

ANNUAL REPORT



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

170th Annual Parish Meeting

January 26, 2025

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OFFICERS. STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Interim Rector: The Rev. Paul R. Briggs II
Deacon Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass
Senior Warden: Elizabeth Moran
Junior Warden: Donovan Bowley
Treasurer: Terry Mello
Clerk of the Vestry: Anne Rogers-Popejoy
Minister of Music: Clarissa Brown
Parish Administrator: Kayla Clay
Sexton: Tony Coyne
Office Volunteers:
Grayce Sivigny
Jan Lyle
Diane Kirkman

2024

PARISH STATISTICS

Communicants in Good Standing:
Average Sunday Attendance:
In-Person: 77
Online Viewing 2024:
Livestreaming: 51
Sunday: 48
Other: 5
Holy Baptisms: 2
Marriages: 0
Burials: 8

Deaths in the Community:

Ronald Werner Such
Peter Hufford Lowry
Raymond Guy Chamberlin
Jennifer Watt Harrell
Laura Leonard Ault
Juliet Surprise
Roy Francis Gilley III
Tiffany Andrews
Jan Dolcater
Ruth Graham

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;
and light perpetual shine upon them.
May they, and all the departed,
through the mercy of God,
Rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.*

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AGENDA

Gathering and Call to Order

Hymn, Opening Prayer and Necrology

Approval of Minutes

Introduction of current vestry and parish officers:

2025

Sarah Groman
Kendra Watkins
Anne Rogers-Popejoy

2026

Jacqueline Recht
Haunani Wallace
Gwen Prosser

2027

Ron Zdrojeski
Cheryl Reif
Benjy Lowry

Elizabeth Moran, Senior Warden, '27.
Terry Mello, Treasurer, '25.

Donovan Bowley, Junior Warden, '26.
Anne Rogers-Popejoy, Clerk, '25.

Nomination and Election of Vestry Members:

Bill Feeman, Kelli McGuire, Anne Rogers-Popejoy

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates

Convention will be held on October 25, place TBA

Senior Warden Remarks

Junior Warden Remarks

Treasurer Remarks and Presentation of the 2025 Budget

Interim's Remarks

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members:

Sarah Groman, Kendra Watkins, Anne Rogers-Popejoy

Installation of New Vestry members

Question and Answers on any aspect of parish life.

Motion to adjourn, blessing, and hymn

2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

January 28, 2024

169th Annual Meeting

Fr. Paul Briggs calls the meeting to order at 10:20am, opens in prayer and reads the names of those who have died in the last year.

Edmund Hartt moves to approve the minutes of the 2023 meeting, second Grayce Sivigny. Motion carries.

Nomination and Election of vestry members: vote cast by clerk on behalf of the parish.

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates: vote cast by clerk on behalf of the parish.

Report of the Senior Warden: Elizabeth Moran: In addition to her report, the warden thanks all for their support in a challenging year. She notes that we are in a strong place as a parish to examine who we are and where we want to go.

Report of the Junior Warden: Brother Donovan Bowley: In addition to his report, the warden thanks his predecessor Edmund Hartt for his ongoing support and essential knowledge of the building.

Presentation of the Budget: Terry Mello, Treasurer: Opens with the statistic that it takes \$4900 per week to run the parish. Treasurer covers 2023 budget, 2023 actual, and 2024 budget. The 2024 budget projects a \$20,000 loss; which can be balanced utilizing endowment income, but will hopefully balance with ordinary income.

Interim rector notes that part of our discernment in calling a new priest will be to determine if we can afford a full, 3/4 or half time rector. Also notes that establishing a planned giving program is a priority in his work with us.

Meeting breaks for small group work and visioning in a discernment exercise.

Recognition of Jan Lyle's service to the parish as a vestry member; Anne Rogers-Popejoy as interim admin; Chris Groman as substitute sexton; Clarissa Brown as choir director; Donovan Bowley as junior warden and steward of the building; Terry Mello as treasurer; and Elizabeth

Moran as senior warden.

Installation of new vestry members and delegates to convention.

Interim rector encourages the parish to take the time to work through discernment and continue the conversations that started in today's meeting – and to remember the joy that comes in this work.

Haunani Wallace moves to adjourn the meeting, second Edmund Hartt.

Meeting adjourns at 11:55 am.

INTERIM RECTOR

I love Annual Meeting. It is a day when we get a bird's eye view of our life together in Christ. It is a day for recounting where we have been, a snapshot of where we are today, and a glimpse together of where the Spirit is leading us next.

As we celebrate together, I don't think it is any coincidence that we have this reading from Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth appointed today. It is a familiar passage as the Apostle shares his image of the church, the body of Christ. And because it is so familiar, I want to share with you Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of this passage as it appears in The Message:

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything. —I Corinthians 12:25-30 (The Message)

Think of all the ways, the body of Christ takes form and becomes visible to the whole community. Each person with their own unique gifts and distinct personalities. Sometimes we find one another challenging and because our goal is always to serve Christ we begin to appreciate our differences and strengths. Thank you for the many ways you participate in the life of this body.

Growth and change are always part of the story of the people of God. We are never static. As people of the Way, we always on the move listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd who beckons on.

We are in some ways a different community than we were a year ago. We have lost members to moves or death and we have new people here. There is new energy and enthusiasm. We are more open with one another; we are listening more intently to one another, and we are building our capacity to be a little more flexible. Our numbers have increased slightly, giving is up, and gradually we are seeing our way forward.

In 2024, we celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the consecration of our present church building. Thank you to our Senior Warden, Elizabeth Moran, who spearheaded those festivities. It was a homecoming of sorts, remembering the past and celebrating where God has brought us thus far, leading us into the light of a new day.

I am grateful to staff: Kayla Clay, our part time administrator, came on board about this time last year. She continues to grow into this position, learning the rhythms of life in the Episcopal Church, assisting with both office and finance. Tony Coyne, our sexton, keeps this place clean and orderly and Clarissa Brown, our director of music, continues to make the trek each week from Portland to provide our music ministry.

Our buildings and grounds committee continues to prioritize a whole raft of needs and they are working through these, one at a time. I am particularly relieved that the exterior stucco and woodwork repair has been completed and the building envelop secured. Thank you to our Junior Warden, Donovan Bowley and the head of Buildings and Grounds, Bill Freeman. I look forward to this new year in which some plantings will be added to the front of the church, painting of much of the exterior stucco and woodwork will be completed, and we'll organize a thorough house cleaning of our rooms and closets throughout our facilities.

Our outreach ministry is showing signs of new energy and vitality, thank you to Gwen Prosser for leading this ministry. The presence of young families, an abundance of enthusiastic acolytes, and organization of a children's chapel on Sundays by Avery Reed is encouraging.

The successful completion of raising funds and installation of our new sound and video system helps connect our homebound and former parishioners who live far away. It also enhances our in person Sunday experience and provides yet another opportunity for others to be trained for this ministry. I am so grateful to Carlos and Terry Mello who were the early adapters in being the chief videographers.

We will initiate an experiment to offer Morning Prayer and sermon one Sunday a month led by trained members of the congregation. This experiment arises for at least two reasons: I want you to be prepared of what that might feel like in the event we are unable to afford the services

of a full-time rector. Generally, a three-quarter time priest would be present three Sundays each month. The second reason is that it is increasingly difficult to find clergy who are available for Sunday supply. If the rector is suddenly taken ill or injured, it is another way to ensure Sunday worship continues. Thank you to the Rev. Rosalee Glass, Sarah Groman, Benjy Lowry, Derek Reed, Anne Rogers Popejoy, and Becca Berry for undertaking this ministry.

Our budget is in the black. This is due to increases in giving and in the number of pledging households (some of whom were previously givers of record plus new pledges). Our offerings and tithes are indicators of our spiritual health, dedicating a percentage of our income to support Christ's mission through the parish of St. Thomas. I am happy to say that our staff members have received a 2.5% cost of living raise. The reason that our budget looks so good is due largely to the fact that our current clergy person is compensated as a halftime priest without pension or medical premiums being paid (because I am retired and am already receiving my pension). The proper care and feeding of a full-time clergy person comes with a price tag. Does that mean we will never have a full-time clergy person? Not at all. While we are discovering that there are other ways to lead a parish, a full time professionally trained priest has been the norm and served the church well for many years. In the meantime, we can experiment with different models of ministry and figure out what it is we need and what we can afford.

I will be working with our new vestry next weekend to develop some concrete goals for this year, chief of which will be to move the repair of the bell tower forward. It is time for us to come to a common agreement about a plan for that work and you will hear more about this in the coming weeks.

Thank you; thank you for being you and always remember this: *You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.*

The Rev. Paul R. Briggs II,
Interim Rector

SENIOR WARDEN

2024 was St. Thomas' Church first full year with an Interim Rector. The changes and growth that occurred during the fall of 2023 continued and grew in many ways under the amazing and steady leadership of the Rev. Paul R. Briggs. Supported by an active Vestry and robust parish committees, the life of the parish was revitalized by a new and continuing spirit.

This first full year of the “interim period” was a joyous one. We were blessed with a growing congregation with new parishioners eager to participate in the life of the parish. Most heart-warming was the growth of our young family population and the beginnings of “Children’s Chapel”. St. Thomas Church is blessed to have these young families among us. The parish is also fortunate to have a balanced budget and a congregation that financially supports the church. We have explored changes in the content and times of our worship services while our music program under our organist Clarissa’s leadership has enhanced our Sunday services.

As for the church facilities, the status of the tower has been reassessed, much needed repairs to the building envelope itself have been done and the grounds have been cleaned up by a very busy building and grounds crew. Many thanks to those who wielded their clippers, rakes, wheel barrows and truck to make us look beautiful during the summer months. A much needed A-V system was installed through the generosity of many people in the parish and community.

And to all our volunteers, a big thank you—to those who help in the office, count money, polish chalices, arrange flowers, sing in the choir, wash dishes, collect items for the needy of our communities, and visit our shut-ins. It is amazing what we can do TOGETHER.

This year was crowned by the joyous celebration of the 100th anniversary of the consecration of our church building. Over 150 people witnessed the Spirit among us during a worship service led by Bishop Brown and Rev. Briggs and enriched by the music of the Mid-Coast Brass Quintet. The reception that followed was very special with delicious food, beautiful flowers and a display of the history of St. Thomas Church from our archives.

Our Vestry had a thoughtful and productive retreat in the spring and facilitated a parish survey “Holy Cow” which is one of the first steps in our discernment process.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will focus on continuing to grow our children’s ministry, begin a revision of our by-laws and participate in the planning for the tower project.

Again a huge thank you to our Interim Rector Paul who continues to gently guide us in this transition process. With our love for each other in the parish and for our Lord, Jesus Christ, we will continue to move forward on our journey together in this continuing chapter in the life of St. Thomas’ Church Camden.

Praise be to God.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth A. Moran
Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN

BUILDING AND GROUNDS SUMMARY REPORT 2024 – 2025

(Activities in Sequence Through the Church Year 2024-2025)

Interior plaster and paint damage in chapel and interior east wall repaired through gift of Bill and Susan Freeman and work by Bill.

West Wall of the church – Noted stucco coming off the building and wood trim of stucco panels rotting.

Sign lights and outlet for the front of the church for creche and for outdoor electrical tools, replacement of temporary shallow buried cable.

Deteriorating back fence in rear yard owned by neighbor and fallen into the yard was a safety hazard to children. Neighbors contacted; no response. Sections fallen into the church yard were placed onto neighbor's land.

Spring cleaning by Parker House was scheduled.

Building and Grounds Committee did a “walkthrough” of the entire parish complex and grounds, each member noting problems. A detailed list of problem areas was then compiled for prioritization of work.

Nonfunctioning emergency lights were fixed; new emergency lights installed in the nave of the church and in the basement workroom (which has an emergency exit for the AA room.)

Need for stucco repair and leak repair in sunroom roof – search for stucco contractor started.

Stucco masons - four contractors were located, bids requested.

Knox Box – Key Safe for Public Safety Emergency Access installed at Wood Street Door by Camden Fire Department. Keys to Church, Parish Hall, and Rectory were labeled and placed in the box.

Reviewed Guidebook for Church Tours during 100th Anniversary of the building.

B&G members did a major cleanup of the gardens and grounds for the 100th Anniversary Open House.

Received two bids for Stucco Work on West Wall – Patrick McCafferty's proposal for keystone Masonry accepted. He can begin within a month.

(At this point in the year the Junior Warden experienced a health problem and Building Committee member Bill Freeman took on the Building and Grounds responsibilities.)

Treasurer Terry Mello identified much higher than usual water bills. Water Department was called in and inspected; identified and replaced the 50 year-old malfunctioning meter.

Problems with toilet clogging and malfunctioning were corrected.

A large branch fell off the very large Allen Agency–owned tree onto the Rectory roof; no damage to roof. Allen Agency removed the tree to prevent future problems.

Several problems with locks and keys are being addressed. Jan Lyle is working with Sargent Lock to put together a proposal for “re-keying” all of the church doors Purpose: multifold, (1) to control who has keys to the church, as many keys have been distributed over the past 10 years, (2) Fix several locks which are not working properly, (3) Attempt to have each key numbered and (4) Allow the Security System to be turned back on. Plan is to have recommendation, including costs, complete in January for Vestry approval and implementation shortly thereafter.

A Wood Street bathroom door has been removed and is being repaired by Edmund Hartt.

Further paint and plaster damage in church and chapel is being addressed.

The Stucco work on the West end of the church is completed; it is curing during the winter and will be painted in the spring, Bill Freeman is receiving bids for that work and other outside painting.

Rotting trim on the rectory has been replaced; overhead entry light is scheduled for replacement.

Sexton responsibilities have been reviewed and clarified.

Slate roof of the church, 100 years old, is being inspected to determine condition and life expectancy.

Deteriorating Wood Street walkway paver blocks must be replaced. Contractors are being contacted.

Ivy on the church walls must be removed. It has been cut to stop growth and some has been removed, revealing damage it has caused.

An intensive “Spring Cleaning” of grounds and all the buildings is being planned for April. More to come on that.

FINANCIALS

2024 Financial Review

Once again, the St. Thomas’ community, has answered the call to support our parish. When we began our journey in 2024, it was anticipated that St. Thomas’ would have a deficit of \$20,060; your commitment to St. Thomas resulted in a budget surplus of \$12,663 at the end of the year. Your additional contributions enabled us to distribute over \$8,000 to charities, ranging from the Camden Area Christian Food Pantry, Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, and other special needs of our community. In 2024, we awarded Richard I Thomas Scholarships to two of our students to help with their higher education expenses.

Our financial position is healthy as we enter 2025. Thank you all for your support of St. Thomas'. Thank you, Fr. Paul, Wardens, Vestry and the Finance and Endowment Committee for their support and trust you continue to provide me. *"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."* – Helen Keller

2025 Budget Projection

Each year the Treasurer, Vestry and Finance Committee work together to develop a reasonable budget for the current year. In 2025 we are projecting a budget surplus of \$12,360. It is important to understand that this budget is not sustainable going forward as it is based on our current situation – a half-time rector with no pension or insurance expense budgeted. It is important to take the below scenarios into consideration as St. Thomas' moves forward in the discernment process:

Additional cost for Pension and Single Health Insurance:

- **Half-Time Rector:** \$15,700 – resulting in a \$3,300 deficit.
- **Three-Quarter-Time Rector:** \$45,027 – resulting in a \$32,800 deficit
- **Full-Time Rector:** \$75,106 – resulting in a \$62,800 deficit

The cost would increase significantly for spouse or family covered health insurance. The above scenarios do not include using any income derived from the Endowment Fund to cover operating costs.

We will continue to do our best to be good stewards of our church finances. *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* Ephesians 5:1-2, NRSV

Financial Reports can be found on pages 18 and 19.

Faithfully,

Terry Mello

FINANCE AND ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Current members of the Finance and Endowment Committee are Phil Groman (Chair), Bill Freeman, and Cheryl Reif. Ex Officio members are Paul Briggs (Interim Rector), Terry Mello (Treasurer), and Elizabeth Moran (Senior Warden). With the departure of Bob Bannon there is a need for another voting member to join this committee. Don't be shy....

Meetings are held quarterly primarily to monitor our investments, review the financial reports, and at the end of the year assist in developing the annual budget for approval by the Vestry. On a monthly basis Terry shares a detailed analysis of our financial situation via email.

Twice yearly representatives from Allen Insurance and Financial attend our meetings to provide an update on the financial markets, review our investment performance, and recommend changes should any be necessary.

We happily ended the year with a surplus in our accounts and, as budgeted, no withdrawal from our Endowment funds was necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Groman

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

The Parish Administrator and the office volunteers enabled St. Thomas' office to be open five days a week, Monday through Friday. This team (Kayla Clay on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Grayce Sivigny on Tuesdays, Jan Lyle on Wednesdays, and Diane Kirkman on Thursdays)—worked to ensure that St. Thomas' was a welcoming church, and that parishioners and visitors had access to any needed information and services.

The church was opened when the office was open; answered the phone and emails; greeted visitors; helped manage Realm which included the service-assignment schedule, recording giving contributions and stewardship campaign; handled weekly deposits; edited Tidings; mailed Tidings and sermons to shut-ins without Internet service; proofed, posted, printed, and folded the bulletins; scheduled events; emailed readings and prayers of the people to readers; ordered supplies; made signs; kept the calendar updated and posted; helped the Treasurer (Terry Mello) keep the website updated; assist the priest in a variety of activities; and performed all the other tasks that any office administrator might be asked to handle.

FLOWER GUILD

Each week the flower guild creates flower arrangements for the main altar, the lady chapel and the narthex. Additional arrangements are often placed at the Wood St. entrance, and for special occasions in the parish hall and sunroom.

Members during 2024 were Connie Bock, Sarah Groman, Kate Jackson, Grayce Sivigny, and Kay Lehr (during summer months). Kelli McGuire and Corallie Murray are always ready to help and many hands make light work when we have more prolific arrangements at Easter and Christmas. To all those who

have ever helped, in any way, with plants or wreaths or flower arrangements, outside urn or flower box plantings and care, know that your handiwork does not go un-noticed.

The tasks undertaken by the flower guild are purchasing, conditioning the flowers, cutting the stems and hydrating the flowers, arranging, watering on Sundays and mid-week, taking down arrangements, washing vases and polishing brass vessels. At present the commitment is to be responsible for these tasks once every 3-4 weeks. Tasks can be shared, but we are low in numbers, we would love to be able to work in teams, as we did in the past. The Flower Room, where all the work takes place has a sink and watering cans, scissors, clippers, floral tape and wire and is tucked away to the side of the chapel, diagonally across from the Sacristy. It can be accessed whenever the church is open, or by arrangement at other times.

This is a creative ministry opportunity for flower lovers to enhance the worship space and liturgical season at St. Thomas'. For example, in 2024, encouraged by Father Paul, the stand for the beautiful Paschal candle created by Pam Bardon was adorned with dangling leaves and tiny yellow flowers, inserted into a cake ring that had been filled with moss which acted as a sponge. Imaginative design suggestions such as this are always welcome.

For more information, to make suggestions, or to express interest in joining the flower guild, please contact sarahgroman57@gmail.com or call/text 207-956-3592.

Respectfully submitted

Sarah Groman

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

First Service:

The 8:00 service has a talented group of Lectors, which includes Pat Ayers, Pam Bardon, Clarissa Brown, Amy Frankel, Edmund Hartt, Jan Lyle, Sandy Lyle and Terry Mello. Our Ushers are also a hard-working group, Isa Babb, Peggy Daniels, Edmund Hartt, Jan Lyle, and Carlos Mello. We also have three very dedicated Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Pam Bardon, Amy Frankel and Sandy Lyle. Having these volunteers makes our Sunday services go smoothly and more meaningful. We have plenty of room for others to join us, just speak with any one of the people mentioned above. Thank you to our faithful Lector, Ushers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

Second Service:

Lectors and Eucharistic Minister:

The 10:00 service also has a very dedicated group of Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Our Lectors are Br. Donovan Bowley, Jeff Conrad, Sue Foltz, Bill Freeman, Sarah Groman, Dean Jackson, Kate Jackson, Benjy Lowry, Gwen Prosser, Jackie Recht, Charlotte Watkins, Doc Wallace, Haunani Wallace and Sally Ann Williamson. Our Lay Eucharistic Ministers are Jeff Conrad, Bill Freeman, Shelly Gallender, Sarah Groman, Dean Jackson, Benjy Lowry, Bobby Purkey, Jackie Recht, Derek Reed, Grayce Sivigny and Doc Wallace. Thank you for your service to these ministries! If you are interested in either ministry, please contact Kayla, our Parish Administrator.

Ushers:

Ushering at St. Thomas' is an easy way for parishioners to serve our parish. Over the years we have been fortunate to have a core group of volunteers for the regular 10:00 AM services and periodic special services. We are also thankful for a few summer residents who regularly serve when they are in town.

During 2024 we lost Roy Gilley, one of our most faithful members and one who embodied all the attributes of a St. Thomas' service volunteer. Roy was in church virtually every Sunday morning, asking if I needed him to usher. Of course, he was scheduled periodically but often ended up filling in at the last minute. We will all miss his regular smile and his willingness to help.

On a brighter note, we recently added Diane and Bobby Purkey to our veterans: Dean Jackson, Phil Groman, Ed Williamson, Mike Moore, Chery Reif, Cheryl White and Lucy Ebbert. We can always use a few additional volunteers and in 2025 would like to fulfill my goal of adding one or more junior or senior high school student.

If you or any of your children have ever thought of volunteering, please speak to one of us. You do not have to be asked to join our group. Ushering is not difficult and is a wonderful way to serve our parish.

And it comes with one bonus most jobs do not offer—no one is ever fired—although it minimum wage.

Thanks to all my volunteers.

Sincerely,

Jim Ebbert

CAMDEN AREA CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY

St. Thomas' is one of the five churches supporting the Camden Area Christian Food Pantry. Others in the group are Chestnut Street Baptist, First Congregational, John Street Methodist, and Our Lady of Good Hope. During 2024, food and personal care items were provided to over 100 families each week living in Appleton, Camden, Hope, Lincolnville, Rockport, Searsmont, Union, and Washington. Hannaford gift cards (\$25 or \$50 denominations depending on family size) were also given to all who came to the Pantry over the Christmas season. Our group of over 40 dedicated volunteers spend hundreds of hours each month not only serving clients but preparing menus, collecting food donations, and stocking the shelves.

Additional details can be found on our website – www.camdenareachristianfoodpantry.org.

St. Thomas' has been an active supporter of the Pantry since its inception in 2001. During 2024 members of our congregation donated \$1,380 in cash as well as a considerable quantity of non-perishable groceries.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Groman and Rebecca Vogt

OUTREACH

In 2024 the Outreach Committee worked with the Camden-Rockport Middle School to provide snacks and sneakers for the springtime; backpacks with school supplies for the fall; and at Christmas time food baskets and hats, coats, scarves and mittens.

We donated Christmas monies to the Maine Re-Entry Network, an organization that works with families of people coming out of prison who also have addiction problems.

We also gave \$600 to the Ukrainian hospital project and \$4800 to El Hogar that provides schooling and job training for disadvantaged children in Honduras. We support Episcopal Relief and Development for work with children in 3rd world countries.

We had a very successful lasagna dinner that raised the money for the Christmas food baskets.

I continue to be amazed at the generosity of our congregation and look forward to working with you in the future to help meet needs in our community and in the world.

LOAVES AND FISHES

The community free lunch ministry at St Peter's in Rockland is flourishing.

We have a new coordinator, Scott Cooper-Tilton in charge of overseeing basic kitchen supplies and the "go to" person if any of the teams need help or have any questions.

Every Saturday and Sunday there is a hot meal that can be eaten in the parish hall (designed for St Peters by our own Chris Glass) . There is always take-out available as well. Guests can eat in and take additional food home for family and friends.

Different community groups and churches make up the teams.

St. Thomas provides the meal and clean up every third Saturday of the month.

At present I have Steve Merriam from St Peters, and a new helper, Gloria (a tennis buddy) helping me.

Please e mail me if you have left any food donations in the freezer at our church for this ministry, so I can collect it, and add it to the menu.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Bardon

STEWARDSHIP

Following the theme, *Walk in Love*, the annual stewardship campaign kicked off the first of October. Parishioners were asked to pray about God's call to them and how to share themselves with St. Thomas and the greater world. A stewardship letter, pledge card, and information about proportional giving were distributed.

Throughout the month, pledge activities were held. Gwen Prosser, Bill Freeman, and Anne Rogers-Popejoy presented Ministry Minutes on Sundays to the congregation. Their talks of how St Thomas has impacted them and their family's lives and the importance of this community was heartwarming. Terry Mello and Kayla Clay worked together to update the pledges received each week and sent out updates along with Sunday's Ministry Minute. Silhouettes of footprints were posted on the sanctuary walls as we "walked" toward our goal. Each footprint represented a pledged unit and grew to climb up the walls.

On November 3, a Harvest Pie Party was held between the two services to celebrate a successful pledge campaign with 48 total pledges for \$160,000.

Shelly Gallender, Phil Groman, and Cheryl Reif

ALL SOULS' MEMORIAL GARDEN

The All Souls Memorial Garden of Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church is a sacred ground located in the courtyard surrounding the statue of Saint Thomas. It is a place for remembrance and prayer and is dedicated for the interment of cremated remains. The Memorial Garden Committee meets at least annually to inspect the garden and make recommendations to the Vestry. The Committee consists of three members appointed for a three year term plus the Rector and Junior Warden. Current Members are Lucy Ebbert, Bill Freeman, and Sarah Groman.

The rules and regulations for the Memorial Garden have been revised and simplified by the committee and have been sent to the vestry for consideration in 2025. The plaque in the Lady Chapel has been updated to reflect the current names of those buried in the garden. The Annual Meeting of All Soul's Memorial Garden Committee is set for May 7, 2025.

MEET YOUR NOMINEES:

VESTRY:

Bill Freeman

Born and raised in Lunenburg, Massachusetts, graduated from Syracuse University, entered the U.S. Army, served in the 4th Infantry Division as a Tank Company Commander.



Retired after 35 years with Armstrong World Industries as Marketing Manager in the Flooring Division. While living in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Susan and I joined 9 other families to establish a new church in our area, St. Edwards Episcopal Church. There I served on the vestry and chaired the committee that constructed the new church building.

Became a year-round resident of Rockport, Maine in 2000 and have served on four town committees. I have continued working for the past 22 years as a Technical and Regulatory Consultant for the Resilient Floor Covering Institute.

Have been attending St. Thomas for 36 years, beginning as a summer resident. Since then, I have served on the Vestry, chaired the Finance Committee, served on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, represented St. Thomas on the board of The Camden Area Christian Food Pantry as well as being an usher, reader etc. for the Sunday services.

I am committed to St. Thomas Church; it's members and it's future.

Anne Rogers-Popejoy

Anne Rogers-Popejoy is entering her second year as a vestry member and third as clerk. During 15 years in the Diocese of South Dakota, Black Hills Deanery, she served as a vestry member, senior warden, clerk, Diocesan Council member, election delegate, and cantor. She has worked with young adults living in intentional community in the Episcopal Church, with Thunderhead Episcopal Center, and is the secretary of the board for *Earth & Altar*, a publication for and by catholic and reformed Christians of all denominations who see an expansively conceived credal orthodoxy as fully compatible with LGBTQ



inclusion, gender equality, and racial justice. Anne became an Episcopalian while attending Kenyon College and was raised in the United Church of Christ in Connecticut. Her professional career has been dedicated to working with and for non-profit organizations in small communities, delving into education, administration, and development. An ardent supporter of the arts and education, Anne worked with the Historic Homestake Opera House, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Northern Hills Alliance for Children in advocacy and fundraising. She is now the executive director of the Strand Theatre in Rockland. Anne, Jamie, and Ronan (7) relocated to Maine in the fall of 2021 and began attending St. Thomas. They can be found exploring outdoors, enjoying the arts, or cozy at home with their dog and cat.

Kelli McGuire

Kelli McGuire was born in Oklahoma to Mickey, a native of Oklahoma, and Dorothy, a native of Maine. They met while she was working in the Physics Department at the University of Maine, and he was stationed at Dow Air Force Base in Bangor.



Growing up in the country, Kelli helped her mother in the garden and with canning the harvest and helped her dad with the cattle. She learned to drive on a 2-ton flatbed truck during hay season, at about 10 yrs. old. When not baling hay, she spent the hot Oklahoma summers practicing her dives off the diving boards at the local swimming pool.

Kelli went to college at Oklahoma State University, earning a degree in Journalism. It was while she was at college that she met her future husband in the parking lot of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, where she sang in the choir and was an active member of the youth group.

Kelli's mother had spent her unstable childhood moving from one church to another — often going alone — as her mother and siblings moved from one place to another, in midcoast Maine. Finally, after taking catechism classes at the local Catholic Church, her landlady invited her to go to church with her at St. John's Episcopal Church — just a block from her boarding house in Bangor. It was at St. John's that she fell in love with the Episcopal Church.

Mickey, a Mensan, who had grown up like a fish out of water in the Pentecostal Church, was happy to discover that Dottie's church was everything he was looking for. So, they raised their three children in the Episcopal Church.

Kelli and David (the boy in the parking lot) fell in love and got married at St. Andrew's and joined the Foreign Service after college. Their first tour was in the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, where Kelli did contract work for DEA, as assistant to the head of the intelligence analysts.

Their next tour was down under, in Melbourne, Australia. While pregnant with her first child, Kelli did volunteer work and was solicited to make a television commercial. Kelli and David left their two-year tour in Melbourne with two baby boys and continued on to their next posting in Bamako, Mali.

In Bamako, Kelli worked in the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy, issuing visas to foreign nationals and making passports for U.S. citizens. While Kelli and David's older son Sam was attending a French pre-school, their younger son, Sebastian, spoke his first words in Bambara — the local language that their gardener and housekeeper spoke with one another.

Next was Managua, Nicaragua where Kelli worked as the Community Liaison Officer, planning Congressional Delegations, serving on embassy committees and devising ways to boost morale among embassy employees and their families.

Kelli and David spent the next 3 years in the mountains and beaches of Costa Rica before moving to Buenos Aires, Argentina where Kelli again took the position of Community Liaison Officer — this time, in the United States second-largest embassy.

After 4 years in Argentina, Kelli accompanied her boy's home to Virginia to get one packed off to college and the other one enrolled in Fairfax H.S. As often happens, things change and Kelli began looking for a house in Maine — a place she had always loved visiting as a child. She did find the house of her dreams and the first thing she did upon arrival was to start attending St. Thomas' Episcopal Church. She has participated in the Flower Guild and the choir and considers her St. Thomas' family to be an integral part of her new life here in Maine.

Kelli's favorite pastime is DANCING... followed by traveling, hiking, reading and singing

Statement of Financial Position
As of 12/31/2024 and 12/31/2023

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
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Current Assets		
NonRestricted Accounts	60,842	48,711
Restricted Accounts	325,866	404,731
Investments	1,223,749	1,118,678
Account Receivables	1,291	7,167
Other Current Assets	7,209	2,468
Total Current Assets	1,618,957	1,581,755
Fixed Leasehold Assets (Net of Depreciation)		
Building	1,434,799	1,361,439
Other Property	100,000	100,000
Equipment	25,216	4,319
Total Net Fixed Assets	1,560,015	1,465,758
Other Assets		
Diocesan Supervised Investments	165,780	136,908
TOTAL ASSETS	3,344,752	3,184,421
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
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LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	2,675	2,210
Other Current Liabilities	32,051	27,038
Long-Term Liabilities		
Other Long-Term Liabilities	3,423	2,733
Total Liabilities	38,149	31,981
 NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,591,193	1,483,802
Restricted Funds		
Investment Accounts	1,174,879	1,069,807
Building Funds	171,960	279,813
Diocesan Supervised Investments	165,780	136,908
Restricted Funds	64,896	61,325
Restricted Donations	126,500	108,201
Outreach Funds	11,394	12,583
Total Net Assets	3,306,603	3,152,440
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	3,344,752	3,184,421

2024 Statement of Activity

	Net Assets without Restrictions	Net Assets with Restrictions	Total
Revenues, Gains and Other Support			
Unrestricted Income	208,361	-	208,361
Income on Long-Term Investments	-	141,443	141,443
Outreach Donations	-	13,197	13,197
Capital Improvement Funds	-	45,481	45,481
Net Increase in Leasehold Assets	94,257	-	94,257
Special Donation Accounts	-	18,299	18,299
Other Restricted Income (Flowers, Music, etc.)	-	7,275	7,275
Total Revenues, Gains and Support	302,618	225,694	528,312
Expenses and Losses			
Total Operating Expense	(195,227)	-	(195,227)
Capital Improvements Expense	-	(153,333)	(153,333)
Outreach Disbursements	-	(14,386)	(14,386)
Scholarships from RI Thomas and Sarah Davenport	-	(7,500)	(7,500)
Other Expenses (Flowers, Music, etc.)	-	(3,703)	(3,703)
Total Expenses and Losses	(195,227)	(178,922)	(374,149)
Change in Net Assets	107,391	46,772	154,163
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	1,483,802	1,668,638	3,152,440
Net Assets at End of Year	1,591,193	1,715,410	3,306,603

2024 Results and 2025 Budget

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Operating Income			
Pledge and General Donations	159,500.00	168,488.52	205,200.00
Rental Income and Facility Use Donations	34,300.00	35,760.92	35,040.00
Fundraising Income	3,000.00	2,729.94	3,000.00
Other Income and Donations	140.00	880.30	320.00
Total Operating Income	196,940.00	207,859.68	243,560.00
Operating Expense			
Salaries and Benefits	99,450.00	93,151.73	107,180.00
Diocesan Allocation	35,100.00	35,044.08	36,100.00
Church Facilities Expenses	42,500.00	36,841.79	44,700.00
Administrative Expenses	26,350.00	24,491.93	28,620.00
Discernment Expenses	9,500.00	1,005.33	9,000.00
Other Operating Expenses	4,100.00	4,691.78	5,600.00
Total Operating Expense	217,000.00	195,226.64	231,200.00
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	(20,060.00)	12,633.04	12,360.00

