



ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2024

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
50 East Bagley Road
Berea, Ohio, 44017

www.stthomaschurch-berea.org

Vestry & Officers

Sue Griffith, Senior Warden; William Kerbusch, Junior Warden;
Bruce McLaughlin, Treasurer; Julie Kalbrunner, Clerk;
Lorrie Beatty, Hannah Jackson, Theresa Hartman, Barb Pertz,
Laura Gaba, Mary Canonico

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AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Prayer/Quorum
2. Appointment of Clerk and Treasurer
3. Approval of 2023 meeting minutes
4. Presentation of Candidates for Vestry
5. Election Results.
6. Senior Warden's Report – Sue Griffith
7. Junior Warden's Report – Bill Kerbusch
8. Deacon's Annual Report – Deacon Barbara Telfer
9. Treasurer's Report – Bruce McLaughlin
10. Presentation of the Budget for 2025
11. Acceptance of the Ministry Reports
12. Closing Questions and Comments
13. Adjournment and Blessing

St. Thomas Annual Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2024, (following Morning Worship Service)

The Meeting was called to order by Fr. David Radzik at 11:55 am. He began with a prayer.

Twenty-five parish members signed in to the meeting prior to the Call to Order. It was determined that a quorum was present. Sign-in sheets are on file.

A motion was made by Sue Griffith, Senior Warden, to appoint Julie Kalbrunner clerk for this Annual Meeting. Bill Kerbusch seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting were reviewed. Mary Lee Stowell moved to approve the minutes. Laura Gaba seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The new Vestry slate was introduced: Laura Ga, (running for second term), Hannah Jackson, and Roanne Lisi. There were no nominations from the floor. David Frazier moved that the nominations be closed. Barb Pertz seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Outgoing Vestry members, including Anita Copper and Heather Flowers, were thanked for their service by Fr. David.

As there were three openings on Vestry and three candidates, the election of new officers was by acclamation. Congratulations to Laura Gaba, Hannah Jackson, and Roanne Lisi.

Rector's Report was given by Fr. David, as per Annual Meeting Booklet.

Senior Warden's Report was given by Sue Griffith, as per Annual Meeting Booklet.

Junior Warden's Report was given by Bill Kerbusch, as per Annual Meeting Booklet.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Bruce McLaughlin, as per Annual Meeting Booklet.

2024 Budget was presented.

Other Committee Reports are printed in the Annual Report 2023, Booklet.

Other concerns:

- Having Coffee Hour after Services.
- Having an all-church rummage sale to clean out old and unused church items that have been stored too long.
- Moving the time of the Sunday service to 10am or 10:30am to better meet the needs of those who would like to attend service in person.

A motion was made to adjourn the Meeting by Carl Scheu, and seconded by Laura Gaba. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 1:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Kalbrunner, Clerk of Vestry

SENIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

To say the least this has been a year of challenges, often walking in faith, accomplishing missions never expected to be accomplished on behalf of St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

In June it was time for Rev. David Radzik to spread his wings and accept a new parish in Newtown, Pa. The beginning steps started of the transition for securing supply priests for the summer and fall. This was a definite challenge since Father Dave was unable to announce he was leaving until three weeks before he moved. This gave the individuals that were approved for leading Morning Prayer a chance to share their faith in a different capacity. It is a different experience sharing sermons written by other priests and delivering them to your congregation. We were blessed to have Rev. Aaron Gerlach, Rev. Eric Funston, Rev. David Connor, and Rev. Jim Kulma. Rev. Jessie Dodson, Canon to the Ordinary, opened Advent with taking that first Sunday, then holding a parish meeting following the service. The Diocese has been graciously helpful throughout this period and with assisting in direction in handling such matters.

This past year took much communication and coordination between St. Thomas and the Diocese. So much appreciation is given to Bishop Jolly and her staff. Whenever there was a question, it was answered and handled.

With regards to such matters is the fact that St. Thomas is the first parish to have their sSanctuary redeveloped as a dance studio. Due to financial matters, plus the fact that we moved into the Chapel year round, it was necessary to address renting the Sanctuary, since we were not allowed to sell it per the Diocese. Bishop Jolly told us to "think outside of the box", which we successfully did. There were several interested individuals that were not appropriate to work with the parish in a rental agreement, until ***Elegance Dance Studio*** showed interest. They have been able to completely convert the sanctuary into a ballroom dance studio. The three owners are wonderful to work with, therefore have signed a five year agreement, with a \$3500 monthly rental obligation. The church could not ask for a better organization to go into business with. It was decided that the Vestry needed a liaison to work with the dance studio and parish, coordinating any issues that might arise. Theresa Hartman is now the new Dance Studio Liaison.

The parish was represented at Ohio Diocesan Council by myself and Dan Patterson. Jazz, my 7 month old Bernese Mountain Dog puppy also attended, as she was in training in preparation to be a certified therapy dog.

We have been blessed to receive funding for a new sound system for the Chapel. Even though the Chapel is a relatively small space, the new system is helping those who are hearing impaired. At the same time, we also have acquired an updated computer system for the office.

This year concluded with being able to hire Father Dawson Moorer, as our Interim Rector.. He started officiating services as of 1/19/25.

This has been such a challenging year, though it would not have been possible without the generosity of such a caring and serving Vestry. I have been sincerely blessed to work with such a Vestry and serve St. Thomas as your Senior Warden.

Respectfully, your Senior Warden, Sue Griffith

Junior Warden's Report

1. The decision was made to lease out the Main Sanctuary space to Elegance BallRoom and Latin Dancing. The following actions were done in order to make this happen.
 - A. Pews were sold
 - B. Stations of the Cross were relocated to the Chapel
 - C. The Hanging Cross was rehung in the Chapel
 - D. The Fount was relocated to the Chapel
 - E. An Air Conditioning System was installed in the Dance Studio
 - F. Electricity in the Dance Studio was upgraded
 - G. A Dance Floor was installed
 - H. A new sound system was installed in the Chapel
2. Chapel: The Bagley Street entryway demolition was completed.
3. Parking-lot: The Parking lot was seal-coated
4. Plumbing Issues:
 - A. The hot-water tank for the Dance studio was replaced
 - B. New toilets were installed in the Lady's restroom
 - C. The water issue with the drinking fountain was resolved
5. Numerous ceiling tiles were replaced through the building
6. All attic files boxes were removed and Julie Kalbrunner sorted through the boxes to determine what was saved and what was shredded

Upcoming projects for 2025:

1. Exterior painting
2. Replacement of the parking lot
3. Name plates on the niches in the Columbarium need correct installation
4. Find secure place for the formal Tea Service silver set
5. Replace sidewalks
6. Realign gutters on the East side of the building
7. Replace flower beds along east side of building with grass
8. Document shred project

Respectfully submitted, Bill Kerbusch

Deacon's Annual Report 2024

The deacon at a parish is the intersection of the church and the world. So with that being said. St. Thomas has been up to that by participating in the Cleveland Pride Parade and our Red Door Café where we have served over 100 cups of hot beverages. Our STAR program brings outside folk into our space to enjoy wonder talents of voice and music in so many ways. Some are our talents and others are from the community. Both are a great way of connecting with others. Our youth have traveled outside our State lines by doing mission work for the needed. The youth are disciples of Christ that are going out to meet the needs of the world.

Let's not forget we connect with other churches in the area with the Station of the Cross Walk in Berea on Good Friday every year and the Lenten Program we do with our sister churches of ST. Paul's in Medina and St. Patrick's in Brunswick.

So, we are doing an excellent job of being the image of God to our neighbors. I can not wait for 2025 ministries.

Remember what Jesus' understood that human beings bear **God's image**, even as our coins bear the image of past presidents or very important people. We were created in God's image and likeness, according to Genesis 1:26-27.

Love and God Bless, Deacon Barb Telfer

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Treasurers Report: 2024 - Operations -

St. Thomas concluded 2024 with an operational checkbook and PayPal balance of \$21,660. The revenue through for 2024 was \$220,211 versus expenses of \$218,392 for a gain of \$1820. The Harkess fund contributed \$67310 including \$27,585 in capital distributions through 2024.

Tim Cooper has handled all financial and accounting tasks for the past few years and is the major reason we have a clear understanding of our financial condition.

Treasurers Report: 2025

- Operating Budget -

The vestry has yet to approve a budget for 2025 with expected revenues of \$187,550 and expenses of \$185,994 for a gain of about \$21,556. Expected offerings are \$116,500. The Harkess trust proceeds are estimated to be \$27,500. The full 5year total of \$719,000 was available after October2024. We will have an interim priest starting January 13. I propose to the church body that some events be charged for church utilities and operation based on agreements between the Vestry and each event.

St. Thomas has the same opportunities and problems that our families have. We need to bring in dollars to pay our bills and save enough for a rainy day. Each of us need to look at St. Thomas as our family in faith. We can save dollars by doing less as any family does when in financial straits or we can find ways to increase revenue. In any event we must decide how we want to continue meeting our worship and outreach goals.

I hope to keep you informed about our financial condition during the year and trust in God and in you to help keep St. Thomas Solvent.

Bruce, McLaughlin, Treasurer

(See last Pages of the printed version of this document for the projected budget)

Lay Reader Ministry Report

The lay reader ministry has again gone well, with virtually no issues. We have added two new readers, Michael Strama and Bruce McLaughlin. In addition, several of the readers have gone through training to be able to serve as lay ministers for Morning Prayer. Thanks to all my readers who have made coordinating this ministry run so smoothly.

Carl F. Scheu III

MUSIC MINISTRY AT ST. THOMAS in 2024

This year has been full of transitions for St. Thomas, and this was reflected in our music ministry. We started the year continuing our worship services in the Ogilvy Chapel, which is the original Sanctuary at our location, built in 1893. That service was held at 9:30am until Labor Day, and then, as we made the Chapel our new home and rented out our Sanctuary, the service time was changed to 10am, where it remains.

When our Rector David Radzik left in June, we alternated worship between Holy Eucharist when we had a supply priest, and Morning Prayer Service, officiated by trained lay leaders, and our beloved Deacon Barbara Telfer.

The musicians involved in the Music Ministry of St. Thomas have been a joy to work with this year. Our choir, which on regular Sundays numbered from 4 to 8 women, have continued to adeptly lead the music in worship services, with rehearsals primarily on Sunday mornings before and after church services. Occasionally we have had night-time rehearsals on Thursdays, but our singers are often busy with many other obligations. This has caused us to leave the more elaborate service music for special services. To aid keeping the creative tradition alive, I have continued to compose a number of both choral and instrumental arrangements to add variety and timely music to our worship. For more specific Holy Days, we were able to retain a number of guest musicians to add to the complement on Holy Days, most specifically Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas Eve.

Twice over the course of the year, we were delighted to host rehearsals for the Parma Symphony Orchestra, and continued our tradition to invite some of their members to play in services. We also hosted the Western Campus Chorale of Cuyahoga Community College in service twice as well. And when our good friend Rev. Jim Kulma was with us for worship, we invited him to play guitar and sing with us, which was a very special treat.

I finish by extending a hearty thank you to our St. Thomas choir members, friends, and guest musicians: Regular Musicians: Sue Griffith, (both singer and bassoonist), Mary Lee Stowell, Nancy Braford, Amanda Bosley, Sue Zimdars, Mary Vazquez, Gwendolyn Jenkins, and Nicholle Pierce. Guest musicians: Will Stocker, Kate Stocker Holly, Michael Holly, Tom Malone, Kimberly Coxe, Jackie Wood, David Coxe, Bernadette Hisey . My great thanks to all our many musicians, and to St. Thomas for their steadfast support, help, and faithfulness.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kira Seaton, Minister of Music

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild allows our parish to beautify the altar and columbarium whilst following the Church Calendar for color and form. The current Guild members are: Linda Kinsey, Julie Kalbrunner and Barb Emigh. Anita Cooper adorns with Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies. This year we are encouraging parishioners to remember their loved ones by dedicating a Sunday of their choice with altar flowers for \$30 by returning a short form available at the service entrance table. Those flowers may be taken home after that service.

Respectfully submitted, Barb Emigh

St. Thomas Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is responsible for “Setting the Table” (Altar), for all church services including Sunday Services, Feast Days, Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals/Memorials. Altar Guild members usually set up on Saturdays for the Sunday service, cleaning up after. Other set-ups are dictated by when a service is held. Additionally, the Altar Guild cares for the altar linens, candles, wine and vessels; and cares for the priest’s vestments and altar hangings if needed. We had to empty the main church sacristy and the hall cupboards where altar hangings were stored due to the rental of the main church. This left all the items from those areas to find a “home” in the chapel sacristy, a smaller area. The altar hangings are now on hangers, not the best way to store them. Other items are in cupboards not nearly as suited to the items as the former sacristy. The chapel sacristy is now also used by others so it is a shared space and more difficult to organize and keep clean. There are now 8 dedicated members serving on the Altar Guild. We would welcome anyone interested in joining!

Respectfully Submitted, Julie Kalbrunner

St. Thomas Adult Recreation Report

The S.T.A.R. Program is in its 17th year at St. Thomas and continues to provide live entertainment, free lunch, socialization and camaraderie to parishioners, community members, and assisted living/nursing home residents in our community through cooperation with Baldwin-Wallace University, CCC, and individual entertainers. The musical program, followed by lunch is held at 12:15 pm the second Thursday of each month, September - May. We have been funded by Grant from the Cleveland Episcopal Diocese and are hoping to receive another grant this year to continue the program from September 2025-May 2026. We served 719 people in the 2023-24 season. This number is still lower than the years prior due to COVID. We did raise the number of attendees from 70 to 90 guests this fall. But because we are now using the 1864 worship area, the guests are even fewer than last year. The program is run by about 10 volunteers who plan, shop, cook, setup, welcome and introduce guests, and clean up each month. We welcomed 3 new regular volunteers! We can always use additional help! Our mission is to provide fellowship, good food and enriching entertainment to adults in our community, many of whom look forward to this program each month as the highlight of their activity!

Respectfully submitted, Julie Kalbrunner

Church Census 2024

Baptisms: 0

Confirmations: 0

Funerals: 2

Weddings: 0

Average Weekly Attendance: 32

Number of Services Conducted (Week-end): 52

Number of Services on Week-days: 11

Christmas Eve Attendance: 48

Christmas Day Attendance: 10

Easter Attendance: 58