



The Steeple Bell

Information for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Family, January, 2020



From Pastor Shirley . . .

I love, love, love a New Year! Yes, I'm repeating myself because I've certainly shared this with all of you every new year. What can I say that will help you understand the exhilaration of something brand new like a new year? Well, if you write or you're an author then you will understand the magic of a blank page before you that you will be filling perhaps with some inspiring words, adventures you have been on or maybe some words of wisdom that have helped you.

Think about a mountain climber who after much intensive labor of climbing, walking and scaling a high mountain is finally at the very top having obtained his or her goal. The vista laid out before you in this never to be forgotten moment is akin to seeing the whole world anew through the lens of excitement and unbelievable awe and beauty.

Back to earth, it is a momentous occasion to be at the start of a new year. **What do you or I want to leave behind us or take with us on this fresh new start?** We are as it were a blank calendar with a box to fill in for each and every day; three hundred and sixty-six days in this leap year of 2020! Think of those calendars you can buy that provide a space for you to write down reminders of activities, appointments, birthdays etc.

What hopes and dreams do you or I have for 2020? For myself, I would like to take more time to smell the roses instead of having jam packed days that seem to rush by in a helter skelter of busyness. Maybe, I need to try out being a laid back C type personality instead of a frenetic type A personality. Ha!

For St. Thomas Church, my hope and dream is that we become more and more God's beloved community here on earth and that we gather up more of God's children to be a part of that. We know what it means to believe you are a part of God's eternal family living out for now God's individual purpose for each one of us here on planet earth. **We have the promise yet unfulfilled of eternity as our destiny. So, how do we share this belief and hope with other people in an intriguing, inviting and non threatening way?**

In the year 2020, let us work together as a whole community instead of individual ministry parts doing their own particular ministry thing to explore how we as a church can become more inviting and appealing to seekers who are out there in our world needing to be found; gathered up into God's beloved community if only we could make the way easy to connect with our church community in a comfortable, sustaining and ongoing way.

Your input, assistance, individual gifts, wisdom and generosity are all needed and welcomed to increase God's beloved community here at St. Thomas and beyond. Let us begin, get started, from the viewpoint and vista of the opportunity before us in a brand spanking New Year of 2020. To God be the glory!

In the love of Christ,

Rev. Shirley +



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of

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The head of the Church, Jesus Christ!

Bishop-Elect The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry

Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan

& Rector of St. Thomas Church

The Rev. Shirley McWhorter-Vicar

Cynthia Tise-Secretary

Carol Hoggard-Bookkeeper

Barbara Conroy-Music Director

Gerald Eory-Custodian

Bishop's Committee

Term expires Jan-2020

Term expires Jan-2021

Mike Krupa (Warden)

Cheryl Koerber

Gary Sonnenberg

Scott Abernathy (Warden)

Kathy Zook

Secretary to the Bishop's Committee: Cheryl Koerber

Treasurer: Bishop's Committee

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9am-1pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm

Worship Services:

Sunday, 8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist

Morning Prayers Services will be on the
2nd and 5th Sundays of each month.

*Wednesday, 10:30am Holy Eucharist (Sept-May)
and Seasonally as Announced*

Christian Education

Children & Youth 10:00am Sundays

Adults-Wed 11:00am (Sept-May) and

Seasonally as Announced

Ways to Participate Beyond Worship:

If you have an idea for a ministry or a group that you would like the church to be involved in, please speak to Rev. Shirley, and we'll see what we can do to make it happen.

- Invite someone to worship or Bible study with you, and offer to pick them up.
- If you haven't seen someone in worship lately, give them a call or send a card.
- Invite a neighbor for coffee and offer to pray with them.
- Volunteer for a committee.

Help generate some content for our church's social media platforms:

- **Facebook: [St. Thomas Episcopal Church Group](#)**
- **Website: stthomastrenton.org**

Clericus Calendar

Thursday, January 2, 1:30-3:30pm, Grace Church, Southgate.



Birthdays of the Month January Birthdays

01 Sharon McQuiston	16 Barbara Kalnick
04 Bill Jackson	16 Jay Pockyarath
04 Arthur Mawditt	20 Rebecca Bianchi
05 Elizabeth Meade	30 Emi Mitsusada-Boylan
14 Gregory Gill	31 Beth Gill
16 Chester Budziak	

Thank You!!

The counselors at the Taylor branch of Community Care Services thank all those who participated in the Christmas Giving Project this year. What a wonderful assortment of toys, books, puzzles, etc., for their clients to give to their family members. As always, the congregation at St. Thomas was very generous in helping those in need.

The Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry will be ordained and consecrated as the Eleventh Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 10:30am. The consecration as Bishop will be held at The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI.

A light reception to follow. The festival color is white. Reserve childcare at edomi.org/consecration. Bishops: Rochet, Chimere & Tippet or White Stole. Clergy: Cassock, Surplice & White Stole.

Consecration Weekend Events:

Friday, February 7, The Henry, Dearborn. 6:30-10pm—Greet the Bishop-Elect. Short program at 7pm. Hors d'oeuvres

Saturday, February 8, The Ford Performing Arts Center, Dearborn. Doors open at 9am. Processions at 10:30am. Consecration Liturgy at 11am. There will be a reception from 1-3pm.

Sunday, February 9, The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit. The Welcoming and Seating of the 11th Bishop of Michigan is at 11am.

All are Welcome!

Thrift Shop Benefits Many

For the past 20 years, the St. Thomas Thrift Shop has helped many of our neighbors by offering quality items (clothing, books and household goods) at very reasonable prices. We have welcomed many new customers and are always glad to see our many regular customers. People say it is a happy place to shop.

This year we disbursed \$6,000.00! Where does the money go, you ask? Some went to the St. Thomas Operating Fund and the rest to 12 different charities including Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), ChristNet, First Step, THAW and the Trenton Goodfellows. And to think all of the items we sell have been donated by St. Thomas members and friends!

The Thrift Shop is open on Saturday mornings from 9:00 to Noon. We accept donations on Saturday mornings from 9:00am to 11:00am. Stop by and see what we have. You just might find that treasure you have been looking for.

St. James Episcopal Church Music Series 2019-2020

25150 E. River Rd., Grosse Ile, MI 48138

The Music Series runs from Nov. 2nd, 2019, until May 16th, 2020. The nature of the music in most of the programs is complementary to themes found in the church year. There will be a "meet the artists reception" following each program. All programs are free and open to the public, although free-will donations are accepted. Please contact James Johnson if you would like to sponsor one or more of the programs. We have a schedule of the program in the office. Just ask our secretary, Cynthia, for a copy.

2019 Ministry Reports!

All leaders of ministries at St. Thomas please turn in a report of your ministry. If your ministry involves money, then also include an accounting of funds. Your report should include 2019 activities, hopes and dreams for your ministry, a thank you to those who assist you, and an invitation to other members to join your ministry. Deadline for Reports is Monday, January 13th. Thank you!

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2019**

***Opening Prayer/Meditation:** The Very Rev. Shirley McWhorter

***Attendance:** Rev. Shirley McWhorter, Carol Hoggard, Cheryl Koerber, Scott Abernathy, Gary Sonnenberg.

***Absent:** Mike Krupa, Kathy Zook

***The way of love:** All

***Financial Report:** Carol Hoggard financial report reviewed. Discussion held. Gary moved to accept the financial report as written, Scott seconded, all approved.

Budget: New pledge cards went out today. Reviewed and discussed the coming year budget. We will have actuals in January.

***Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes of November meeting reviewed. Miliotto was misspelled. Scott made motion to accept minutes with corrections and seconded by Cheryl. Accepted by all.

***Ministry and Mission:** Rev. Shirley suggests we change our sign to read "In God's church there are no outcasts. Everyone is welcome here."

***Communications:** None.

***Acknowledgments:** Thank you to Ron for raking leaves, Cheryl for taking care of the roof replacement, Kathy Zook for taking care of the stage door replacement, and thank you to Sybil and Milton Resh for cleaning up the kitchen.

***New Business:** \$2864.00 is the total cost of the stage doors. We will be losing Gary, Kathy and Mike in the bishops' committee. Replacements to hold these important positions will need to be filled. Dave Bennett has looked at the west doors. There is rot in several areas.

***Old Business:** Update on the roof and boiler. The boiler has a leak in the header and the cost is \$9589.00. Scott made a motion to make the repairs on the boiler, seconded by Gary and passed by all.

***Wardens Corner:** Business as usual. Scott thanks everyone especially Carol our diligent bookkeeper.

***Reverend Shirley's Comments:** We have had a very busy fall season with training a new secretary. Things are going well.

***Lord's Prayer:** All

***Sending Forth:** Rev. Shirley.

***Adjourned:** 8:30 PM

Next meeting: January 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM (Guild Hall)

****Reminder**** any member of the congregation is invited to attend these meetings

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Koerber

JANUARY, 2020

Helping Schedule

Altar Guild Susan Eory, Team Leader

Jacki Klein, Beth Ann Mace, Nan Morrish, Janet Pounds

01/05

2 Christmas

8:00am- E.M.L.P.: Steve Chapman

10:00am- E.M.'s: Rachel Kerns & Jim Kerns

Lector/Prayers: Mandy Vidusic

Usher: Gary McWhorter

Sound System: Gary McWhorter

Coffee Hour: Brenda Sullivan & Mandy Vidusic

Nursery: Barb Hewison

01/12

Morning Prayer

1 Epiphany

8:00am- W.L.: Steve Chapman

10:00am- W.L.: Janet Pounds

Lector/Prayers: Laura Krupa

Usher: Jacki Klein

Coffee Hour: Cheryl Koerber & Sybil Resh

Nursery: Kimberly Abernathy

01/19

2 Epiphany

8:00am- E.M.L.P.: Steve Chapman

10:00am- E.M's: Jim Kerns & Rachel Kerns

Lector/Healing Prayers: Mandy Vidusic

Usher: Jack Morrish

Sound System: Gary McWhorter

Coffee Hour: Barb Hewison & Beth Meade

Nursery: Beth Meade

01/26

3 Epiphany

10:00am- E.M's: Jim Kerns & Rachel Kerns

Lector/Prayers: Laura Krupa

Usher: Kristina Crofut

Sound System: Gary McWhorter

Coffee Hour: Judy Dabanian & Sherry Fergeus

Nursery: TBD

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TO:

January 2020



Coming Up This Month:

All Wednesdays	10:30am H.E., 11:00am - Bible Study
All Thursdays	7:00pm Choir practice
Wednesday, 1st	Office closed
Thursday, 2nd	Office open, Clergy Meeting
Friday, 3rd	Office open
Sunday, 5th	8:00 & 10:00am H.E. Service & Birthday Blessing & Scrip
Tuesday, 7th	2:30pm Worship meeting
Thursday, 9th	6:30pm BC Meeting
Saturday, 11th	1-5pm Guild Hall rented
Sunday, 12th	8: & 10am Morning Prayer & Scrip
Monday, 13th	Ministry Reports due, 6:30-9:00pm AAUW Meeting
Tuesday, 14th	3:45 Pastoral Care Meeting
Thursday, 16th	Steeple Bell deadline
Sunday, 19th	8:00am & 10:00am H.E. Service Anniversay Blessing, Healing & Scrip, St.Philip's Food Pantry
Sunday, 26th	10:00am H.E. Service & Scrip, 11:15am Annual Congregational Mtg.
Tuesday, 28th	Deanery Meeting at 7:00pm at St. Michael's, Lincoln Park

Morning Prayers Services will be on the 2nd and 5th
(when there is a 5th) Sundays of each month.