



2018 Schedule of Events

- Feb. 14 - Mar. 28 Wed. services in Lent - 7:30 am (with breakfast) & 9:30 am
- Feb. 18 Music Series - Sunday 4:30 pm
- Feb. 25 Annual Vestry Meeting – after the 10 am service
- Mar. 3 Vegan Cooking Class
- Mar. 4 Masons visiting the Worship Service 10:30 am
- Mar. 10 Curry Cooking Class
- Mar. 16 Youth Cinema Night 6:30 pm
- Mar. 17 Lenten Journey workshop with the Ven. Max Woolaver
- Mar. 18 Hastings & Prince Edward Regimental Association Parade Service 10:30 am
- Mar. 18 Music Series: Cello Duo Concert 4:30 pm
- Mar. 25 Palm Sunday - The Primate and the Bishop visiting (brunch following service)
- Mar. 28 Seder Supper
- Mar. 29 Maundy Thursday service at St. Thomas'
- Mar. 30 Good Friday Walk- 10 am
- Mar. 30 Tenabrae Service 7:30 pm
- Apr. 1 Easter Sunday
- Apr. 4 Later Life Learning Lectures begin - 10 am
- Apr. 8 Hastings & Prince Edward Regional Chorus Concert 4 pm
- Apr. 15 Music Series: An Afternoon with J.S. 4:30 pm
- Apr. 22 Welsh Choir 2 pm
- Apr. 28 Pizza Bingo 5 pm
- May 3 Altar Guild Meeting 9 am
- May 6 Rogation Sunday
- May 8 Spaghetti Supper
- May 11 & 12 Music Exams
- May 17 Bridge Luncheon Fundraiser
- June 7 Election Day (Provincial) - Parish Hall is polling station
- June 14 Spring Tea & Eucharist
- June 23 Strawberry Social 2 pm

Watch for more information on each of these events.
 E-mail: office@stthomasbelleville.ca fax: (613) 962-5269
 website: www.stthomasbelleville.ca

ST. THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

201 Church Street, Belleville, ON K8N 5P2
 613-962-3636



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & ORGANIZATION REPORTS - 2017 -

RECTOR: the Rev'd. Brad Beale
 MUSIC DIRECTORS: Francine Nguyen- Savaria, Matthieu Latreille
 HONORARY ASSISTANTS: the Rev'd John Uttley the Rev'd Barry Brown
 the Rev'd John Flindall the Rev. Canon John Thompson

CHURCH WARDENS: Heather Rutledge Josh Fraser
 DEPUTY WARDEN : Chris Reid

AUDITOR:
 CLERK OF THE VESTRY: Anne Clark

MISSION & AFFIRMING STATEMENT

We are, by the grace of God, a caring community, celebrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ, sent to share, through the power of the Holy Spirit, His love with others.
 St. Thomas' Anglican Church is a caring Christian community. Therefore, we welcome persons of any race, gender, sexual orientation, ability or economic circumstances to full participation in our community life and ministry.



Building Committee Report 2017

Submitted by Paul Callaghan

Two thousand seventeen was a busy year around the church, from a building perspective. Many projects were undertaken.

1. Yard cleanup in the Spring with the usual small but enthusiastic group of workers. Thank you to all those who volunteered.
2. The large tree in the north east corner of the lot was removed just in time before it fell down and did more damage as the main trunk had rotted so much that only a small amount of live tree was left.
3. A new yard and snow removal contractor was hired in the fall. First Impressions Landscaping is now doing the job.
4. All the heating equipment was serviced late in the year. Some of the units required new parts. A new air conditioner was installed to replace the old one over the Parish hall offices.
5. Upper Canada Stone House Group did some maintenance on the stone of the church and made some suggestions with regard to preventing further damage.
6. Moira Glass removed some caulking around the outside of the windows in the parish hall which was recommended.
7. Thank you to Ray Doyle for making improvements to the Ladies washroom in the church basement (renovating the sink area and painting) and for other projects around the church.
8. Thank you to Steve Hall for repairing the hand rails leading to the altar.
9. The parking lot lines were repainted by Jon Warren - many thanks.



needs of the community. Committee members have met with Community Development Council and Public Health and scheduling for community use starts in March. Pam thanked everyone for 'sticking with' committee members during the renovations. A Financial Statement was presented for donations and expenses in 2016. Pam notes General Funds were not used for any of the renovation process. Funds remaining will cover additional items still needing to be done.

- Communication Committee: Brad noted St. Thomas' now has a Facebook page and would like the word spread.

Mary Hall moved and Bonnie Dobson seconded to receive all published reports as listed with the exception of the Financial report.

Motion: All in favour

Motion carried

8. Annual Financial Report

Ev Hennessy reviewed the Financial Report noting she appreciates the encouragement and help she receives from Parishioners. After the PAG (Pre-Authorized Giving) campaign in the fall, 108 families are now on PAG increasing the average monthly deposit from \$11,500 to \$15,000 per month. Over and above PAG an average of \$4,000-\$5,000 each month still needs to be raised to meet our operations budget. Ev pointed out at the end of 2015 there was a surplus of approximately \$60,000. \$20,000 of that was used in 2016 leaving the surplus at approximately \$40,000. This can't be maintained year after year. Ongoing support will be needed through throughout the coming year.

Win Perryman asked about the present state of the Fund for Ministry; what has been used and what is remaining. John Gelinas chaired this part of the meeting while Father Brad spoke to the portion of funds used for the purchase of a dishwasher/sterilizer for the kitchen renovations. With renovations completed, the kitchen will be used for outreach activities, e.g. teaching food prep and kitchen skills for children and adults and involve community partners like Community Development Council (CDC). Pam Bell stated St. Thomas' ability to access 'outside' funds, i.e. Parrott and Bridge St. Foundations, was based St Thomas' already having accessed and raised funds. Ev will provide Wyn with the financial details of the fund. John noted the process was followed for this purchase and was detailed in Parish the committee's Monthly Report.

Ev addressed a discrepancy between the 2016 Budget and Actual figures under Worship in the Operations Budget 2017. Actual fund amounts for the Music Series and Music Scholarships were removed to a Restricted fund from the Worship line.

Mary Hall motioned to adopt the Financial Report, seconded by Jim Littlefair.

Motion: All in favour

Motion carried

9. **Presentation/acknowledgement of retiring officers**

The following officers are leaving Parish Council: Bonnie Dobson, Doug Calwell, Anne Clark, Elizabeth Grew, Sheila Moore, Phil Allison, Linda Seaver, Annette Snow and John Gelinas as Warden.

Looking forward to 2017

10. **Nominating Committee** - Dorothy Flindall noted when preparing for work the Nominating Committee looked at the Governance Report accepted at last year’s Vestry meeting and tried to ensure they were increasing capacity by inviting new people to take part in the work of the Council and the Parish. Dorothy presented the report as follows:

Chair: Rev. Brad Beale

Wardens: Heather Rutledge, Josh Fraser, Chris Reid

Treasurer: Ev Hennessy

Delegates to Synod: Sandra Mouland, Ev Hennessy, Barb Gilbert

Parish Council Members: Joan Reed, Paul Callaghan, Pam Bell, John Gelinas, John Mark Robertson, Bernadette Hymus

Parish Council Secretary: Joan Rockburne

Envelope Secretary: Joanne Alyea

Dorothy Flindall moved to adopt the list of officers, seconded by Steve Hall.

Motion: All in favour

Motion carried

Brad thanked Dorothy, Ev Hennessy and Heather Rutledge for their efforts on the Nominating Committee.

11. **Clergy Report**

- Members of the Urban Peace Program PACT (www.pactprogram.ca) came to St. Thomas’ last week as they are looking to expand their presence in this community. Additional information can be found on their website. They provide curriculum to local schools on food sharing including community gardens with a focus on experiential learning. Forming a relationship with them may be a great option in expanding the number of community gardens we have.
- Another community gardens note, in March St. Thomas’ will be a host site for a community event including Loyalist College and HGTV’s personality Carson Arthur.

12. **New Business**

i) **St. Paul’s**

Members of St. Paul’s have made the decision to permanently close their doors. Sandra Mouland made the following Motion, seconded by Barb Gilbert.

St. Thomas’ Community Gardens, 2017

St. Thomas’ Community Garden completed its third year in 2017 in providing an opportunity for our community residents to grow affordable, healthy food. Seven of the garden beds are booked through the Community Development Council (CDC) for their clients and five beds are reserved for people booking through our church.

This year we added two more fruit trees to the west side of the church (near the steps leading to Church Street) and hopefully in years to come we might have some fruit to give to the food banks or have a ‘making preserves/jam’ day.

A group of children from St. Mike’s elementary school came for a visit again in 2017 to learn about our community gardens. They were very interested in exploring the various beds in spite of the rainy day. The children had a lesson on planting a seed into a peat pot and watching the pot expand when watered. I think some of them were expecting the bean seed to grow immediately as well.

Each of them left with a bag containing a peat pot and a bean seed to grow at home.

Also, we are still hoping to have canning and preserving classes with our gardeners in the near future now that our kitchen renovation has been completed.

In March, St. Thomas’ was a host site for a Garden Network community event (including Loyalist College) for a documentary film “Growing Cities”. The event was well attended. People learned about places, like Detroit, that have benefitted from setting up various gardens (both floral and vegetable) to not only beautify the cities but to involve community members and agencies to help bring prosperity back to their communities.

Many thanks to those who helped with preparing our community beds in the spring, monitoring the hoses/garden area, and cleaning up the leftover garden waste, this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Kennerley



2. Kitchen management team of volunteers will guide the day-to-day operations of the kitchen, including the education of users. Operating the renovated kitchen will evolve in response to regulations and needs.

3. The Kitchen Renovation Committee encourages the Parish to move forward to provide food security to members of the community, working with other community agencies to meet the community needs.

We thank all St Thomas parishioners for your donations of funds, items, time, energy and skills. Your generosity has helped transform our kitchen into a pleasant, efficient workspace that complies with health and safety regulations. Thank you also to the John and Bernice Parrott Foundation and the Bridge Street United Church Foundation for their financial support.

My thanks to the committee members for their work and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Bell, Chairperson, Kitchen Renovation Committee



The Men's Cooking class - Rev. Kate Ann Folwell, instructor

Discussion of the Motion:

- Brad spoke with the Bishop and any decision must be made by the Congregation through Vestry and forwarded to the Bishop. This motion provides the Congregation time to consider options before making a final decision;
- John Gelinias noted this motion provides the Wardens to move forward to investigate options;
- May Doyle inquired if funds from the sale of St. Paul's would go to the Diocese. Brad talked about the legal structure of St. Paul's being the same as St. Thomas' with the same Wardens. May also commented that once a place of worship is deconsecrated, it can no longer be used as a place of worship;
- John noted the Team formed at Parish Council will look at all considerations including what happens if St. Paul's is deconsecrated, tax implications, can it be leased and what would happen then. At this time the Wardens are asking to move forward to investigate possible options. The difference in this situation is the Corporation is the same for both churches and therefore will still be in place;
- Mel Plewes suggested the motion may be too narrowly worded and made two suggestions. Obtaining an appraisal should be added to the motion. Secondly consideration of donating the building to a worthy cause should be added as an option. John noted obtaining an appraisal of the building for sale or lease is part of the Canons and will be completed;
- Mary Hall suggested the addition of 'or other scenarios' to make the Motion as broad as needed for the Team to do what they have to do before reporting back to Parish Council and the Wardens;
- Linda Matchim asked for clarity that St. Paul's themselves made the decision to close as this may not be clear to all. This is the case;
- As a long time member of St. Paul's Margaret Holmes provided some insight to St. Paul's for St. Thomas' congregation. In examining the Financial Statement, there are no disbursements to St. Paul's from St. Thomas' and in St. Paul's Statement of Operations there have been payments to St. Thomas' and the Diocese of Ontario. St. Paul's paid all their own bills and have been self supporting. Margaret noted the congregation is grateful for Elizabeth Mitchell who provided years of service as the organist, to the Lay Readers who provided Morning Prayer services once a month and to Rev. Brad who most Sundays provided Eucharist services at St. Paul's. Brad commented on the number of times there were discussion of the possibility of St. Paul's closing, but due to the dedicated but small group of people it continued to go on and we owe them a debt of gratitude and thanks for how hard they worked to keep St. Paul's going.
- John has spoke to John Secker, Treasurer at the Diocese of Ontario and the proceeds belonging to St. Paul's and from the sale or renting of St. Paul's would come back to the funds of St. Thomas'. These discussions are preliminary and clarification will come as things move forward.

Amended Motion

I, Sandra Mouland, move that Vestry authorize Parish Council to form a team to

4.

investigate and recommend to the Wardens for action one of the following: complete sale of, lease of, donation of, holding of, or other acceptable disposition. This motion was seconded by Ken Hennessy.

Motion: All in favor

Motion carried

ii) Budget

Jim Littlefair moved and Sandra Mouland seconded to adopt the budget as presented.

Motion: All in favor

Motion carried

iii) Anglican Foundation of Ontario - In order for St. Thomas' to take advantage of grants provided by the Anglican Foundation of Ontario, the following motion was made by Dorothy Flindall and seconded by Linda Matchim.

Motion: That the Parish of St. Thomas' renew our membership in the Anglican Foundation of Ontario at a cost of \$100. This affords the parish an opportunity to have an elected member to the Board.

Motion: All in favour

Motion carried

13. Mel Plewes motioned and Bernadette Hymus seconded to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor.

Fr. Brad closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Anne Clark

WARDENS' REPORT- 2017

Your Wardens for 2017 were Heather Rutledge and Josh Fraser. Your Deputy Warden was Chris Reid.

It's been a busy year at St Thomas' for the wardens. We'd like to thank all the volunteers and staff who have been instrumental in making St. Thomas' a successful and growing Church. The kitchen renovation committee has done a great job in completing the renovations and getting the kitchen setup for new and exciting outreach opportunities. The children and youth programs are growing, and new families continue to join our Parish, and the ever-successful choir and music programmes continue to grow and be a great program to bring guests into our church. The church and hall continue to host many community groups. Moving into our bicentennial year I am encouraged, we have a lot to be proud of, a welcoming and vibrant congregation that is growing and helping to spread Gods' word, by both thought and deed.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew:18:20

5.

- New stainless steel surfaces on the islands
- New commercial glass front fridge, upright freezer and microwave
- Storage in the pantry has been addressed, with first clearing it out, adding new metal shelving, putting garbage outside in bins.
- Pass through with shelf made for kitchen door to help with flow
- Cupboards refaced
- New countertops installed
- Hand washing sink and new kitchen sinks, one with a large sink for larger items. New kitchen spray faucets.
- New cabinet unit to accommodate the larger washing up sink
- Kitchen painted throughout
- Development of kitchen operational manual and operational procedures
- Development of training procedures for responsible users of the kitchen (necessary because of the installation of new and expensive equipment, fire suppression systems, ventilation systems, gas stoves and meeting health and safety regulations).
- Provision of training to over 60 kitchen supervisors, as well as creating written reference material on the web site and in the kitchen.
- Developed a position description for Kitchen Manager and advertised the position.

Financial

Expenses \$50,000 (which includes a 10% contingency fund set aside for future use for kitchen improvements). Expenses have been met by receipts.

Recommendations

1. The Kitchen Renovation Committee be disbanded.

Kitchen Renovation Committee Report to Vestry

Committee members- Phil Allison, Sheila Stanley, Mel Plewes, Brad Beale, Heather Rutledge, Pam Bell, Paul Callaghan.

In November 2015, Parish Council created the Kitchen Renovation Task Force to be chaired by Pam Bell.

April 12, 2016, the Kitchen Renovation Task Force made a presentation and report to Parish Council to which all members of the congregation were invited. At that meeting the Task Force presented the following list of problems:

1. Belleville Fire Department restrictions on use of electric cook-stoves and hoods.
2. Need for more electric outlets-the 200 amp electric power supply to Parish Hall is near capacity which limits needed additional outlets.
3. Low temperature dish washer/sanitizer is over 25 years old and will need replacement soon.
4. Kitchen storage, food handling & traffic flows are inefficient.
5. Insufficient hot water supply at critical times.
6. Dedicated hand-washing sink required for Health safety.
7. Space wasting closure at counter pass-through.

These identified problems have all been addressed and the kitchen has been upgraded with new appliances and working surfaces, to the level of a new kitchen.

Summary of completed jobs:

- 2 new gas stoves with fire suppression systems, new exterior ventilation and auxiliary fire suppression pull stations
- New gas line for stove
- New dish sanitizer which has a booster heater, alleviating the lack of hot water
- Roll up pass through door which has allowed for outlets to be placed on either side along the Parish hall/kitchen wall
- Electrical work- up grading outlets, adding outlets as per building code



Clergy Report - Fr. Brad Beale

2018 is our Bicentennial year. I am deeply conscious of this fact, as we must all surely be, and conscious of how 100, or 200 years from now the people marking St. Thomas' tricentennial and quadricentennial will look back to us, and what we did. The Bicentennial Committee has been working very hard at planning a spectacular year of events and activities which will serve to make this year very special indeed.

2017 has been busy and full year in our parish life. The renovations to the kitchen continued, so that we might both use this space as a tool for ministry but also to offer it to the broader community for a variety of uses and activities. It is a sign of our health that to try and hold an event at St. Thomas', the challenge one has is finding a time when a particular space might be available. From meditation groups, to pathfinders, to 'beavers', to choral academy, to community groups, this place is a hive of activity every day and every evening of the week.

We are richly blessed at St. Thomas' with our staff, wardens, treasurer, and so many other volunteers. Sandra, Matthieu and Francine put in countless extra hours, and go far beyond the proverbial 'extra mile' in serving this community, and in seeking excellence in that service. Similarly, our treasurer Ev puts in more hours and dedication than people would know, and we are also very ably served by our wardens who do so much behind the scenes.

Our worship life continues to evolve - as it ought - with liturgies that pay attention to the seasons of the church, and pay attention to the richness and depth and breadth of our Anglican heritage. I have always felt that good liturgy should hold in tension two elements. On one side of that tension is that as we experience liturgy the atmosphere should be such that we see and touch and sense the Divine, and at the same time we should be as comfortable in that experience as we are in our own living room, or at our own dinner table. Let me say more about that. Is this not one of the lessons of the Incarnation, that foundational event of our faith? God did not choose to take on human flesh in a palace, or a temple of the day, to one of the many royal environments of that era. No, He took on human flesh in a stable, among common animals, in a back-woods village, to a couple of no prestige or reputation or power, under scandalous circumstances in the moral judgements of the day. In classical theological language, God made sacred the profane. Liturgy, therefore, should also raise to our consciousness the reality that very often we are not as aware of the presence of the Sacred in our living rooms, or at our dinner tables as maybe we should be. The Hebrew word for 'spirit' is the same word as the word for 'breath' - *'ruach'*. The Holy Spirit is as close to us as our very breath. Liturgy therefore, and increasing our sense of the Sacred, then, is not about elevating the 'common', and making common the 'solemn', it is about nurturing and growing in us a sense of balance and awareness. God is as close to us as our breath.

So many people put in so many hours toward our worship life being as rich as it is; our

choir, our altar guild, our readers, our intercessors, servers, greeters, sidespeople - so many people. We are all grateful to their selfless giving, and the fruits of their labours. Our community gardens continue to be a well-received, and well used offering of our property to the broader community. Though it would be great if we could further develop this, we will need to let this move forward at its own pace.

In the church in this era, we can never rest on our laurels. We are, sadly, in a competitive environment, where 'church' is concerned, and unfortunately this environment is unimaginably outright hostile to Christians and to church. I sometimes worry that we who are in the church are unaware of the depth of this problem. A lot has changed in just the last 20 years. With the school system in Ontario turning completely secular in nature, and the misrepresentations of Christianity in popular entertainment, we have an image and p.r. challenge on our hands. As the Barna Group regularly highlights in their research, the associations and connotations many of our fellow citizens have with the words 'Christianity', 'Church', and 'Christian' are shocking and largely negative.

The Church in England is wrestling with similar challenges, but instead of wringing their hands and doing nothing, they have gone to work, and have published two major research documents called From Anecdote to Evidence and From Evidence to Action. The first document started with the questions 'Are there commonalities among Churches that are growing?', but also, 'Are there commonalities among Churches that are in decline?'. The research found there were indeed commonalities in both instances, eight commonalities in fact. Last Spring our Parish Council spent some time looking at the first of these documents, and this Autumn I introduced the second document. We agreed that in moving forward, these documents would guide the directions we take, and would be the foundation for any of our visioning and actions. According to the research, a growing church is likely to;

- >have a clear sense of mission and purpose and clergy and congregations who are intentional about growth
- >understand its context, actively engage with it and with those who might not currently go to church
- >be willing to self-reflect, change, and adapt according to its context
- >have lay people as well as ordained clergy active in leadership and other roles
- >actively engage children and young people
- >be welcoming and build on-going relationships with people
- >nurture disciples, encouraging people to explore and deepen their faith and live it out in their daily lives
- >have clergy and lay leaders who innovate, envision and motivate people.

Each of these summary points, of course, is much more fully discussed and unpacked in the research.

In the past, at St. Thomas', we have discussed undertaking growth initiatives, but these seem to go 'off the rails' a bit by not being rooted in research and study, and instead rooted more in individual opinions. We must be attentive to growth, and focused on it, but not in a haphazard way. We must root our processes and foci in research -

Thomas Stitches Annual Report 2017



The stitchers of St. Thomas Church have been together for 10 years. Our group is made up of many long term, highly creative seamstresses as well as those new at sewing who are interested in learning new skills. This past year, our efforts were concentrated on creating crafts and quilted items for the Christmas Market. Along with the knitting arm of the Tuesday group, we hosted a fabric, yarn and garden tool sale in the spring. Several lap quilts were produced for nursing home residents, neck scarves for the Cub Scout Pack, as well as several small quilts that were sewn and sold. The money raised by the stitchers has been and will continue to be used for ongoing church needs.

As stitchers, we are always ready to learn new skills and techniques so throughout the year, we participated in several workshops during which we were able to learn and improve new skills. Of special note, several of the stitchers under the leadership of Elfreida Snow have worked with a group of young boys and girls teaching them the art of sewing and quilting. These young students have had quilting projects entered into the Junior Division of the National quilting competition and several have been award recipients. These are our future quilters!

Primarily formed as the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the knitters of the Tuesday morning group have been gathering together for 13 years. Over the years, while we continue to knit prayer shawls, we also knit sweaters for African teenagers, vests for babies in Africa, lap blankets for nursing home residents and last but definitely not least, items which we hope will sell at the Christmas Market.

The Stitches and Knitters group as a whole love to share, welcome new ideas and especially enjoy the social fellowship. If you are able to sew, cut, iron, knit, crochet, make coffee and tea or just want some friendly conversation, you are most welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings in the Parish Centre any time after 9 a.m. Coffee time is 10:30!

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Moulard & Bonnie Dobson

Edmonton, St. Catherines, Hamilton and Thunder Bay. Assistance in paying for postage is paid for by donations.

This is a wonderful outreach ministry project, that lets our students know we are thinking about them.

Thanks for caring for these young people !

Linda Matchim

Rummage and Bake Sale

St. Thomas' Annual Rummage and Bake Sale was held Sept 29th and 30th. The saying "someone's junk is someone else's treasure" once again held true. The hall was overflowing with treasures and volunteers worked tirelessly sorting and pricing these treasures. The library/conference room was full of baking donated by our wonderful parishioners and coordinated by Betty Thompson.

This fundraising is always a great event thanks to the many volunteers who take the time from their busy lives to help out. Approximately \$2635.00 was raised.

Linda and Carl Matchim

accompanied by prayer -and the great thing about church growth is that there is plenty of great research available.

I want to say one last thing. As a parish priest, I am deeply aware, on a daily basis, of the fact that the Church is a volunteer organization. Every penny, every initiative, every effort, every meal, is the result of people of faith dedicating their energy and time and money to the Church as the primary expression of living out their discipleship. I am so deeply appreciative to God, and to you, that my sons and I have been gifted, in our pilgrimages through this life, with being a part of this family of disciples of Jesus. So, thank you.

Our Bicentennial year, then, promises to be an exciting and active one. Let's make it such a celebration that they'll be talking about it still 50 years from now, when, hopefully, they are also thankful for the benefits of what we have handed on.

Fr. Brad Beale

During 2017



Baptisms - 3



Weddings – 6



New Families - 9



Confirmations – 1



Funerals – 21

Bicentennial Celebration Committee Report

On December 26, 1818, the parish of St. Thomas was established in Belleville in the far off colony of British North America. Have you ever wondered what the scenery surrounding the church would have looked like two hundred years ago? A commanding view of the Bay of Quinte would certainly have been prominent! The thing which I find astonishing is that the St. Thomas founding took place almost fifty years before Confederation.

Our committee began meeting in 2014 when we started thinking about and planning events for this our Bicentennial year when all of us can celebrate our vibrant life as we attempt to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ in today's society. The committee consists of Robert Johnston, Chair, Rev. Brad Beale, Coral Belch, Bonnie Dobson, Jean Hamelink, Elizabeth Mitchell, John Mark Robertson, Heather Rutledge, Elizabeth Semlitsch, David Smith and Rev. John Uttley. Several events for the year are confirmed while there is still one main one that is pending. In addition, we have ordered a plaque commemorating 200 years which will be installed outside the double doors of the Parish Centre.

In 2017, Linda Matchim, Anne Clark, Gail Rollins and Heather Fisher, organized the publishing of our **Bicentennial Cookbook** which initially went on sale at the Christmas Market. There were 200 printed and the 25 unsold ones are available in the office. Once each season, we will have a **cookie Sunday** when we will share cookies baked using recipes from the past. The first of these is February 4. We are excited to have the **Primate, Rev. Fred Hiltz and our Bishop Michael Oulton** with us on Palm Sunday, March 25 and there will be a brunch following the service. On Easter Sunday there will be an **Easter Parade**, complete with hats so we hope many will participate by designing a fancy hat. The **Music Series Concert** on April 15 is a special one arranged by our Directors of Music in celebration of the Bicentennial. On April 22, the **Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir** will be singing for us and tickets for this will be sold in the community as well as the church office. John Uttley was commissioned by us to write an anthem honouring our 200 years and it will be debuted in May.

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdwell has been invited to join us for a Sunday service the end of May followed by a **luncheon banquet** to be held at the Greek Banquet Hall. We have not received confirmation from her office as yet but we intend to hold the parish banquet whether she accepts our invitation or not. We have held an old fashioned **strawberry social** each year since 2014 and this year the date for it is June 23. We have a plan to hold a **Sunday service at Zwick's Island** followed by a **parish picnic** on August 19. A **fashion show** displaying fashions through the years is planned for September 15. **Brunch** following the 10:30 service on September 23, followed by an **old fashioned hymn sing** is planned. October brings a repeat of the **Graveyard Walk** with added characters and stories. Our final event will be on December 2 with the **Bishop** attending and a **brunch** following the service. In addition, **former clergy** have been invited to attend and participate as they choose on one of several dates throughout the year.

We look forward to joining our fellow parishioners as this very special year of our lives progresses.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Johnston

CHRISTMAS SHARING PROGRAM 2017

This year St. Thomas' once again participated in the community Christmas Sharing Program. It was with sad hearts that this year's project lost one of its dedicated volunteers, with the sudden passing of Don Holmes. Don was remembered many times during this years organizing; questions like "What would Don have done ..." came up several times. He was truly missed.

45 families received parcels this year, with items being sorted and packed on December 20th and deliveries being made on December 21st.

Thanks to the generosity of St. Thomas' parishioners four to five boxes were delivered to each family. Each of the deliveries included all the staples for a wonderful Christmas dinner plus additional items that would be used by the families for the up coming week. Gifts for the children are always part of our congregation's Christmas Sharing tradition and are always appreciated. This was once again co-coordinated by Bernadette Hymus and a new helper, Niurka Torrealba. Bernadette was once again our special "Angel" spokesperson; keeping the congregation updated each week at the 10:30am service on what was needed for the program. Marilyn Callaghan also kept the 8:00 am parishioners up to date. This is truly a wonderful outreach program that helps so many people in our community.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped to sort and deliver the parcels as well to everyone who donated the much needed food and money to buy the perishables.

Carl and Linda Matchim.

Ministry to our College & University Students 2017

The annual outreach ministry to college and university students has become a tradition at St. Thomas'. During the stressful time of final exams, the parishioners of St. Thomas' send our students a little bit of extra love by sending them parcels with lots of goodies to use while they study for year end exams.



Most of these students are children and grandchildren of parishioners. The congregation has lovingly donated food items to do up parcels, and in 2017 we prepared 24 parcels. Members of the congregation delivered parcels for local schools in Belleville, Kingston, Peterborough, Ottawa, and Toronto. . Once again we had a parcel prepared and hand delivered in Halifax, by Deborah Solariski (nee Grimson) and her children. Other parcels were sent by mail, with parcels going to schools in Waterloo, Guelph, Montreal, Sudbury,

Screening in Faith

Many of you know that the Diocese of Ontario has a Screening in Faith Policy to which all parishes are required to adhere. St. Thomas formed an ad hoc group several years ago with the purpose being to organize ourselves in order to comply with this policy. The group was comprised of Father Brad, Dorothy Davies-Flindall, Sandra Moulard and Bonnie Dobson. The work involved creating and/or updating job descriptions for all positions, both staff and volunteers, and determining the risk level for these. For ones deemed to be a high risk, a police and vulnerable sector check is required. These need to be renewed every three years and a record is kept in the office.

This is obviously an ongoing process so that St. Thomas remains current in this aspect of the Parish life. I am the person who will be in touch with those who need to update their police and vulnerable sector check and will provide the information you will need to do this.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Dobson

Report for Vestry St. Thomas' 2017 Christmas Market



The 2017 St. Thomas' Christmas Market was a huge success. We opened the doors at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 4th to a lineup of expectant shoppers already standing in line. The long home baking table was the first table inside the door and by the end of the day, almost everything was gone. The antipasto was a big hit again as were the frozen dinners and the specialty curry sauce. The sewing and knitting table, silent auction table and jewelry table rounded out the rest of the good available for sale. We also served 150 lunches of quiche, salad and desserts in the Christmas Café area. All in all, the Church made \$5,900... due to the hard work of the volunteers who generously gave of their time to make the 2017 Christmas Market such a huge success.

Submitted by:
Susan Fleischer, Chairperson, Christmas Market



Directors of Music Report

2017 was our fourth year at Saint Thomas'. Our organ is kept in good condition, and our space and resources are fully used. St. Thomas' Choral Academy has reach a relative stability since its establishment, with around 20 Junior Choristers throughout the year. The

curriculum was improved, as we always seek to improve it, but there were only minor changes since 2016. We offered rehearsals five days a week, and all choristers learn with both Francine and Matthieu. In September, Junior choristers Josh Beale and Jeanette Huang joined the Senior Choir. Josh transitioned from being a treble to a bass, and Jeanette joined the soprano section as our choral scholar. Cherub choristers still meet Francine on Sundays after the service. St. Thomas' Choral Academy received financial support from the Anglican Foundation of Canada.

The solfege classes for adults on Thursday evenings still provide choristers and prospective choristers with an opportunity to develop the art of reading music and sing it. Learning solfege requires the effort, daily practice and patience that one needs to learn to read, write and speak a new language. We have often been saddened by the dismissal the need for such efforts encountered, but we firmly believe that high standards, and a clear understanding and application of the rules that make the language of written music will be more fruitful for the choir in the long term. Some choristers left and some joined the Senior Choir for this very reason, while other choristers sadly retired after many years of singing for health reasons.

Our Senior choir provides music for the 10:30 AM Sunday service and additional services during Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. Junior Choristers are required to sing at Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, as well as additional services, depending on their level. The choirs have improved a lot over the last year, specially with respect to the art of chanting psalms.

The music series, Music at Saint Thomas', has gained more and more popularity, and is a monthly rendez-vous for classical music in Belleville's community. Since 2014, Music at St. Thomas' is fulfilling its artistic mission: sharing with Belleville's community the beauty of great classical music, and the artistry of exceptional and renowned musicians. Your support allows us to host outstanding performances by great artists, and host unique events. Some events welcomed capacity audiences, and the church overflowed for a

concert given in March by the choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa and for Carols by Candlelight in December! Music at Saint Thomas' received financial support from the City of Belleville.

As artists and directors of music, we work in the long term. We always strive to bring high standards of performance to convey depth, reverence and poetry in all aspects of the music ministry. The programme we are building would not be possible without the generous, constant, and selfless support of our rector, and without the help of a great team of numerous volunteers, whether they are choristers, or enthusiastic supporters donating food for the receptions following the music series. We are grateful for the faith this community places in our work.

Francine & Matthieu Latreille

Report to Vestry 2018

COMMUNICATIONS

A FEW AWESOME QUOTES

“In the last analysis, what we *are* communicates far more eloquently than anything we *say or do*”

Stephen Covey

“Communication leads to Community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing”

Rollo May

Submitted by Phil Allison, chairperson



St. Thomas' Chapter /World Community for Christian Meditation.

The St. Thomas group of Christian meditators continues to meet on the first and third Mondays of each month in the Library at 7:00 p.m. Our time together usually lasts about an hour and a half. We follow a simple routine that participants are encouraged to keep in daily practice: Sit down in a quiet place. Close your eyes lightly and repeat a sacred word with the exclusion, as much as possible, of all other thoughts, images or imaginations. The mantra (sacred word) which is recommended by the founder of the WCCM, Dom John Main is “Maranatha”. It is the Aramaic term “Come Lord” used in I Cor. 16:22 and Rev. 22.20.

Our evenings together are introduced by a short reflection time when we listen to a brief teaching provided on disc from the WCCM. During the latter part of this year we focused on The Cloud of Unknowing . After our quiet time there is opportunity for participation in discussion on the theme presented in the recording. We have copies of Dom John Main's publications of the talks he used to to introduce meditation that folk can take away for study.

We have in the past year shared in the establishment of new group forming at St. Mary Magdalene parish in Picton.

A broad overview of the WCCM can be found at: www.wccm.org and the many publications it holds can be found at www.mediomedia.org.

Meditation in a group has a depth and a reality which encourages and supports those who are coming together for silent prayer We invite any and all who are interested to join us.

Submitted by John and Dorothy Flindall

Pastoral Care Ministry Team

This team is made up of caring parishioners who give support to others in the congregation, as needed. We visit those who are in retirement and nursing homes as well as those who are still in their own homes but not able to easily attend church services or participate in other church activities. Birthday and Christmas cards are sent to those 80 years young and over, get well/thinking of you cards to those we know are ill, and sympathy cards to those who are grieving.

In late May or early June, the Spring Eucharist and Tea is held for those parishioners 80 years young and older. We also invite residents of retirement and nursing homes and always have a considerable number of them who attend. The date for this year's event is Thursday, June 14 so please save the date if you are of age to receive an invitation.

The hospital visiting team goes to Belleville General Hospital weekly to have a short visit with any of our parishioners who have been admitted to hospital. If you have a family member in hospital, please let the office know so that they won't be missed by one of the team and/or Father Brad.

Many of the team also assist with catering for funeral lunches. A meeting was held in September to talk about how we can better utilize the volunteers needed to put on the luncheons. We gained a few people interested in leading the funeral lunch team and a few more volunteers who will assist. In order to relieve the Office Administrator, Sandra Kennerley of some of the tasks she was doing in relation to funeral lunches, the position of Funeral Lunch Coordinator was created. This person will speak with the family about the type of lunch they would like and the number of people they anticipate will attend and will also arrange the volunteers required. A pamphlet was created by Ev Hennessy which outlines 3 options for a funeral lunch and states the cost of each. These pamphlets have been distributed to the funeral homes to give to families when they talk with them about funeral arrangements.

A few years ago the Pastoral Care team developed a Personal Information Booklet which when completed, provides a good record of your family details, financial details and your wishes concerning funeral arrangements, all of which will be useful for your family and the Rector at a later date. This booklet has an orange cover and copies are available at no charge in the office.

Thank you to all the dedicated team members for all the work they do. The team meets 2 or 3 times a year and new additions to the team are most welcome at any time. If you are interested in joining our team, please speak to me anytime.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Dobson, Chairperson

Altar Guild Annual Report - 2017

2017 was a busy and productive year for the Altar Guild. The members continued to support each other and the clergy as this important ministry was carried out. Tasks included setting up and cleaning up from the various services; caring for the linens, plants and brass; cleaning the Sanctuary, Sacristy and Vestry; filling the candles with oil and seasonal decorating. New members Jill Edwards, Janet Street, Rhonda Cross and Jennifer Halladay were welcomed. Thanks were given to departing members: Ann and Gary Shaubel and Diana Hutt.

The large silver Flagon was repaired and polished. The gold Chalice and Ciborium were sent to Broughton's in July for straightening of their stems. Research began to replace these gold vessels.

Diana Hutt was responsible for sewing small linens and new flannel bags. Two veils for pre-consecrated elements and an urn veil were sewn by Cathy Warren. Two pieces of beautiful Irish linen were donated by Cecilia Horne. White embossed fabric was purchased for a new casket pall. New candles were purchased for Laying on of Hands and alcohol free hand sanitizer which helps to prevent removal of gold plating was ordered.

There were several plant donations which allowed the group to eliminate many small artificial plants.

Reverend Brad Beale selected and ordered new large nativity scene figures. He constructed a stable and created a beautiful scene which was on display at the back of the Church throughout Advent and Epiphany. Rosemary and Paul Trenhaile ordered the wine from Broughton's and purchased the wafers from the



Church Book Room in Kingston. The flower fund collection took place twice in 2017 and was organized by Donna Creegan. One of the Altar guild members coordinated a group of parishioners who cleaned the brass several times throughout the year.

The Altar Guild Activities document was revised. Photos of the vessels needed for each service were posted in the Sacristy. The scheduling of the Altar Guild was done at the end of the year for the following year. Semi-annual meetings were held on May 4 and November 2. Joan Rockburne and Leslie Flynn recorded the minutes.

Thank you to all Altar Guild members for their dedication to this ministry. Thank you to the congregation and Church Staff for their support.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Warren, Director of Altar Guild

Children, Family & Youth 2016 Vestry Report

I was appointed Children, Family and Youth Coordinator at the end of November 2017, so my report will be a short one, only covering a month and a half. Rosemary Archer and Kim Walsh had been taking care of Sunday School on their own, with no general calendar of activities or anyone to schedule volunteers.

The nursery, coordinated by Linda Matchim, has been running smoothly all the time. It has a dedicated team of 15 volunteers and welcomes children under 5 years old every Sunday.

At the time when I was appointed Children, Family and Youth Coordinator, I could only take care of the most urgent item on the calendar: the Christmas Pageant. I wrote a simple traditional play, sorted the costumes, called performers and volunteers, and scheduled a practice. The play was successful, and those who attended the pageant seemed to enjoy their Saturday afternoon with us.



After the pageant, I updated the contact list. As Christmas was approaching, I took this opportunity to get in touch with families by sending each one of them a Christmas card.

I also drafted a calendar of activities that has been sent early in 2018.

So far, I have done more cleaning than anything else. It has been a tremendous task. It is my understanding that for the past years, each time one wanted to make a change, or developed an activity, we took what we needed not and stored it somewhere. We added things, without throwing anything away.. Unfortunately, over time, it results in the lack of storage space. I therefore cleaned the Children, Family and Youth Coordinator's office, the Youth Loft, and the Youth's storage space in the basement to the best of my abilities. The Children, Family and Youth Coordinator's office is soon to become a space where anyone in need of resources for youth or just a space to work or meditate can come. I also went through the "busy packs" at the back of the church and renewed them. I took the resources I found in the office while cleaning it, and made the busy packs more about God and Jesus, and fired the Minions (sorry!)

Every Sunday afternoon, after Junior Choir, I tour the loft, the nursery, and the craft room, to make sure things are stored away. The bulk of my work: recruiting volunteers for Sunday School and preparing activities, belongs to 2018. Thank you for trusting me to "fill the hole" of this position for the time being!



St. Thomas' Church Library -- Report for 2017

This has been a year of slow but steady progress for our church library.

I have been bringing the catalogue up to date after last year's inventory, and continuing to put cards and pockets into books for easier circulation. As I do this, I have been weeding and discarding books that are unneeded duplicates or are in poor condition. Books that we don't need in our church library may be interesting and useful to other people, so on a few Sundays during the year I set up a "Free Books" table after the 10:30 service, and many of the discards found good homes.

In May I attended the Church Library Association of Ontario Spring Conference, held at Creekside Church, Waterloo. At the Annual Meeting we were made aware of the challenges of keeping this organization going during the past year. Hopefully it will continue to be a place where church librarians can meet colleagues and share ideas.

Workshops on *Promoting Your Library with Social Media*, and *Catalogue and Search Fundamentals* gave me some useful ideas for our collection. Publishers' displays, as well as book discussions about new material, provided an opportunity to select new books, and I bought several titles for children, youth and adults.

The Swap Table at the CLAO conference provides a way to dispose of some of the books that are not needed in our library, but which may suit the needs of other congregations. I took some of our more recent surplus books for the Swap Table and came back with a pile of free books for our collection. In addition, the Christian Salvage Mission is always there to collect any Bibles and other religious publications to send to parts of the world where clergy and people have difficulty in obtaining such material.

The Library Mission Statement and Policy Statement, developed and approved last year, have been posted in the Library/Conference Room as well as on St. Thomas' website. This can serve as a guide to people who may be wondering if books they are discarding from their personal collections would be useful for our church library.

As always, we welcome donations of recent, gently-used books that you think other members of the congregation would enjoy reading. If we are unable to use them in our collection, I can take them to the next CLAO conference, or donate them to charity used book sales, including our own rummage sales.

We also welcome suggestions for books you would like to see in our church library, as well as reviews of books you have read from our library collection. These could be short recommendations that could be printed in the weekly bulletin, or longer reviews that we can collect and post in the library for people who are looking for a good book to read.