River Valley and St. Thomas home. Lastly, we have reintroduced Mini-Messy Church in the Youth and Children Program. This is a once a month combination teaching with a more hands on approach to teaching Faith. The children and youth have really enjoyed and look forward to this class.

This Winter came early, and with it an energy that we harnessed for a busy season. Our lessons included Gratitude, Advent, Mary Mother of Jesus, and Holy Baptism. We also continued our celebration with gingerbread decorating, Children’s Christmas caroling in Ketchum and several Nativity Pageants. Plus, an art collaboration with the Youth Group to paint wooden napkin rings for the Holiday Food Baskets that went out to the Wood River Valley Families in need.

St. Thomas has a NEW Family Service on Friday evenings at 5:30 p.m. called TGIF2 (Thank Goodness its Family Friday). Please come join us in in this short, 45 minute, family service. TGIF2 Dates: January 24, 2020, March 13, 2020, April 10,2020

Thank you again to all the Sunday School Story-tellers and Door-people who have given their Sunday mornings to enrich the lives of St. Thomas children. We couldn’t do it without you!

We are looking forward to more learning and fun for 2020! Personally, I am excited to see the Children Ministries Program grow and look forward to the journey with each child!
St. Thomas Playhouse
by Brett Moellenberg

St. Thomas Playhouse continues to be the largest community theater company in our county, and we are proud to serve performers and audiences of all ages. Playhouse was honored to be recognized as Non-Profit of the Year as voted by the Chamber of Hailey and the Wood River Valley, and this award signifies the continued growth of our organization and outreach in the community.

Our productions of “The Addams Family” and “Fiddler on the Roof” demonstrated more advances in our production value, while staying within budget limits. Our production of Fiddler fully sold-out before the show opened, which has never happened in the history of our Main Stage productions.

Our camp productions of “Flat Stanley Jr.” (June) and “Disney’s Mulan Jr.” (August) also took place over the summer; and, while our numbers declined in June for the second straight year, our August camp continues to grow to an expanded capacity. We anticipate a revival of our numbers for our June production in 2020, with a more popular show selection and more favorable school calendar.

Our education programming also expanded to the Bloom Truck, which is backed by the Hunger Coalition and Community Library. The truck helps to feed and educate under-served youth over the summer, and representatives from our organization and Playhouse offered two workshops in partnership with Bloom over the summer.

Other programs over the year included our Children’s Theater Tour, which sees nearly 3,000 children in the valley, as we perform a show in Blaine County elementary schools, private schools, charter schools and pre-school; and, SPACC, our sleep-away camp designed for teens who are seriously interested in the arts.

In an effort to increase diversity in all forms, Playhouse offered a record number of scholarships to youth for our programming, depleting the H. Edward Bilkey Memorial Fund, for which we will fundraise at the Girlfriend Lunch.

As evidenced by our award this year, St. Thomas Playhouse continues to have a major presence in our community, and we look forward to broadening our impact in this new decade.
The annual meeting begins with Holy Eucharist at 9:30 A.M. and continues with a business meeting and brunch. The Interim Priest is chair of the annual meeting.

According to parish bylaws, "Every baptized person not less than 16 years of age who has been enrolled in the parish register for the three months preceding the annual parish meeting and has been a regular communicant of the parish shall be a voting member of the parish and may vote at parish meetings."

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Person(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Call to Order</td>
<td>Rob Gieselmann</td>
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<td>Appointment of Clerk</td>
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<td>Approval of Minutes - 2019</td>
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<td>10:35</td>
<td>Sr. Warden Report</td>
<td>Rebecca Waycott</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>Junior Warden Report</td>
<td>Brad Musbach</td>
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<td>10:50</td>
<td>Treasurer and Stewardship (2020) Report</td>
<td>Tom Benson</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Playhouse Report with budget</td>
<td>Brett Moellenberg/Sara Gorby</td>
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<td>11:05</td>
<td>Presentation and Approval of 2020 budgets</td>
<td>Tom Benson/Rob Gieselmann</td>
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<td>11:20</td>
<td>Nominating Committee Report</td>
<td>Claudia McCain</td>
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<td>11:25</td>
<td>Election of Vestry/Delegates</td>
<td>Rob Gieselmann/Rebecca Waycott</td>
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<td>Appointment of Tellers, if necessary</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>Rector Search Committee Report</td>
<td>Heather Black</td>
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<td>11:35</td>
<td>Capital Campaign Presentation</td>
<td>Rebecca Waycott</td>
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<td>11:55</td>
<td>Interim Priest Presentation</td>
<td>Rob Gieselmann</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>Doxology and Adjournment</td>
<td>Joel Bejot</td>
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Many thanks to those who prepared the brunch today. Volunteers are invited to help the vestry with clean-up afterwards.

Nominations for 2020 Diocesan Convention Delegation

Each year, the Idaho Diocese of the Episcopal Church holds a convention; this year the convention will be held November 13-15, 2020, in Burley.

The nominees for delegates to Convention are: Art Dahl Bobbie Dahl Mardi Shepard
Connie Hoffman Ellen Sanders Joel Bejot

The nominees for alternate delegates to Convention are: Lisa Strait Patty Sloan
Linda Bergerson Mike Menser

In addition, the Rector, Senior Warden and Junior Warden serve as non-elected delegates.
Nominations to the Vestry (2020-2023)

**Laurie Ahern** - I was baptized and confirmed at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Medina, Washington. Growing up, I sang in the choir for 7 years, taught Sunday School and participated in the youth group both at the church and on the Diocesan level. While an adult member of St. Thomas, I served on the vestry and was elected Junior Warden. My husband, Paul, and I met while working in Washington, D.C., moved to Chicago and then settled in Seattle to raise our family. I was fortunate to be a stay at home mother for our three children, active in their schools and various activities. An avid community volunteer I have served on multiple boards including the Chief Seattle Club, Seattle Garden Club (Chair), Puget Sound Public Radio (Chair) and Public Radio Exchange (Chair). Since moving to the WRV full time four years ago, I have served on the boards of KDPI, Sawtooth Botanical Garden (Vice Chair) and currently am the Chair of the Community Advisory Board of Boise State Public Radio. At St. Thomas, I have been a member of the flower guild, stewardship committee, helped with Sunday School and have led the St. Thomas Book Club for three years. Paul and I would not have considered moving here full time if we did not already know that we had a warm spiritual home at St. Thomas, Ketchum. It would be an honor to serve on the vestry.

**Art Dahl** - Art Dahl is a third generation Idahoan. Born in Boise and raised in Twin Falls, he left at age 17 for Harvard College followed by Stanford Graduate School of Business. He skipped his Stanford commencement to marry Bobbie that day 55 years ago this summer. They have two children--Lisa and John, both married, and four wonderful grandchildren. Art served in the US Navy as a destroyer department head including 14 months in combat off the coast of North Viet Nam. His business career ranged from Marketing Assistant at General Mills to Vice-President World Wide Reservations at Holiday Inn. Finally he served for 16 years as President of a $500 million highly respected Travel Management Company. Bobbie and Art built their Blaine County home in 1997 and became full time residents in 2004, the same year they joined St Thomas. Art is active outdoors especially in running, skiing, duck hunting, golf and hiking. Since arriving in the Wood River Valley his volunteer activities have included: Forest Service Snow Ranger on Baldy; Silver Creek Preserve host; Board of The Advocates; Treasurer of St. Thomas; Education for Ministry Mentor and Godly Play teacher; Founding co-chair of HaRT; Founding co-chair of Habitat for Humanity of the Wood River Valley; Hospice and Palliative Care of the Wood River Valley in-home companion and St Thomas Stephen Leader and Minister.

**Helen Morgus** - Helen Morgus has been a member of St Thomas since 2001. She and her husband, Wally, have three millennial children who still come home at Christmas and enjoy the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve pageant. Helen works at The Community Library, and recommends children’s literature to people of all ages. She has been involved in many ministries, both inward-focused and outreaching, and cherishes the deep strength of this parish. She is excited about the changes to come, and looks forward to serving St. Thomas during the clergy transition.
St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Brian Thom

Interim Priest
The Rev. Robert Gieselmann

Associate Rector
The Rev. Kathleen Bean

Vestry Officers
Rebecca Waycott, Senior Warden
Brad Musbach, Junior Warden
Tom Benson, Treasurer
Judi Fuller, Clerk

Additional Vestry Members
Alison Burpee, Sasha Heinz, Ruth Jones, Lisa Leach,
Claudia McCain, Tim Price, Becky Smith

Administration
Joel Bejot, Music Director and Organist
Judi Fuller, Parish Administrator
Sara Gorby, Children, Youth & Family Director &
Playhouse Education Director
Liz Hickey, Children’s Ministry Coordinator
Brett Moellenberg, Playhouse Managing Director
and Electronic Media Coordinator

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