

Annual Report for 2022

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



January 29, 2023

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St. Thomas Episcopal Church

The Great Litany
Hybrid worship

\
Bishop Lucinda visits
St. Thomas for the
first time

Induction of catechumenate

Easter Vigil Baptism

Agape Circle

Easter Vigil fire

Good Friday
Stripping the Altar

Parish work day

Liturgical art
for Easter

Christmas altar with creche

8am Pentecost coffee hour

Altar Guild

January 29, 2023

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AGENDA

After the blessing, the annual meeting will continue as follows.

Prayer for Annual Meeting

Officiant and People:

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in St. Thomas for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Food distribution

Pat Dare and team

Adoption of Minutes from Annual Meeting 2022

Fran Hostettler and Pastor Salying

Reading of Baptisms, Confirmations and Necrology

Pastor Salying

Report of Finances - 2022 Actuals and 2023 Budget

Jim Cobb

Report from Senior Warden and Rector

Abby O'Connell and Pastor Salying

Awards and Honors

Pastor Salying

- Vestry members Class of 2022
- Rector's Award
- Vestry Cross
- Good and Faithful Servant Recognition

Election of New Vestry and Delegates to Convention and announcement of Sr. Warden

Commissioning of Vestry, Delegates and Alternates

Adjournment

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world as instruments of God's peace, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*The new vestry will meet immediately after the service
to vote for the Treasurer and Clerk and to take a vestry picture.
Please meet in the chapel.*

Postlude

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
January 30, 2022

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Thomas Episcopal Church began at 10:30, Sunday, January 30, 2022 with a hybrid Eucharist service held in-church and on Zoom. After the final blessing in the service, lunch was distributed by Pat Dare and his team, noting that we were also celebrating the beginning of the Chinese New Year. Copies of the meeting brochure, "Annual Report for 2021, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Jan. 30, 2022", had been sent out on-line and were distributed to people attending the meeting at church. At 11:37 Pastor Salying opened the business part of the meeting with a prayer (p. 4, brochure).

MINUTES from Annual Meeting 2021: The first order of business was the adoption of the minutes from the Jan. 31, 2021 Parish Annual Meeting, p. 5-8 in the 2021 Annual Meeting Report. Attendees were given time to review the report. A MOTION (Joe Gutierrez) was made and SECONDED to accept the report as submitted; this PASSED by unanimous raised-hands vote.

NEWBORNS, NEWCOMERS, and NECROLOGY: Breno deMedeiros put up slides with names/pictures of:

Newborns

Newcomers and Catechumens

Necrology (parishioners who had passed on in this last year)

This section ended with a prayer.

AWARDS and HONORS:

Retiring Vestry Members: Marilyn Winans, Lou Poulain, Ann Kopischke and Hugo Lopez-Laguna were asked to stand; they were all given a certificate and thanked for their service.

New Senior Warden: Abby McConnell was announced as the new Sr. Warden.

Special Award: Fran Hostettler was given a special award as she retires from serving as Vestry Clerk for >30 yrs.

Rector's Award: The Rector's Award went to Steve Williams for all his help installing, configuring, and teaching others all the new technology necessary for functioning in the new church.

Vestry Cross: Vestry Crosses were given to all the members of the Financial Sustainability Committee for three years of long hours, dedicated work, love and service: Co-Chairs Joe Gutierrez and Keri Williams, Abby O'Connell, Bill Rosgen, Ann Kopischke, Carol Campbell, Cal Cornwell, Jim Cobb and Emilee Wilhelm-Leen.

ELECTION of NEW VESTRY and DELEGATES to CONVENTION:

VESTRY: The nominees are: Nancy Allgeier, Rita Welsh, Gage McKinney (three-year terms) and Bill Rosgen (one-year term). Photos and statements from each group are in the brochure (pps. 10-12). A few questions were directed to the candidates from the congregation. Helen Minchen asked Vestry candidates if there was a "rule" that people only vote for candidates who mention Jesus or God in their statements, and, How does St. Thomas differ from a non-profit center or effort? Gage responded that ST differs in that we are the body of Jesus Christ in our Sunnyvale community and in the world. Bill said that in a church there is a shared fellowship and worship of God, and we all walk together with love. Rita said that she was asked that question when she first came to ST. She can see that her spiritual needs and those of others are being met. Meeting people's needs has included starting the outreach charities FISH, Sunnyvale Community Services, and Our Daily Bread. Nancy said that she has experienced brokenness and has found the Holy Spirit present here, in addition to the words of Jesus. Her spiritual home is at St. Thomas.

Salying then asked the congregation if they affirm and elect the slate of Vestry candidates. Attendees in church and on Zoom voted. All voted "Aye". There were no abstentions and no Nays. The election was UNANIMOUS.

DELEGATES: The nominees are: Mabel Cheng, Stephanie Daugherty, Mary Jane Johnson and Hugo Lopez-Laguna, with Alternates Joe Gutierrez and Marilyn Winans. Helen said she had a different question for them: The Diocese has announced that the property of St. Mark's in Santa Clara will all be sold. What would you like to see as the priorities of the Diocese, and How would you like to see the proceeds spent? Hugo replied that he would like to see the work of the Diocese, and for ST people familiar with St. Mark's to see what changes are needed and to be a bridge between the Diocese and the community. Stephanie said that she would like the money spent on educating the clergy and the parish, on housing in Santa Clara and helping the homeless. Mabel said she wants us to hear the voices in the church so we can bring that to the Diocese. Deacon Bertram noted that it's up to the Diocese how the proceeds are spent. Salying said if there are ideas from the congregation, they should go from the congregation to the Deanery to Commissions to the Diocese; people should mention ideas to the delegates.

Salying then asked the congregation if they affirm and elect the slate of Delegate candidates. Attendees in church and on Zoom voted. All voted "Aye" with no abstentions and no Nays. The election was UNANIMOUS.

FINANCE REPORT: Treasurer Jim Cobb started with some announcements: the 2021 year-end reports (for tax purposes) will be in the mail this week. Jim listed several Thank-You's for the help he has gotten this year--to Assistant Treasurer Carl Beckham for his hard work, to Parish Administrator Anne Buelteman, to Pastor Salying for her guidance, leadership and support, to the Finance Committee (Ann Kopischke, Breno deMedeiros, Naveen Paulkandasamy and Steve Williams) for their active and robust help, and to Chuck Thompson and David Barnes (ODB) with whom he was in almost weekly contact. He added very special thanks to his wife Donna for all her loving support.

FINANCE—2021 ACTUALS: Then Jim turned to the summary of 2021 finances, starting on p. 13 with the Preliminary Income Statement as of 1/27/22. First, the pledge result: Jim thanked everyone for their generous donations and support. There was an amazing response on pledges, ~105% of the budgeted amount. This resulted in a budget surplus of \$2,379 vs. the planned deficit of \$22,431 (p. 13, bottom line). Jim gave a shout-out to the fundraisers, whose events were very successful. The Christmas and Easter offerings also were over budget. There was Supplemental Income, especially Direct and Indirect costs related to ODB (p. 18). Jim also noted income from Memorial and family celebration donations. Under Expenses he noted the payoff of the PPP loan, where a small amount was due because of revised guidance in the federal program. Further details of Expenses are covered on pp. 14-16. Jim said that if there were any questions, let him know.

On page 17 there is a Comparative Income Statement, comparing 2021 to years 2020 back to 2017. Page 18 has details of the ODB program. This all means that St. Thomas ended 2021 in a very good budgetary position, which was communicated to the diocese.

BUDGET--2022: The Finance Committee drew up a 2022 Budget; it was reviewed by the Vestry in Dec. '21 and Jan. '22, with a final modification and approval on January 25th. The Budget is shown on p. 19. Jim said that there had been a good response to the request for supplemental pledges. This allowed staff raises to be increased to +4%. There is a planned deficit of \$19,284. There are still reserves in Savings if needed. The Vestry will do a mid-year budget review. Finally, on p. 20 is a Detail of the Planned Expenses for 2022. Jim ended by asking if there were any questions, possibly about any cuts made in previous estimates (e.g., the original deficit was estimated at ~\$44K, an unsustainable amount). With the last push at the end of the year they were able to avoid cuts.

Pastor Salying thanked Jim for ALL his hard work on the budget!!

REPORTS:

Vestry Report on Financial Sustainability: Breno posted slides and Abby O'Connell led a presentation on "Sustaining the St. Thomas Community" in order to open dialog with the parish. The

Vestry wants to hear from parishioners. For communication there are green cards in the church, or questions can be emailed to Ann Kopischke or other Vestry members. The first slides showed timeline data on parish membership and budget trends. They showed that church membership and financial support is declining, which is a trend occurring across the country in many churches. A slide with age profile trends of ST parishioners showed that the largest number of members are in their 80's and 70's. So, serious consideration has to be given to what can be done to allow growth and sustainability. To define the church's mission, the beginning effort was the "Dreaming Project", to discern what is important to parishioners. This led to a new Mission Statement.

In 2019 the Vestry commissioned the Financial Sustainability Committee" (FSC) to identify additional income possibilities. The FSC considered many options, some of which were not feasible due to city/county regulations, cost, or other factors. It became clear that the church campus property (two acres) is ST's greatest asset. Renting out a portion of it for income seemed the most plausible. After the Vestry and the FSC studied possible options, the FSC recommended we lease out the western part of the campus (including Cowans Hall and the admin. buildings) to a non-profit tenant or tenants. If the western side is leased, then the eastern side (including the main church/sanctuary and the education buildings) must be renovated. After Vestry consideration it was determined that we could only undertake changes after significant communication with the parish. A series of Town Hall meetings on Zoom were scheduled to share information, get feedback and answer questions. A list of the members of the FSC was shown on another slide to make clear who might be available to refer questions to (see list on p. 1 of this report for FSC members). Dates for the Town Hall meetings were: Feb. 23, Mar. 23, Apr. 27, May 25 (envisioning the new campus), June 5 (a parish advisory vote to go to the Vestry), and June 14 (Vestry decision).

After the slide presentation Salying said that there are two other topics that have been considered throughout this effort: evolving the meal program as the campus evolves is ongoing, and we continue to work with ODB.

The Catecumenate: Lou Poulain shared the concept of Catecumenate: "Catecumenate" comes from the earliest church as the process by which it educated and incorporated new members into its family. Lou has begun thinking about adapting this concept at ST as we proceed into the future.

Worship and Technology: In her Rector's Report (p. 21) Salying reported on the ongoing effort of technology-assisted worship at ST. She noted all the help she has gotten from Steve Williams and his team members, Jim Cobb, Breno deMedeiros, Helen and Robert Minchin, and Pat Dare, in setting up all the new technologies we now need. She also thanked the Zoom Host team: Lou Poulain, Abby O'Connell, Aer Van der Water, and Fulvia Govetto.

ELECTION of Alternate Delegates to Convention: Marilyn Winans and Joe Gutierrez were unanimously elected as Alternate Delegates to Convention for 2023.

COMMISSIONING of VESTRY, DELEGATES and ALTERNATES TO CONVENTION for 2023: Pastor Salying called forward the new Vestry members and the Sr. Warden and commissioned them (p. 41). Then she called up and commissioned the Delegates and Alternates to Convention. She thanked everyone.

An announcement was made that after the close of this meeting there would be a brief meeting in the Library for the new Vestry to formally elect the Treasurer and Vestry Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT: Pastor Salying gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Hostettler, Vestry Clerk



VESTRY MINUTES

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
January 30, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT (via ZOOM, online): Abby O'Connell (Sr. Warden), Chris Schmidt (Jr. Warden), Nancy Allgeier, Bill Rosgen, Rita Welsh, Pat Dare, Breno de Medeiros, Susan McVey, Gage McKinney (Clerk)

CLERGY: Pastor Salying Wong (Rector)

OTHER: Jim Cobb (Treasurer)

ABSENT: None

Agenda Items for Vestry Meeting:

Election of parish officers

Opening prayer: Pastor Salying opened the meeting with prayer.

Nominations: Jim Cobb, treasurer and Gage McKinney, clerk, by acclamation.

Elections: Vestry elected both candidates by unanimous voice vote.

Next Meeting: February 15, 7 pm (via Zoom)

The meeting closed with a blessing.

Respectively submitted,
Gage McKinney, Clerk



VESTRY CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidates for 3-year term:

Joe Gutierrez

I'm honored to be nominated to serve for a three-year term on our vestry. I've been at St. Thomas long enough to have seen many changes. This is not the same church that it was when I arrived. Each Sunday is an evolving experience. It's not that we don't know that change is inevitable, but that change is taking place at an increasingly faster rate. It's the rate of change and the emotional agility that it takes to adjust to these rapid changes that makes our church life so interesting.

I was on the Search Committee to select our pastor in 2014 and 2015. I was also on the interviewing sub-committee that interviewed our to-be pastor, Salying, at St. Marks, Palo Alto. I knew at that time, that Salying was the leader that could and would lead us through these challenging times, so full of doubt, wonder, surprise, sadness and joy.



If elected, I look forward to helping you, the vestry and Pastor Salying meet the special challenges that face us. Of the many changes that we have experienced over the years, the restructuring of our campus for leasing and space-sharing is probably the most complex change of all. I know we can do this with grace and love. I would like to be a part of this very special effort with you as your vestry person.

With love and blessings, Joe Gutierrez

Dena Ware

I felt I found a home from the moment I walked through the doors of St. Thomas just over a year ago! There are so many important ministries here, and I love learning about them, getting to know the people involved, and even participating in them too! Prior to St. Thomas, I attended Episcopal churches in Colorado and Texas, but obviously, St. Thomas is my favorite!! I've lived all over the US, but I've been in Sunnyvale for the past 12 years where I live, work, play, and now worship. I am honored to be considered for the St. Thomas Vestry.



Emilee Wilhelm-Leen

I'm a mother of two boys and a primary care doctor caring for homeless folks in Santa Clara county. I previously attended St. Bede's in Menlo Park – where I did two tours on the vestry – but joined St. Thomas about five years ago when I realized I could skip the freeway and hop on my bike instead. I'm so glad I did! I treasure the feelings of love and fun that are so unmistakable in the St. Thomas community. Previously at St. Thomas, I served on the Financial Sustainability Committee and I recently joined the choir where they are patient with me as I learn to sing harmony with my fellow altos. I'm looking forward to sitting on vestry in 2023.



Delegates to Convention

We confirm the election of these Delegates who will serve at Convention in 2021:

Mabel Cheng
Stephanie Daugherty
Hugo Lopez-Laguna
Sherene Nagarajah

Alternates may be appointed or volunteer, as needed, closer to the time of Convention, in the fall.

Mabel Cheng

I first attended St Thomas in 2004. The church is a spiritual place and full of love. I love the parishioners who care for each other. I have been on the vestry and have taught ESL for Chinese immigrants for 5 years. At this time, I want to serve as delegate of Episcopal Church Convention.

**Stephanie Daugherty**

I have been a member of St. Thomas since 2004. I have served as a greeter, a member of the Vestry, Altar Guild, Archives Committee, and as a delegate. I have attended several conventions and have learned and witnessed the full scope of the work of the diocese. I am honored to serve as a delegate.

Respectfully,
Stephanie Daugherty

**Hugo Lopez-Laguna**

Educated as a computer technician in Guanajuato, Hugo came to the USA in 2001. He was a member of Epiphany Episcopal and Lutheran Church in Marina, California from 2005-2007. He moved to Sunnyvale in 2008 and became a member of St. Thomas in 2011. After serving 3 years on Vestry 2019-2021, he now wishes to serve as a delegate to convention.

- ed.

**Sherene Nagarajah**

I am an internal medicine physician currently practicing in the Bay Area. I am married to deacon Bertram and we have two sons. I am a new member of the altar guild at Saint Thomas. I was in the altar guild at Saint Marks, Santa Clara for seven years. Before that we lived in the east coast and I was in the flower guild at the episcopal church in Washington, D.C. I have also authored a Christian nonfiction book. I would be honored to serve as a delegate to the Convention.



FINANCIAL REPORT

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH Preliminary INCOME STATEMENT (as of 1/25/2023)

General Fund – our Unrestricted Fund
2022

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SUMMARY

	Actual Results	Budget	Variance Fav. (Unfavorable)
<u>GROSS INCOME:</u>			
Pledges and General Fund donations	\$ 375,540	\$ 338,750	\$ 36,790
Loose offering	7,207	3,000	4,207
Group use	600	1,800	(1,200)
Fundraisers (net income):			
General Fundraising Events	1,937	1,500	437
Christmas Boutique	2,697	1,500	1,197
AmazonSmile Commissions	229	150	79
Scrip Program	45	125	(81)
Christmas and Easter Offerings (in)	14,227	11,500	2,727
Supplemental income:			
ODB: Program Director's salary, benefits and workers compensation insurance	98,617	103,496	(4,879)
ODB: Portion of Cleaning Service costs	9,750	9,750	0
ODB: Support for other indirect expenses	45,263	46,091	(829)
ODB: Facility Use Reimbursement	42,000	0	42,000
Library: Designated Gift & Transfer from Library Long Term account (in Savings)	1,767	1,600	167
Diocesan Resource Center	1,217	3,475	(2,258)
Planned transfers from Restricted Savings Funds	0	2,345	(2,345)
Choral Scholars Fund	1,125	2,000	(875)
Interest income – General Fund	2	0	2
Other income:			0
Weddings, memorial services and baptisms	650	0	650
Facility use, Polling place fees and all other	700	500	200
Total gross income	<u>\$ 603,573</u>	<u>\$ 527,582</u>	<u>\$ 75,991</u>

EXPENSES: (please see the next three pages for details)

Clergy Compensation & Benefits	27%	\$ 144,719	\$ 141,175	\$ (3,544)
Administration	17%	90,362	89,089	(1,273)
Outreach: General	13%	69,786	60,005	(9,781)
Outreach: ODB Program Director	18%	98,608	103,495	4,887
Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Vestry Commissions	0%	1,617	3,300	1,683
Education	5%	25,575	23,166	(2,409)
Worship & Music	5%	25,952	33,566	7,614
Buildings & Grounds	16%	88,717	92,570	3,853
Total expenses		<u>\$ 545,336</u>	<u>\$ 546,366</u>	<u>\$ 1,030</u>
NET OPERATING INCOME OR (LOSS)		<u><u>\$ 58,238</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (18,784)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 77,022</u></u>

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Preliminary INCOME STATEMENT (as of 1/25/2023)
 General Fund – our Unrestricted Fund
2022

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DETAIL OF EXPENSES

	Actual Results	Budget	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>CLERGY COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS:</u>			
Salary – Rector	\$ 106,264	\$ 103,169	\$ (3,095)
Pension expense – Rector	20,799	18,570	(2,229)
Personnel insurance – Rector	15,366	15,265	(101)
Business expenses – Rector	1,229	2,000	771
Continuing education – Rector	-	1,000	1,000
Workers comp. insurance – Rector	691	671	(20)
Business expenses – Deacon	-	-	-
Continuing education – Deacon	-	-	-
Supply clergy	370	500	130
Totals	<u>\$ 144,719</u>	<u>\$ 141,175</u>	<u>\$ (3,544)</u>
<u>ADMINISTRATION:</u>			
Salary - Parish Administrator	\$ 46,674	\$ 43,955	\$ (2,719)
Lay pension expense - Parish Administrator	4,201	3,956	(245)
Payroll taxes - Parish Administrator	3,571	3,363	(208)
Personnel insurance - Parish Administrator	11,909	11,909	0
Workers compensation insurance - Parish Administrator	303	286	(17)
Office expenses (includes office supplies, postage, copier rental, dues & subscriptions, small office furniture & equipment, and signage)	11,098	12,500	1403
Background Checks	-	200	200
Staff Continuing Education (<i>fund via restricted savings</i>)	-	-	-
Payroll Service	531	550	19
PayPal Donation Fees	896	1,500	604
Telephone, Internet & Fax	3,876	3,540	(336)
Internet Infrastructure & Computer Upgrades	911	1,500	589
New Website Maintenance Fees	900	400	(500)
Advertising & Communications	-	250	250
Assistant Treasurer - compensation, payroll taxes, workers comp insur.	5,493	5,181	(312)
Totals	<u>\$ 90,362</u>	<u>\$ 89,089</u>	<u>\$ (1,272)</u>

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Preliminary INCOME STATEMENT (as of 1/25/2023)
 General Fund – our Unrestricted Fund
2022

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DETAIL OF EXPENSES

	Actual Results	Budget	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>OUTREACH - GENERAL:</u>			
Diocesan Fair Share	\$ 58,741	\$ 51,355	\$ (7,386)
Christmas & Easter Offerings to Outreach			
- <i>Easter Offering Out</i>	4,431	1,250	(3,181)
- <i>Christmas Offering Out (includes late 2021 donations)</i>	2,683	1,250	(1,433)
ODB: direct St. Thomas support	2,500	2,500	0
Diocesan Resource Center	1,217	3,475	2,258
Episcopal Church Women	-	150	150
ESL Classes	-	-	0
Outreach Worker Program Expenses	214	-	(214)
Silicon Valley Deanery	-	25	25
Totals	<u>\$ 69,786</u>	<u>\$ 60,005</u>	<u>\$ (9,781)</u>
<u>OUTREACH – ODB PROGRAM DIRECTOR:</u>			
Salary - ODB Program Director	\$ 69,976	\$ 73,980	\$ 4,004
Lay pension expense - ODB Program Director	6,028	6,658	630
Payroll taxes - ODB Program Director	5,353	5,659	306
Personnel insurance - ODB Program Director	16,816	16,717	(99)
Workers compensation insurance - ODB Program Director	435	481	46
Totals	<u>\$ 98,608</u>	<u>\$ 103,495</u>	<u>\$ 4,887</u>
<u>PASTORAL CARE, STEWARDSHIP & VESTRY COMM:</u>			
Archives (<i>incorporated into the Library budget</i>)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Parish Event Planners (PEP)	1,490	1,200	(290)
Pastoral Care Program	-	100	100
Senior Ministry	29	750	721
Stewardship - Finance Committee	-	250	250
Stewardship - Program Expenses	-	-	0
Vestry Expenses (<i>including Awards</i>)	98	500	402
Vitality & Growth (<i>including Newcomers</i>)	-	500	500
Other Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Totals	<u>\$ 1,617</u>	<u>\$ 3,300</u>	<u>\$ 1,683</u>

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Preliminary INCOME STATEMENT (as of 1/25/2023)
 General Fund – our Unrestricted Fund
2022

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DETAIL OF EXPENSES

	Actual Results	Budget	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>EDUCATION:</u>			
Salary - Family Ministry Director (FMD)	\$20,878	\$ 18,025	\$ (2,853)
Payroll taxes - FMD	1,597	1,379	(218)
Workers comp. ins. - FMD	136	117	(19)
Nursery Caregiver and assistant - Comp., P/R taxes, workers comp. ins.	-	-	0
Program expenses:			
Adult Education	494	500	6
Education: Preschool through 12th grade & VBS	201	600	399
Family Camp (<i>fund via restricted savings</i>)	-	-	0
FMD Program expenses	503	800	297
Library (<i>includes Archives</i>)	1,767	1,600	(167)
Nursery	-	145	145
Totals	<u>\$ 25,575</u>	<u>\$ 23,166</u>	<u>\$ (2,409)</u>
<u>WORSHIP AND MUSIC:</u>			
Acolytes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Worship program (<i>includes Liturgical Arts</i>)	19	900	881
Music Program - Senior Choir	265	1,000	735
Salary - Music Director	16,337	15,861	(476)
Salary - Organist	-	7,930	7,930
Payroll taxes - Music	1,250	1,820	570
Workers compensation insurance - Music	106	155	49
Guest Organist Fees	3,200	3,000	(200)
Guest Musician Fees	3,650	900	(2,750)
Choral Scholars Program	1,125	2,000	875
Totals	<u>\$ 25,952</u>	<u>\$ 33,566</u>	<u>\$ 7,614</u>
<u>BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:</u>			
Cleaning service	\$ 15,700	\$ 15,550	\$ (150)
Insurance - Property and Liab., Umbrella, Dir. and Off., etc.	9,509	11,900	2,391
Maintenance/housekeeping (<i>includes paper supplies, pest control, security system, organ tuning, Mondays crew, carpet cleaning, etc.</i>)	13,897	11,500	(2,397)
Major maintenance:	525	2,000	1,475
Property taxes	1,355	1,320	(35)
Provision to the Recapitalization Fund	-	-	0
Safety program expenses	-	200	200
Utilities: PG&E	18,493	19,000	507
City of Sunnyvale	23,509	26,000	2,491
Yard maintenance service	5,729	5,100	(629)
Totals	<u>\$ 88,717</u>	<u>\$ 92,570</u>	<u>\$ 3,853</u>

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT
 General Fund – our Unrestricted Fund
2022 compared to 2021 through 2018

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>for Comparison</u>		
			<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
GROSS INCOME:					
Pledges and General Fund donations	\$ 375,540	\$ 333,430	\$ 335,346	\$ 327,365	\$ 329,657
Loose offering	7,207	3,371	1,557	3,766	7,506
Group use	600	250	250	600	600
Fundraisers (net income), including Scrip program	4,907	4,705	2,563	14,520	8,810
Christmas and Easter Offerings (in)	14,227	12,701	10,590	9,288	10,097
Supplemental income:					
From ODB – a portion of the Program Director's salary, benefits, and workers' compensation insurance	98,617	95,499	72,921	89,123	83,897
less: <i>St. Thomas Direct Support to ODB (moved to Outreach-General in 2019)</i>					(2,524)
From ODB – 65% of basic cleaning service costs	9,750	9,750	9,750	9,929	9,000
From ODB – additional support for indirect expenses	45,263	44,928	38,879	45,706	28,380
From ODB – facility use reimbursement (new for 2022)	42,000				
Outreach Worker Funding In	-	-	-	-	8,539
Library: Designated gift and transfers from the Library					
Long Term account (in Savings)	1,767	1,831	1,690	2,012	1,332
Diocesan Resource Center	1,217	1,089	1,408	1,609	1,890
Transfers from Restricted Funds to the General Fund	1,125	1,850	1,900	1,000	1,225
CARES ACT-Payroll Protection Plan Grant Funds	-	-	65,387	-	-
Other income:					
Weddings, funerals and baptisms	1,350	200	-	600	500
All other	2	7	8	754	153
Total gross income	<u>\$ 603,573</u>	<u>\$ 509,611</u>	<u>\$ 542,250</u>	<u>\$ 506,273</u>	<u>\$ 489,060</u>
EXPENSES:					
Clergy compensation and benefits	\$ 144,719	\$ 134,694	\$ 131,042	\$ 129,181	\$ 126,066
Administration	90,362	86,142	84,570	81,328	77,884
Outreach-General: including Fair Share to the Diocese of El Camino Real and Christmas/Easter offerings out	67,071	52,541	57,918	54,660	52,015
- <i>St. Thomas Direct Support to ODB (moved to Outreach in 2019)</i>	2,500	2,500	2,501	2,310	
Outreach Worker (Cell Phone only beginning 2019)	214	633	638	624	8,539
Outreach – Our Daily Bread Program Director	98,608	95,416	89,384	89,138	84,442
Pastoral Care, Stewardship and Other	1,617	409	1,627	2,701	6,398
Education	25,575	22,028	20,889	23,813	23,144
Worship and Music	25,952	25,913	34,660	31,513	30,577
Buildings and Grounds	88,717	85,823	89,525	88,909	83,232
Payroll Protection Plan Loan Payoff		1,134			
Total expenses	<u>\$ 545,336</u>	<u>\$ 507,232</u>	<u>\$ 512,754</u>	<u>\$ 504,176</u>	<u>\$ 492,297</u>
NET INCOME OR (LOSS)	<u>\$ 58,238</u>	<u>\$ 2,379</u>	<u>\$ 29,495</u>	<u>\$ 2,097</u>	<u>\$ (3,237)</u>
BUDGETED NET INCOME OR (LOSS)	<u>\$ (18,784)</u>	<u>\$ (22,431)</u>	<u>\$ (9,689)</u>	<u>\$ (7,628)</u>	<u>\$ (21,920)</u>
Amount Pledged: (* includes supplemental pledges)	\$ 332,115 *	\$ 312,458	\$ 334,512	\$ 308,104 *	\$ 311,701
Number of Pledges:	59	59	68	75	73
Average Pledge:	\$ 5,629	\$ 5,296	\$ 4,919	\$ 4,108	\$ 4,270
*Supplemental pledges received	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Costs (Direct and Indirect) of St. Thomas' ODB Outreach Program 2022

Costs (Direct and Indirect) of St. Thomas' ODB Outreach Program

Most parishioners are aware of the direct financial support that St. Thomas Episcopal Church provides to ODB (Our Daily Bread), our outreach program that serves free lunches on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, to all who are hungry. No questions are asked, except perhaps "Are you here for lunch?"

Not so clear to most, however, are the significant indirect costs of running the meal program. The schedule below is an attempt to estimate and allocate these indirect costs. Beginning in 2019, ODB fully reimburses St. Thomas for the allocated indirect expenses shown below.

Direct costs:

St. Thomas donations to ODB from the 2022 Operating Budget	\$ 2,500
--	----------

Indirect Costs (reimbursed by ODB):

Facility Use Reimbursement (<i>new for 2022</i>)	\$ 42,000
--	-----------

Utilities - paid to PG&E for gas and electric service	13,758
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Utilities - paid to City of Sunnyvale for garbage service, water use & sewer	17,632
--	--------

Spray service (portion) (Pestmaster)	5,404
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Paper supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, etc. for washrooms)	986
---	-----

Cleaning service (portion)	9,750
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Telephone and Fax (one line for each dedicated to ODB)	599
--	-----

Outreach Worker's Cell Phone (<i>note: account closed April 2022</i>)	214
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Portion of Parish Administrator time spent relating to ODB (compensation only)	6,670
--	-------

Subtotal - allocated indirect costs reimbursed by ODB	<u>\$ 97,013</u>
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ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**BUDGET – YEAR 2023**

Vestry Approved, 1/17/23

GROSS INCOME:

Pledges and General Fund donations		\$ 324,000
Loose offering		3,000
Group use		1,200
Net income from fundraisers:		
General Fundraising Events	\$ 1,500	
Christmas Boutique	1,500	
AmazonSmile Commissions	200	
Scrip program (net)	-	3,200
Christmas and Easter offerings (in)		13,000
Supplemental income:		
ODB: Program Director's salary, benefits, and workers' compensation insurance	112,710	
ODB: Cleaning Service costs	11,700	
ODB: Support for other indirect costs	46,593	
ODB: Facility Use Reimbursement	42,000	
Library: Designated Gift and Transfer from Library Long Term account (in Savings)	1,550	
Diocesan Resource Center: Support from the Dioceses of El Camino Real and California	2,175	
Planned transfers from Restricted Savings Funds: for example: Adult Education, Music Program, Nursery, Pastoral Care and Parish Event Planners	2,250	
Choral Scholars Program	-	218,978
Other income (interest, weddings, memorial services, etc.)		-
Total gross income		<u>\$ 563,378</u>

EXPENSES (details on the next page):

Clergy Compensation & Benefits	\$ 152,370	26%
Administration	95,199	16%
Outreach - General	56,584	10%
Outreach – ODB Program Director	112,710	19%
Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Vestry Commissions	4,050	1%
Education	25,434	4%
Worship & Music	33,349	6%
Buildings & Grounds	99,557	17%
Total expenses	<u>\$ 579,252</u>	

NET INCOME OR (DEFICIT)(\$15,874)**Surplus Available from 2020 through 2022**\$ 90,112**PLEDGE STATUS: (as of)**

	<u>1/17/2023</u>	<u>1/25/2022</u>
Total amount pledged	\$ 308,280	\$ 332,115
Number of pledges	54	59
Average Pledge	\$ 5,708.89	\$ 5,629.07

This budget was prepared by the Finance Committee and approved by the Vestry at its meeting on January 17, 2023. Members of the Finance Committee during 2022 were:

Jim Cobb (Treasurer), Breno de Medeiros, Ann Kopischke, Charlie Mendoza, Naveen Paulkandasamy & Stephen Williams. Carl Beckham served as the Assistant Treasurer.

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BUDGET – YEAR 2023
DETAIL OF PLANNED EXPENSES

CLERGY COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS:

Salary - Rector	\$ 111,423
Pension expense - Rector	20,056
Personnel insurance - Rector	16,166
Business expenses - Rector	2,000
Continuing education - Rector	1,000
Workers' comp. insurance - Rector	724
Business expenses - Deacon	-
Continuing education - Deacon	-
Supply clergy (Vacation Coverage)	1,000
	<u>\$ 152,370</u>

ADMINISTRATION:

Salary - Administrator	\$ 47,471
Lay pension expense - Administrator	4,272
Payroll taxes - Administrator	3,632
Personnel insurance - Administrator	12,521
Workers' comp insurance - Administrator	309
Office expenses (includes office supplies, postage, copier lease, safe deposit box fees, dues and subscriptions, bank fees, etc.)	12,000
Background checks	300
Cont. Staff Educ. (fund via restricted savings)	-
Payroll Service	550
PayPal Donation Fees	1,000
Telephone, Internet and Fax	4,900
Internet Infrastructure & Computer Upgrades	1,500
Website Maintenance Fees	900
Advertising and Communications	250
Assistant Treasurer:	
Compensation - Asst Treasurer	5,198
Payroll taxes - Asst Treasurer	398
	<u>\$ 95,199</u>

OUTREACH (General):

Diocesan Fair Share	\$ 47,734
Christmas and Easter Offerings (out)	4,000
Our Daily Bread-direct St. Thomas Support	2,500
Diocesan Resource Center	2,175
Episcopal Church Women	150
ESL Classes	-
Silicon Valley Deanery	25
	<u>\$ 56,584</u>

OUTREACH – ODB Program Director:

Salary - ODB Program Director	\$ 81,078
Lay pension expense - ODB Prog. Dir.	7,297
Payroll taxes - ODB Prog. Dir.	6,202
Personnel insurance - ODB Prog. Dir.	17,605
Workers' comp. insurance - ODB Prog. Dir.	527
	<u>\$ 112,710</u>

PASTORAL CARE, STEWARDSHIP & VESTRY COMM:

Parish Event Planners (PEP)	\$ 1,000
Pastoral Care Program	100
Senior Ministry	1,200
Stewardship - Finance Comm	250
Stewardship - Program Expenses	-
Vestry	500
Vitality & Growth (including Newcomers)	1,000
	<u>\$ 4,050</u>

EDUCATION:

Salary - Family Ministry Director (FMD)	\$ 19,468
Payroll taxes - FMD	1,489
Workers' comp. insurance - FMD	127
Adult Education	500
Education - Preschool through 12th grade	1,050
Family Camp	-
FMD Program expenses	1,200
Library (includes Archives)	1,550
Nursery Caregiver:	
Compensation - Nursery Caregiver	-
Payroll taxes - Nursery Caregiver	-
Workers' comp. insurance - Nursery Caregiver	-
Nursery expenses	50
	<u>\$ 25,434</u>

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

Acolytes	\$ -
Worship Program (includes Liturgical Arts)	300
Music Program - Senior Choir	1,000
Guest Musician and Organist Fees	3,750
Choral Scholars Program	-
Salary - Music Director	17,130
Salary - Organist	9,000
Payroll taxes - Music	1,999
Workers' comp. insurance - Music	170
	<u>\$ 33,349</u>

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

Cleaning Service	\$ 18,550
Insurance: Property & Liability, etc.	14,000
Maintenance/housekeeping	12,500
Major Maintenance Items	2,000
Property taxes	1,355
Replacement Safety Supplies	200
Utilities:	
PG&E	20,000
City of Sunnyvale	25,000
Yard maintenance service	5,952
	<u>\$ 99,557</u>

Report from the Rector - 2022

Submitted by Pastor Salying

In 2022, I witnessed how we are moving into new life. COVID is now a given and we are figuring out how to live with it. While I write this, it is January, 2023 and I can count five times I've eaten inside a restaurant and even more gatherings in homes. While still a bit nervous, I am really enjoying getting together with friends and family.

I have also seen vital life at our church. While the number of attendees are lower, the commitment, joy and love we have for each other speak to a generous blessing from the Holy Spirit. When the vestry and I had our mutual ministry review, our facilitator asked, "How many people attend this church? You sound like you're hundreds." This comment woke me up to how the Spirit is blessing us as church. We are rising.

Much of our renewal is due to the hard work and love of the vestry. This year, the Senior Warden (Abby) and I worked together on her report. The report talks about highlights for the vestry, the rector and the congregation. I will not repeat the material here. You might read Abby's report if you find something missing in mine. I will focus on things not in Abby's report.

This year, we've celebrated sacramental rites for these people:

Baptisms Tian Zhu and Dena Ware (Adults);
Emily Elkins and Maya Caufield (children)

Confirmations Tian Zhu, Dena Ware, and Susan Powers

Receptions Mary Jane Johnson, Aer van der Waters

Burials Christina Skok, Katharine Wilson, Jane Doman, Vi Fugate, Shirley Falk, and
Doris McMahon

We continue to welcome **newcomers**, some of whom will become members and give to the life of our community. I am grateful for Dena Ware who has built community with our new **Agape Circle** gatherings. Also, Dena started what will now be a tradition of a Thanksgiving Dinner and Festive Christmas gathering for those who live far from family.

One of the ways new life has emerged is the reality that we worship intimately on zoom. It is not merely a way of gathering those who are far off. Rather, there is an intimacy that is a part of a zoom-only (not hybrid) service. It is for this reason that **worship** at St. Thomas will not return to the way things were. We will now worship in a mixture of in-person only, zoom only and hybrid formats. I am grateful for the wealth of talent and hearts for serving in worship: the Stream Tech Team, the Zoom Host Team, the Altar Guild, the LEMs, LEVs, readers, ushers and greeters, acolytes, communion cup washers, communion bread bakers, Parish Event Planners, and choir that make all these things happen. I want to thank Carrie Hawley who has just retired from hosting coffee hour for the 10:30 am service. She was the coffee hour hospitality for this last year. Thank you, Carrie and thank you all!

I count myself extremely fortunate to have a great staff and core "staff" volunteers.

- Anne Buelteman, Parish Administrator. Each year I say that Anne is the best parish administrator I've worked with and it never seems to change. My only prayer is that Anne never retires. Since that's not possible, I give thanks to Anne and God for her support while I have it.

- Jim Cobb, Treasurer. I'm not sure what we would do without Jim. Jim's oversight of our budget and funds helps us plan for the future and manage the running of the church. Jim's knowledge is helpful to me pastorally. He is a deeply trustworthy servant of God.
- Carl Beckham, Assistant Treasurer. Carl is a reliable assistant to Jim. I am grateful for how kindly and professionally executes his work.
- Patricia Pietrzyk, Choir Director. Patricia's leadership of the choir is some of the most spiritual work that we do at St. Thomas. She brought the choir to new heights during shelter-in-place. Now, they are singing in the same space and the choir is better than ever.
- Benjamin Belew, Accompanist. Benjamin joined us this year to play for our in-person services. His talent has already brought wonderful opportunities for us, like his concerts and his connections with the music community.
- The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah, Deacon. Bertram has done a beautiful job this year with pastoral care ministry and with the jail ministry. His love and dedication has made a big impact this year.
- David Barnes, Program Director of Our Daily Bread hot lunch program. David continues to be flexible in managing our program for the current times. David's work comes out of his deep caring for those who volunteer and our diners.
- Sue Beckham, Children and Family Ministries Director. The impact of COVID on children's ministries has been intense. During shelter in place, the children were happy to come to zoom Sunday School. However, now that things have opened up again, our children are very busy. So, Sue has pivoted away from Sunday School and Zoom to scheduled gatherings at the church. We will keep our eye on this ministry to see how else we can involve our children in the life of the church. Sue also has faithfully cared for our seniors with the activities and useful information that she sends out over email.
- Carol Campbell, Librarian. Carol and her Library Committee manages the Library, Resource center, and Little Free Library on the curb. Carol is loving and dedicated and her ministry is a rich resource for our church and for several dioceses.

All of our work builds up the body of Christ. Thank you all!



Necrology 2022:

May they rest in peace..

Christina Skok
Jane Doman
Katharine Wilson
Violet Fugare
Doris McMahon

Senior Warden's Report

Submitted by Abby O'Connell

St. Thomas' Core Values

We follow Jesus. We study his life and teachings, so we might love God and do God's will.

We welcome all. We respect the dignity of everyone.

We serve those in need, whether physically or spiritually.

We thrive in community. It gives us comfort, strength and joy.

We embrace change so we can keep the church strong and relevant.

Theme for 2022: 4 + 4 = Unanimity

The vestry kicked off 2022 in February with the annual vestry retreat where we formed **four task forces**. The work done by these four groups was arduous and the resulting path forward looked very different than what we had expected at the beginning of the year. My sincere gratitude and respect goes to all those who participated in that work. The four task forces were:

1. Communications Task Force - Kept communications flowing between the vestry and the parish and developed the town hall materials jointly with the other task forces. Members of the task force included Abby O'Connell, Ann Kopischke, Breno DeMedeiros and Pastor Salying Wong.
2. East Campus Task Force - Evaluated different configurations of the Sanctuary and Education Building to accommodate various scenarios (e.g., Option 1 would require moving out of the Administration building and into the Ed Building). Members of the task force included Bill Rosgen, Chris Schmidt, Joe Gutierrez, Lou Poulain, Marilyn Winans, Pat Dare and Pastor Salying Wong.
3. ODB Task Force - Worked together with the ODB Executive Committee to keep them apprised of developments and include their voices in the path forward. Members of this task force included Chris Schmidt, Jim Cobb, Rita Welsh and Pastor Salying Wong.
4. Financial Planning Task Force - Evaluated financial impact of different scenarios enabling vestry decision making. Members of this task force included Abby O'Connell, Charlie Mendoza, Jim Cobb, Joe Gutierrez and Pastor Salying Wong.

Together, these task forces worked towards developing a plan to get St. Thomas to a financially sustainable position, understanding that our congregation is expected to decline in numbers over time, a trend that has been seen across the diocese, the country and in other denominations as well.

Over the course of the next few months, the parish was invited to attend **four town halls** were held covering the following four topics:

1. The Background and Work of the FSC - reviewed the FSC work and recommendations, church data trends
2. Vestry deliberation & vision for renewal - introduced the four task forces, discussions of the dream process and who Jesus calls us to be
3. Evolving our Meal Program - an overview of Our Daily Bread's history, ODB's financial status, introduced St. Thomas Core Values
4. Sharing Our Campus - Campus feasibility studies, financial analysis results, working with Our Daily Bread, vestry recommendation for Option 3 (lease the Education Building and possibly Cowans Hall part time).

After the last town hall, we held a parish-wide advisory vote with the results coming back with **unanimous support to go forward with Option 3**. The vestry subsequently formally voted and

passed (also unanimously) in alignment with the advisory vote.

Meanwhile...

While the vestry and task forces were busy with this important planning work, parish life continued to evolve as we slowly began to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some highlights:

- We made great strides in improving the quality of our zoom and hybrid services. Thanks to our Stream Team of Steve Williams, Andrew Yeh, Tian Zhu, Breno and Sophia DeMedeiros as well as my fellow zoom hosts Lou Poulain, Fulvia Govetto and Aer Van De Water.
- Our beloved choir made it back to singing live in the sanctuary (hallelujah!). Thanks to Patricia Pietryzk for her loving leadership, Benjamin Belew for his inspired and creative music and all my fellow choristers... Dorothy Furgerson, Chris Schmidt, Emilee Wilhelm-Leen, Fulvia Govetto, Ian Fugate, Jean Platner, John Pietrzyk and John and Susan McVey.
- The Sunday eight o'clock community returned to regular in-person services.
- The FUNdraising committee (Ann Kopischke, Fran Hostettler, Kristen Kaliski and Hugo Lopez-Laguna) did an awesome job at raising a whopping \$4634 over the course of the year through the holiday boutique, book and bake sale, the Goodwill drive and the Hobee's restaurant fundraiser.
- We started our wonderful Agape Circle meals where monthly fellowship is enjoyed. Thank you Dena Ware for spearheading this regular time together.
- Sue and Carl Beckham created and directed yet another delightful Christmas Pageant.
- The Elmwood Jail Ministry gained traction with Deacon Bertram Nagarajah leading the way.
- The pastoral care ministry shared between Deacon Bertram and Pastor Salying was a true blessing to many individuals and families in our community.

In December, the vestry met for a half-days' worth of facilitated discussion called a Mutual Ministry Review. It was an enlightening and energizing experience that helped knit together an already strong vestry. We considered both the challenges and successes of the past year and developed some initial goals for 2023, with more work to follow at the upcoming vestry meeting.

Looking forward to 2023

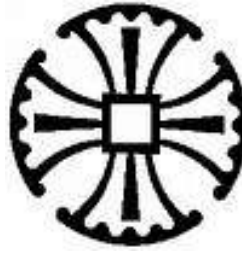
What can we expect for 2023? One big goal of the vestry will be to bring in a tenant to lease the Ed Building. This will require us to develop a plan to prepare our buildings and grounds for the new tenant and address any property improvements that are needed.

We will strategize on how to fulfill our mission statement; building connections and making community. This will be a major focus at the upcoming vestry retreat.

Pastor Salying will take a trip to Holy Land for continuing education at St. George's College (scholarship funded by Harold Anderson). She will also be starting to plan for her sabbatical in 2024 or 2025.

A special thanks goes to Pastor Salying for her inspired leadership and the love she holds for St. Thomas; as well as my thanks to Chris Schmidt, our steadfast Jr. Warden. Many thanks to those currently serving on the vestry (Breno DeMedeiros, Gage McKinney, Nancy Algeier, Pat Dare, Rita Welsh) and especially those retiring from the vestry this year (Bill Rosgen, Susan McVey and Chris Schmidt). It has been a pleasure to serve with you these past two years.

I want to end with an acknowledgment of God's love. It is what has fueled our love for each other, our love for St. Thomas and the impact we can have on the larger community.

[illegible]

submitted by Anne Buelteman

The classes continued into 2022, with a baptism taking place at the Great Easter Vigil. Confirmation/reception took place at the bishop's visit, which finally happened in October.

Then in September, we had a similar opportunity with ***Season of Creation: 3-Part Climate Series***, also on Zoom, with speaker J. Campbell Scott, a Scottish scientist active with the Climate Reality Project. A well-known speaker on the topic, he uses his research to inform the public about the science, impacts and solutions of climate change.

submitted by Dena Ware

Agape Circle first gathered on July 8, 2022. Our goal is to meet monthly, typically the first Friday of the month, to share a pot-luck meal and engage in a group activity. We've played trivia, learned about astronomy, written haikus, and shared mementos and memories.

Not specifically designated as Agape Circle events, but still in the same spirit were: 2022 Thanksgiving dinner, 2022 Christmas Eve festivities (co-hosted with PEP), and 2023 Epiphany festivities.

Everyone at St. Thomas is invited to attend and to use the events as a fellowship opportunity, if desired.

Guidelines:

When weather allows, we meet on the Cowen's Hall patio, otherwise, we meet inside Cowen's Hall. We observe mask protocols as necessary.

The meal is pot-luck style, and food-bringers are encouraged to bring their own serving utensils to minimize clean-up. The PEP (Parish Event Planning) group generously shares tableware from its "reserves".

Our goal is to also have a different person suggest and lead the group activity at each event. The activity is typically planned in advance and ideally will help all in attendance learn more about their St. Thomas family members.

Contacts: Dena Ware, Salying Wong

Altar Guild

The year 2022 was a year of growth and training for the Altar Guild. After Helen Minchin's announcement regarding the need for Altar Guild members, Mo Davies, Bert McMahon, Dena Ware, and Sherene Nagarajah answered the call. They joined with Helen and Robert Minchin, Claribel Dare, Rita Welsh, and Stephanie Daugherty to form a more complete Guild. Two training sessions were held by Pastor Salying and Helen.

Helen Minchin was appointed Sacristan by Pastor Salying. Unfortunately for St. Thomas, Helen and Robert moved from the Bay Area.

The Altar guild has been organized into two groups: the 8am only crew and the hybrid Sunday crew. Anne Buelteman posts the schedule, and Stephanie Daugherty checks and orders supplies.

This year the Liturgical Arts Group, Altar Guild, and other parishioners joyfully decorated the church for Christmas with greens, poinsettias, and the Creche.

The Altar Guild welcomes anyone who would like to serve as part of this ministry.

Respectfully submitted by
Stephanie Daugherty

A M P: Architectural Group, incl. Monday's Crew, Property

submitted by Chris Schmidt

Since we remain aware that our financial stability planning means holding off on investments and all programs continue to use our campus "lightly", it has been a mostly quiet year.

What is AMP? It stands for **A**rchitectural Committee + **M**onday's Campus Crew + **P**roperty Committee, the groups that can coordinate the upkeep of our campus with the Vestry. Therefore,

we imagine that we will have more to do as the interfaces that will bring in sustainable income are developed during the year.

A significant amount of the upkeep of our property is done by the contractors that service most of our janitorial, landscape, and pest control needs.

Monday's Campus Crew continued to address maintenance and repairs such as changing light bulbs and batteries, pruning and clean-up of the landscape areas not maintained by our service, gutter cleaning, repairing plumbing malfunctions, and weeding. Monday's Campus Crew is the "who you gonna call" of St. Thomas.

The vestry and AMP sponsored two workdays (spring and fall) to handle projects that require a bit more "people-power".

We have a few pieces of equipment that have "passed" end of life. They will need to be replaced, but we have been blessed as they continue to function, and we could avoid replacing them a bit longer while we look toward our future needs.

The trees on our property will be another area of concern in the new year. One recent storm brought down large branches from the pine along Sunset, and we have additional trees that will also need attention soon.

Current servant members of AMP are Nancy Allgeier, Greg Downing, Joe Gutierrez, Bill Rosgen, Marilyn Winans, and Chris Schmidt.

~ Chris Schmidt

Archives Committee

submitted by Stephanie Daugherty

During 2022 the Archives Committee focused on creating files for the Small Groups at St. Thomas. Files were created for the Jail Ministry, Book Club, Little Free Library, and the Men's Spiritual Growth Group. Information is added to the files as it becomes available.

This fall the Archive Display case was revitalized. The first items placed in the case were bookmarks and items used for bookmarks that Carol Campbell collected from returned books.

Plans for 2023 include placing the beautiful old Bibles which are stored in the Archives into the display case.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Daugherty

Beyond A Doubt! Newsletter

submitted by Anne Buelteman

These remain extraordinary times. Thirty-three months after the initial Covid-19 shelter-in-place order which upended life at St. Thomas, we now have returned to weekly in-person worship at 8am, and are meeting nearly every week for in-person/on-Zoom hybrid worship at 10:30. It remains important to keep our newsletter relevant and informative. Even as we continue to observe diocesan protocols with regard to social distancing and masking, we move forward, hopeful of

greater levels of activity before too long. And the newsletter strives to keep up.

It may be important to note that in the last several years we have gone from monthly to 10 issues a year, with combined issues for January/February, and July/August. The majority receive the newsletter by email, with fewer than 30 hard copies still being mailed to those preferring to receive the newsletter in paper form. Some individuals have indicated a preference to pick up a hard copy from the narthex after printing, which is also possible.

I want to thank the contributors to the newsletter for your input and your ability to keep us on schedule.

I hope we can make every issue of ***Beyond A Doubt!*** an interesting and accurate portrayal of the family and the life here at St. Thomas. Parishioners can help with this by submitting articles, or ideas for articles, or even questions to be answered, to the Parish Administrator's office pretty much any time. Please remember, submission by e-mail is much preferred. We're happy to consider inclusion of any and all reporting relevant to St. Thomas.

Again, many thanks to the past year's contributors Pastor Salying, Ann Kopischke, Jim Cobb, Joe Gutierrez, Chris Schmidt, Cal Cornwell, Pat Dare, Dorothy Furgerson, Carol Campbell, Chuck Thompson, David Barnes, Fulvia Govetto, and many others!

Book Club

submitted by Dorothy Furgerson

The Book Club has continued to meet by Zoom, which makes it possible for more people to participate. We had a few new folks join us this year.

We read three Silicon Valley Reads books focusing on the "power of kindness, resilience and hope." Other books this year were set in Ireland, India, South Africa, Istanbul and WWII France.

We will start 2023 with two of the Silicon Valley Reads books with the theme the "journey to new beginnings" and end with Michelle Obama's new book *The Light We Carry*. Each month's book is listed in the newsletter, the Sunday bulletin and the library website. Our St Thomas library has copies of each month's book.

We will continue meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Check the Sunday bulletin for the host each month.

Capital Campaign

Updated by Jim Cobb, January 2023

Introduction

The three-year St. Thomas Capital Funds Campaign was completed in 2013, with some donations received after 2013 and continuing to come in.

Background and History

Back in 2010, the Vestry formed a Capital Campaign Commission to define capital needs and priorities and to conduct a capital funds drive.

In 2011, the Commission held small-group meetings with as many parishioners as they could, to identify capital projects and to set priorities. Cost estimates were then obtained for all the identified capital projects.

Funds pledged for the three years totaled \$269,584.07. In addition, we have had donations

received (money or property) for fencing, sidewalk repair, landscaping, piano, computer improvements and WiFi upgrades.

2022 Capital Projects

For 2022 we did not have any capital projects, so no capital campaign funds were spent.

Centering Prayer Group

Anne Buelteman/Pastor Salying, ed.

The Centering Prayer group was formed in 2018 and since March of 2020, it has met on a weekly basis at 6:00 on Tuesdays on Zoom. This on-line practice continues, and is a chance to support each other and encourage a regular structured practice in ourselves, but no long-term commitment is necessary. Meetings are casual and drop-in style, and the Zoom link is provided in a weekly reminder email, or may be found on our website.

This group is a growing component of our worship life. It averages about 10 people. In 2023, we hope to have a contemplative retreat off campus.

Please join us. All welcome and encouraged to attend. Meetings take place in the chapel. As always, feel free to reach out to Pastor Salying with any questions.

Choir

submitted by Patricia Pietrzyk

For a good half of 2022, the choir at St. Thomas continued to provide anthems, hymns and service music online thanks to Susan McVey, who painstakingly added her creative touch to all our music. We met every week on Zoom and discussed what was coming up in future services, and planned ways to put over our anthems as best we could under the circumstances. We also carefully listened to the music that Susan had prepared and we critiqued our performances, suggesting ways that we might improve. She prepared our last recordings in September of 2022, at which time we had recorded over 160 hymns, anthems, service music. Our appreciation for the work Susan did over the years we were online is incalculable as, without her, we would not have had a choir. THANK YOU, Susan, for your faithful service to keep our choir in action over two and a half years.

Many thanks also to John McVey, who spent hours recording each part of every musical piece we did so that those who needed to follow their part and learn by listening had all the help they needed. Thank you to Michele Kemmerling who faithfully and beautifully recorded all our music so we had an accompaniment for every new anthem. Thank you to Abby, who kept our 'books' in order so we knew what we were singing, when and which day the recording had to be completed. She also kept a record of who sang the Psalm each week.

To all the singers:

SOPRANOS: Jean Platner, Fulvia Govetto, Susan McVey

ALTOS: Dorothy Furgerson, Michele Kemmerling, Abby O'Connell

TENORS: Ian Fugate, John McVey

BASSES: John Pietrzyk, Jeremy Smith, Chris Schmidt,

I express my gratitude for your faithful and selfless service. You are loved and cherished, and, because of you, St. Thomas still has a choir.

In October, we welcomed Benjamin Belew as our new accompanist, and we realized very quickly

that we were not only getting a pianist of exceptional quality, but also a composer who has already tested our ability to sing complicated rhythms and enticing melodies. We look forward to more exciting opportunities to sing challenging new works.

Faithfully submitted,
Patricia Pietrzyk.

Communion Bread Bakers

submitted by Peg Prior

Baking of our special communion bread used at the 10:30 service has resumed. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Peg Prior. The recipe is very easy!

Note: Many thanks also to Pam Storrer, who bakes special gluten-free wafers for both services.
- ed.

Craft Group

submitted by Anne Buelteman

Craft Group met a few times in January and February of 2020, making favorite craft items and having time together. By March 2020, like all our other programs, they were unable to meet in person due to COVID-19 restrictions. Unlike some of our other programs, meeting on Zoom is not really an option, and the group has been on hiatus since that time.

That said, our Holiday Boutique in December featured some handmade items that came from members of this group, so we know they are still busy out there on an individual basis!

English As A Second Language

submitted by Mabel Cheng & Linda Sutton, ed. Anne Buelteman

English language classes for our Asian-American neighbors have been part of St. Thomas for many years, but were on Covid hiatus until mid-2022 when Mabel Cheng began Chinese ESL again. And in the fall, a new teacher joined us in this effort. We welcome and thank Linda Sutton.
- ed.

From Mabel Cheng:

English Language class for Chinese-speakers resumed on May 6, 2022 and is held on Friday mornings. It benefits our neighbors. The curriculum continues to focus on real-world issues, such as American lifestyles and holidays, addressing new friends, shopping at supermarkets and mall, meals at restaurants and fast food café, riding on bus, 'survival' needs such as making 911 calls, asking help on road, visiting doctors etc. Average class attendances ranged from 8 to 15 students.

From Linda Sutton:

We began our English language class for Japanese-speakers on October 5th 2022 with 4 students and we now have 5. We concentrate on practical English conversation including everyday American phrases and some slang. We do this by oral communication using

new words/phrases each week.

Students are encouraged to speak English whenever possible and to read some books / magazines in English.(this is to build vocabulary)

Short written assignments review what has been learned in class. Celebrations of holidays are enjoyed together.

We as a group also address the personal needs of each person in the class. For example, how to understand and respond in a child's teacher's conference.

All students want to be more fluent in English and it is a joy to be a part of their progress.

Episcopal Resource Center - see Library, p. 32—33

Family Ministry

submitted by Sue Beckham, Family Ministry Director

During this past year our children gathered weekly for classes on Zoom for part of the year. This was suspended because of an inability to find times when the children could gather together at a scheduled time. Our preschool and kindergarten program consists of packets sent to the family which contain Bible stories of both the Old and New Testament, coloring pages, songs, puzzles and arts & crafts which the parents share with the children. These lessons are delivered by email and snail mail.

This year children and adults participated in many and varied activities: We had both in-person and Zoom participation. During the Easter Vigil, many of the children participated in the telling of the Story of the Crossing the Red Sea. The following day we held the Easter Egg Hunt, which this year also included adults searching for colored eggs after the Easter worship service.

We held special Summer Sunday School event day at Saint Thomas in August. All of the children and youth participated. They played games and got wet, painted flower pots and planted them, made a banner, and had snacks.

In the fall, children and adults read the Prayers of the Animals during the Animal Blessing in October, and in November, the children presented their special Saint on All Saints Day, and then participated in our Family Ministry Chili Feed that same day.

The beginning of Advent brought the children to reading prayers and lighting the candles on the Advent wreath, both in person and on Zoom. On the First Sunday in Advent, Family Ministry held an Advent Festival between church services, where we created Advent wreaths, colored stained glass patterned angels, made wooden Christmas ornaments and decorated sugar cookie trees.

In December, pageant rehearsals were held, and this year two pageants were presented on December 18, 2022. "On a Night in Bethlehem" was presented at the 8:00AM service, which was in -person service only. "A Star in the Window" was presented at the 10:30 service where all the actors were present in person, but which was also available for viewing on Zoom. This year we had 27 Actors participating in the pageants.

Submitted by Sue Beckham
Director of Family Ministry

Fundraising Committee

submitted by Ann Kopischke

The Fundraising Team organized and conducted four events this year. Our **Groupraise** dine-out event at Hobee's California Restaurant on August 13, resulted in **\$55.40**. We sponsored a **Book and Bake Sale** on September 25 that brought in **\$989**. The following weekend, October 2, we sponsored a neighborhood **Goodwill Donation Drive**. That effort resulted in a donation back to St. Thomas of **\$892.14**. Between November 21 and December 3 we held our on-line **Holiday Boutique**. On December 3 we held a pick-up event in Cowans Hall and sold additional items, including baked goods, wreaths, and handmade items in-person. We also had walk-in neighborhood traffic. Our net proceeds from this event were **\$2,697.54**.

In total, **\$4,633.54** was raised to help support the ministries of St. Thomas this year. We are so grateful for the generous help and support received for all these efforts!

Ann Kopischke, Kristen Kaliski, Fran Hostettler and Hugo Lopez-Laguna
FUNdraising Committee

Submitted by Ann Kopischke

Intercessory Prayer

submitted by the Rev. Bertram Nagarajah
ed. Anne Buelteman

St. Thomas Prayer Chain

The St. Thomas Prayer Chain is a ministry with over 30 faithful members who pray for anyone who has requested prayers on their own or someone else's behalf. We continue to operate by email; we receive requests either via phone or email or in person and send them to the prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us group. Members of the group also send us requests. We pray for those inside and outside of the St. Thomas community.

If you are interested in joining the group or have a request, please send an email to prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us

Vesper Intercessory Prayer Meeting

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:6-7)

In everyday living, we become anxious and worried about things we cannot control. This weekly Vesper Intercessory is an excellent time of prayer and fellowship. St Thomas has partnered with St Andrews Saratoga, CA, in conducting this weekly Intercessory prayer. The group has met since September 2021 and has formed an intimate prayer community.

We begin with one of our favorite hymns and/or music to center ourselves, and then we pray for

the worldwide church and then for St Thomas and St Andrews church communities and our needs. We meet for about 45 minutes every Thursday at 6.30 pm.

If you are interested in joining the prayer group, dial in for the Zoom prayer meeting or email prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us. We will send you the Zoom link.

St. Thomas Church Library, Episcopal Resource Center

submitted by Carol Campbell

Number of books in library/resource center: 6428

Total patrons: 421 (includes both Dioceses)

Most Circulated Book: ***The Girl with the Louding Voice***

With the return to in-person worship, the pamphlet rack in the narthex of the church is once again available to the congregation. Each of the pamphlets and booklets is free as are seasonally themed resources.

Our Summer Reading Program—this year it was “Buckets of Books”—returned to semi-normal. Participants could put the name of their book on the bulletin board, or they could send the name to us and we would add them to the bulletin board. 139 books were read this year.

In early September we said our goodbyes to Helen Minchin. She had been the creator and designer of our online catalog. She had also taken on several other library projects such as stocking the Little Free Library and announcing the Book of the Week on Sundays, which was a big hit. After Helen left, we needed someone to handle the catalog. We are so grateful that Pam Storrer came forward and is now managing the catalog and adding several new features.

Our local chapter NCCL (Northern California Congregational Librarians) continues to meet ~~on~~ Zoom on a bimonthly basis. We are the only Episcopal Church in the chapter. We continue to be members of FORMA (National Association of Episcopal Church Educators). I attended the national conference in January via Zoom. The Diocese of California paid for my registration.

The Diocese of El Camino Real, Diocese of California and St. Thomas Church provide financial support for the Resource Center. St. Thomas provides financial support for the library.

Sue Beckham, Stephanie Daugherty, Ann Stevenson, Pam Storrer and I meet weekly on Tuesday mornings via Zoom. Anne Buelteman is a huge help to us – she designs the bookmarks for the Summer Reading Programs, she makes certain our Book of the Week is in every Sunday bulletin and ensures the library announcement appears in BAD.

My special thanks to Pastor Salying for all her book recommendations throughout the year and to the Library Committee for suggestions, creative ideas, and very faithful Tuesday morning support during our Zoom call.

Submitted by: Carol Campbell

Liturgical Arts group

submitted by Lou Poulain

The Liturgical Arts Group works to create art for sanctuary decoration for the major feasts of the church year. The Liturgical Arts Group consists of Pam Storrer, Dena Ware, Hugo Lopez-Laguna and Lou Poulain.

2022 saw a return to in-person worship every Sunday at the 8:00 and most Sundays at the 10:30 (hybrid). Liturgical arts prepared the environment for the seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas.

For 2023, Liturgical Arts is again planning for Lent, Holy Week, Easter season, and Pentecost.

The Liturgical Arts Group planning is collaborative and experimental. All members of the team have opportunities to express their ideas. If you are interested (even if you are not sure you are “creative”) contact Lou Poulain or Pastor Salying.

The Easter liturgical art piece may be seen on the cover near the lower left - ed.

Media & Technology at St. Thomas

Media and technology at St. Thomas is an important ministry at St. Thomas as we worship in a COVID-endemic world.

Running our **hybrid services** is now a smooth process. Most of the technology is in place, though we have some plans for better screens in 2023. We have a good crew that supports both the technology onsite (Stream Tech Team) and the technology off site (Zoom Host Team). The members of the Stream Tech Team are Breno and Sophia de Medeiros, Steve Williams and Jim Cobb, Tian Zhu and Andrew Yeh. The Zoom Host Team includes Lou Poulain, Abby O’ Connell, Aer Van der Water, Pam Storrer, and Fulvia Govetto.

It has been a lived experience that our zoom only Morning Prayer Sundays are of great value. It brings the congregation together in an intimate format that is not present in hybrid services and not even in in-person only services. We are grateful for technology that brings those who are far off near to us.

Pastor Salying and Parish Administrator Anne Buelteman continue to maintain the website: <http://www.stthomas-svale.org/>. Our site is managed by Affordable Church Websites and it has been a blessing to have them update the software and back up our information.

Fulvia Govetto manages our social media on FaceBook and Twitter.

- St. Thomas’ Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StThomasSunnyvale>
- St. Thomas’ automated Twitter feed: @STThomasSvale
- ODB Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ourdailymbreadsunnyvale/>

In addition to our web and social media presence, we have a **St. Thomas YouTube** channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChXgLW_IzUH549ia3pslTMg/videos. Here, you will find our video sermons, choir music, and other music.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Salying Wong, Rector
Anne Buelteman, Parish Administrator

Men's Spiritual Growth Group

submitted by Chris Schmidt

Men's Spiritual Growth Group – Saturdays 9 – 10 AM

You might ask, why do we continue on Zoom? Because it covers many miles and doesn't seem to go away, while some of our members have. We recognize that some of us miss meeting in person in the library, but more and more we find that some have moved, some no longer are very mobile, and some like to sleep just a bit longer. The positive features of Zoom (no driving, meet in your pajamas, meet at a distance) continue to outweigh the negative (it sure is hard to break bread together).

Come join us, whether you are near or far. We do a spiritual discussion on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays (9- 10 AM), while the other Saturdays are a time for emotional and spiritual support. We are a small group (sometimes only 4 men; some times as many as 8 or 9), but a VERY open group willing to welcome you too.

~ Chris Schmidt

Monday's Crew - see Architectural Committee & Property Focus Group, p. 25-26

Outreach

Outreach - Financial assistance:

submitted by Jim Cobb

St. Thomas Episcopal Church has a long history of reaching out to those in need.

- During Holy Week we received \$355 in Good Friday donations, which were sent to the Diocese of Jerusalem through the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society of our National Church.
 - We gave half of our Easter offering to those in need. A total of \$4,431 was given by St. Thomas and donated to Episcopal Relief & Development designated for Refugee Relief.
 - When Bishop Lucinda Ashby visited us in October 2022, generous donations of \$1,084 were collected for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. In addition, we transmitted \$120 in additional donations made payable directly to Bishop Lucinda's discretionary fund.
 - We also received two donations totaling \$300 designated for the Bishop's Annual Appeal.
 - Our Daily Bread received \$2,500 as a direct outreach contribution from our operating budget.
 - We gave half of our Christmas offering to those in need. A total of \$2,870 was donated in support of the Elmwood Jail Ministry.
 - Other donations of support are made directly from the Rector's Discretionary Fund.
-

Outreach Worker for Our Daily Bread diners

submitted by Anne Buelteman.

Historically, the Outreach Worker assisted diners of Our Daily Bread in locating and using local resources in the community. Referrals were made to such agencies, and to programs which provide housing, job information, medical care, dental services, mental health, and food resources, etc. The Outreach Worker has been available on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in a small office at the back of Cowans Hall during the Our Daily Bread meal service on those days.

In 2022, the Outreach Worker position was on hiatus. But, for 2023, it has restarted and the work meets outside with any diners in need of services.

Parish Event Planners

submitted by Pat Dare

These were our PEP activities during the year 2022:

- **Annual Meeting Luncheon – January 30:** Bagged lunches were served as the Annual Meeting was held in the sanctuary using Hybrid-Zoom to allow our remote congregation to participate along with those in the sanctuary.
- **Spring Fling II Revue – March 20:** This was a Zoom Revue, and the program included our first Improv Theater presentation to add to a video and two poems from voluntary participants. The Improv Theater provided various comedy sketches where pairs of players had acted out legends attributed to St. Patrick and St. Brigid for an Irish celebration of St. Patrick's Day.
- **Easter Reception – April 16-17:** We served bubbly drinks, cream puffs and other contributed confections at the gathering in the Narthex following the Easter Vigil service. And on Easter Morning, we served punch, cookies and fruits on the front patio while we watched the children scurry around during the Easter Egg hunt.
- **Pentecost and Parish Picnic – June 5:** This was our first real picnic since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, and it seemed appropriate to celebrate it along with Feast of Pentecost. Following pandemic safety guidelines, we provided quick serving items such as hotdogs. Falafels, tossed salads, packaged snacks, and bottled drinks. The seating for the picnic was amply spaced with tables provided both in Cowans Hall and on the Alpha Omega Patio.
- **Midsummer Revue – June 26:** This was a Hybrid-Zoom Revue in which we had voluntary participants coming in remotely as well as live participants gathered in the sanctuary. The advantage of performing live in the sanctuary allows groups to perform together simultaneously, whereas on Zoom, groups on separate windows would need to either be time-shared or have their offering pre-mixed for presentation. The program for the revue included a reading, two poems, two vocals and another rendition of Improv Theater. The Improv Theater comedy sketch, "Director's Cut", used a Hybrid-Zoom format in which the director, appearing on Zoom, was auditioning live prospective actors for a role in an upcoming movie. The cast of actors were then able to gather together to act out the final "Titanic" scene of the sketch!
- **Luncheon for Bishop Lucinda's Visit to St. Thomas – October 23:** Other than worshipping with us on Zoom, this was her first in-person visit to St. Thomas, and she wanted to meet with the whole congregation and get to know us better. So, we had David Barnes cater a luncheon for us all to gather for a meal after the baptismal and confirmation service. The highlight of the gathering was an "AHAA" Moment in which we could "Ask Her Anything Appropriate". She handled the questions with grace, and through the ensuing conversations, she gave us information on her background, hobbies, preferences, etc. allowing us to see her as a person rather than as being our Bishop. Before leaving, she took a group picture with us and even

participated in a cheer led by Pastor Salying.

- **Stewardship Lunch – October 30:** Similar to the Annual Meeting, we served bagged lunches to the gathering in the sanctuary as the Hybrid-Zoom meeting that allowed our remote congregation to participate in the meeting and presentation of our finances.
- **Winter Follies Revue – December 11:** For many years, we had held our traditional St. Nicholas and St. Lucy Feast to mark the beginning of the Christmas season. Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic we met on Zoom and held a virtual feast that was actually a revue show. This year we just named it the Winter Follies Revue. Nevertheless, we had a full program agenda that included four poems and three Improv Theater comedy sketches.
- **Christmas Eve Reception – December 24:** There was just a single Christmas Eve Service this year, and it was held in the late afternoon. So, instead of just serving hot spiced cider and cookies in the Narthex, we asked volunteers to bring additional heavy hors oeuvre's while we added champagne and wine to make it a festive reception where people can nosh and linger before heading home.

It was an eventful and successful year, and we want to thank all the volunteer performers and support planners for helping to contribute to our efforts to promote community connections at St. Thomas! We also want to thank all of you for participating and appreciating our activities, for you are essentially our parish community!

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Dare, PEP Coordinator

Pastoral Care Group / Caring Hearts and Hands

submitted by the Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

"...seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself."
(taken from the EC Baptismal Covenant, BCP, p.417)

The Pastoral Care work at St Thomas is called "Caring Hearts and Hands." Our Mission Statement states: "Be present with the people in need at St. Thomas by walking with them on their journey and caring for them with our hearts, minds, and hands."

Our work is to coordinate and support the activities to meet the pastoral care needs of parishioners. The groups represent the lay ministries of healing, community building, spirituality support, Eucharistic visitors, and intercessory prayer, and strive to respond to Jesus' summons to service by loving, caring for, and supporting each other in our community.

Our work was minimal in the past two years due to the COVID pandemic and social distancing requirements. In 2023, we plan to reevaluate our service to the members of St Thomas community.

Anyone at St Thomas interested in the lay ministry of pastoral care, please speak to Pastor Salying or Deacon Bertram.

Peace & Justice Committee

submitted by Cal Cornwell

Members of Saint Thomas Peace and Justice Committee supported a successful community meeting to discuss what can be done to increase the safety of children walking to school.

Background: Early in the school year, in San Jose, an 8-year-old boy and his 44-year-old baby sitter were struck by an SUV while they were using a crosswalk on the way to Castlemont elementary school. Both the babysitter and the boy were taken to the hospital, but 8-year-old Jacob Villanueva did not survive.

Goals: The goals of the meeting were to get a commitment from two San Jose city council members to push the city council to act in favor of making the walk to school safe for children. And additionally to get the council members commitment to work with the citizens to continue this important safety work in the future.

Meeting: The meeting was held Nov 5 at St. Lucy's church in Campbell it was attended by the San Jose district 1 vice mayor Chappie Jones and incoming San Jose city council woman Rosemary Kamei. The meeting was co-hosted by the Silicon Valley Sponsoring Committee of IAF which our own bishop supports financially and personally.

Results: Three members of St. Thomas (Fran Hostettler, Chris Schmidt and Cal Cornwell and several hundred citizens attended the meeting. After some discussion and short speeches the two council members each pledged to support the two goals. Tragedies like this can cause positive action when a group of people energized by an issue, meet with decision makers and convince them to make changes. That is why community organizing works.

Please feel free to contact me directly for more information or if you would like to get involved in Peace and Justice.

Property—see Architectural Committee & Property Focus Group, p. 25-26

E-Scrip Mobile Earnings 2022

submitted by Donna Cobb

Our 2022 E-SCRIP/Benefit Mobile earnings totaled \$49.99 with \$44.50 earned with Benefit Mobile and \$4.49 earned with E-Scrip. Benefit Mobile closed its operations in March of 2022. The E-Scrip program has a very limited merchant list now with only 2 prominent grocery stores – Lunardi's and Draegers, participating in our area. Therefore, continuing with this program does not seem to be advantageous at this point and time. There is another Scrip program that we could enroll in. However, it would seem to be prudent to assess how many parishioners would be willing to support and participate in this new program.

Checking balance as of 12/31/22 - \$2418.62

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Cobb

Senior Ministry

In the year 2022 Senior Ministry continued to stay connected by a twice weekly Senior Activities and Senior Answers mailings by email and snail mail. Seniors receive each Monday and Thursday sheets that include, Dates in History, Bible Questions, Word Scrambles, Word Searches, Random facts, Quiz questions, Coloring Pages, Would You Rather Questions, Holiday information, Jokes, Riddles, Nature Notes, and Questions to Ponder. If you would like to be added to our Senior List please contact me so I can add your name. I am looking forward to our next in person Senior Event which I hope can be held in the Spring.

Submitted by Sue Beckham

Stepping Stones Jail Ministry

submitted by the Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

"...The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

Most people in Jail feel that the world has abandoned them. As I go into the Jail, the words of the Prophet Isaiah come to mind – the coming of Jesus into the world. Jesus says in Matthew 5:14 & 16, "You are the light of the world.Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven". We are responsible for being the light to those who live in darkness and despair.

During March and April 2022, we had a series of presentations from external speakers via Zoom to explain the jail ministry and how we can help those in San Jose Elmwood jail. During this period, we recruited about twelve volunteers from St Thomas to minister to those in Elmwood jail. We began the Jail Ministry at St Thomas in May 2022. This Ministry includes building relationships with the incarcerated through letter-writing, listening, worship, counseling, education, etc.

The pen-pal letter writing is going well. The volunteers from St Thomas are creating an impact on those with whom they communicate via mail. We have weekly Holy Eucharist service inside one jail unit and plan to expand to other cell units in 2023. We also have weekly one-on-one visits with certain inmates.

Last Christmas, with the tremendous support from the St Thomas congregation, the jail ministry provided Christmas gifts to 45 kids whose dads or moms are in Jail. St Thomas has become a beacon of hope for those in Elmwood jail in cell unit M8.

Anyone at St Thomas interested in the St Thomas Jail Ministry, please speak to Pastor Salying or Deacon Bertram.

submitted by Nancy Allgeier

And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces. Luke 9:16-17, NRSV

Our campaign theme for 2022-2023 is ***More Than Enough***, and it comes from the end of Luke's version of the feeding of the five-thousand. Responding to Jesus' call, the gathered crowd turns their pockets inside out, shakes out their blankets, rummages through their parcels to find enough to take care of the needs of the community. And what do they realize? That by the miracle of faith and the action of Love, there was more than enough, an abundance of leftovers!

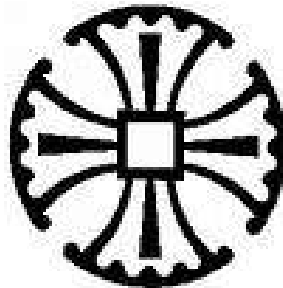
We asked every member to take part in the Stewardship Campaign by making a pledge. Beginning in September we began our focus on a weekly series of reflections on the topic ***More Than Enough***. We mailed pledge packets on October 13. Pastor Salying focused on this theme in her weekly sermons and kept us reminded of the critical importance of every pledge to St. Thomas and our ministries. Jim presented a budget review at the annual Stewardship Lunch on October 30. Pledges were brought to the altar on November 6th, All Saints' Sunday.

As of January 17, 2023, **54 pledges** have been received bringing our **total amount pledged to \$308,280**, which is an **average pledge of \$5,708.89!**

We are deeply grateful to all who have pledged to continue supporting the ministries of St. Thomas.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Allgeier and Jim Cobb
Stewardship Committee



The Commissioning of Wardens and Vestry

- Rector:** You have been called to the ministry of leadership and financial responsibility in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?
- Candidate:** I will.
- Rector:** Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?
- Candidate:** I will.
- Rector:** Let us pray. (Silence)
O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Wardens and Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Commissioning of Delegates and Alternates to Convention

- Rector:** You have been called to the ministry of representing St. Thomas at the Deanery and the Annual Convention. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?
- Candidate:** I will.
- Rector:** Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?
- Candidate:** I will.
- Rector:** Let us pray. (Silence)
Eternal Lord God, who by the Holy Spirit presided at the council of the Apostles to guide them in all knowledge and truth: Be present with our Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan convention. In the passions of debate give them a quiet spirit, in the complexities of the issues give them clear minds, and in the moments of decision give them courageous hearts. Guide them in all things to seek only your glory and the good of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

