St. Thomas Times

St. Thomas Anglican Church
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Autumn
2016

Rector's Corner

Compared to last year, our congregation and community at St. Thomas is now able to look back with gratitude for all the good things that happened with God's grace during this critical time of dealing with some serious challenges. Among many other things, we have managed to turn the tide around our financial and numerical crisis. Thanks be to God and thanks to the wardens and to the many volunteers who generously gave their time, talent and treasure to show that the community of St. Thomas has the good spirit and willingness to not only survive, but also to thrive. As the Incumbent of this congregation, I can say with joy and honesty that we can look forward with great anticipation and confidence that, with God's help and the generosity of our members and friends, we will be able to meet all the outstanding challenges still lying ahead of us. And we can deepen the well of our spiritual and communal lives so that we can share these blessings with others in Shanty Bay and Oro-Medonte.

As the spiritual guide of this community, my responsibility and intention is to offer and facilitate such programs, besides the regular Sunday services, that will contribute, directly or indirectly, to the spiritual and human growth of everyone who has the courage and motivation to step over the threshold of our church property. Although the following programs listed below were designed to meet the needs of those who attend our church events, they are all open to anyone else who might be interested, so feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to any or all of these events.

One Time Event

Parish Retreat – Saturday, October. 1, from 10am to 4pm.

Monthly Events

Church History Course, 6 part series, starting **September 8th @ 7 pm** (then meeting monthly, on
October 6, November 3, December 1, January 5/17, February 2/17). The main objective of this program is to put down the foundation for understanding the long process of how we got from Jesus of Nazareth and his 12 Jewish followers, to the community of Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians of more than 2 billion people who are worshiping in more than 30 thousand denominations and belonging to the 4 major branches of Christianity (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Anglican).

Book Study, starting September 29th @ 4 pm (and then meeting as frequently as the group would prefer). The first book I would like to propose for study is Falling Upward: A spirituality for the two halves of life *by Richard Rohr.*

Tea & Spirituality starting October 13th @ 4 pm (and then meeting monthly, on the second Thursdays of the month)**.** This informal gathering is intended to be a time for talking and sharing about all things related to our spiritual well-being and the religious dimension of our lives. Open to all. Initially, I will prepare some short videos to start the discussion and then we will see where the Spirit leads.

Seasonal program

Meditation Course in Advent for 4 weeks, **starting Wednesday, November 30th**
The ongoing **weekly Wednesday services @ 7:30 pm and the Bible Study @ 8:15 pm**, are also meant to nurture our spiritual well-being and growth.

In addition to all things spiritual, as many of you know, I am also passionate about computers and the Internet, and I would like to share my knowledge with anyone who might need it. Therefore, I will offer a **Digital Help Desk session on Thursday, September 15th @ 7 pm** (and if there is a need, another one in November). In this session, I would like to show some tips for browsing the Internet, using emails and social media as useful tools to find the information that you need. If you have some questions already, you can send them to me at stthomasshantybay@gmail.com I will help if I can, and if I can't then I will point you in the right direction to get some help.

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to check our website regularly, especially the **Calendar** and the **Announcements** subsections under the **Home** button, at www.StThomasShantyBay.com. Thanks to my wife, Emi, who is updating our website regularly, you will find all the upcoming events and necessary information regarding all of our programs taking place at the church or in our parish hall.

May you have a wonderful summer, or whatever is left of it, and hope to see you in the fall, either at our church services or at any of the events taking place at St. Thomas.

Blessings, Rev. Sandor Borbely

Report from the Events Committee

By Peter Clarke and Julie MacLeod

On Saturday May 14th we had the St. Thomas "Got Talent" night. It was fun to have a great turnout and enjoy all the special entertainment. Our thanks to the many participants.

On Saturday June 25th we all had a wonderful afternoon hosting the St. Thomas Heritage Homes Tour. Seven homes participated and the huge turnout was as good as the beautiful weather. Guests commented on how welcoming homeowners were and the strawberry tea was pronounced "Best Ever". These events, and more are planned, allow the congregation to share in activities and work and play together, all to the benefit our parish.

Our own impresario, Julie MacLeod, is responsible for a series of free concerts held in St. Thomas, called "Doors Open". In May, we enjoyed a lively performance of songs by the Jubilee Chorale of Orillia. This was followed in June by the Saints Quartet of Craighurst and their show "Honour, A long Time Comin", celebrating the legacy of African Spirituals.

On August 25th we will present our third "Doors Open Concert" and be entertained by gifted pianist Brent Mayhew with a variety of works by Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Chopin.

In place of the annual September Pig Roast, we are planning a Kitchen Party/Fish Fry supper for Thursday, September 22nd from 5 pm to 7 pm. The fare is Georgian Bay whitefish, baked potato, slaw, dessert and lots of East Coast music. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children and will be available from church members or can be reserved by calling 705-487-0767.

For November 18th and 19th we have plans for "Christmas in the Village". This marks the return to St. Thomas of a popular event and replaces the Artisans' Tour. We are busy preparing for a fresh look while keeping the best traditions such as Thomas's Tea Room alive. Bake sales by the Guthrie Women's Institute (meat pies) and the Oro Lioness will share in the two-day event.

For the month of November we will have the traditional Poinsettia Fundraiser that gets a great deal of support from the congregation. Colours available are red, white, burgundy and pink. Tickets will be ready the first week in November and sales will close Sunday Nov 27th, with the Poinsettias available in the parish hall after the December 4th service.

Heritage House Tour and Strawberry Tea
June 25, 2016

From the Wardens' Pew

By John Woollett
Rector's Warden

During these hot, dry and very beautiful days of mid summer it's a pleasure to look back on the year at St. Thomas' so far and to look forward to our future.

This year we've seen our congregation grow as we've welcomed new and returning members to our St. Thomas family. Our average congregation for Sunday Eucharist is now over thirty-seven. This represents a growth of over 20% since last 2014.

We've also seen a significant increase in our mid-week service and Bible study attendances. Our summer evenings start with a barbeque in which everyone participates. Led by Michael and Reg at the BBQ, Norm organizing the corn and with everyone delivering salads, deserts and great fellowship. The services that follow have settled into a wonderful pattern of an alternating series of quiet, meditative worship services led by our Rev. Sandor. For those staying on after the service Rev. Sandor also leads a lively and increasingly popular Bible study group.

On a sadder note, we lost a well-loved member of our congregation this year. Geoff Mulholland, our friend, an active member of the congregation and organist at St. Thomas' for many years left us this year after a short but heroic fight with ill health. Geoff's wife Rochelle has worked with St. Thomas' to establish a memorial fund in Geoff's name and our Advisory Board is planning a small plaque to be placed on the organ to remind us all in the years to come of Geoff's quick Geordie wit, amazing repartee, loyal friendship and wonderful playing.

Financially, St. Thomas' is starting to recover and we are just beginning to replenish our sadly depleted fund reserves. However, our level of giving, in all forms, is slightly lower than at this time last year. Reversing this trend must be a key focus area as we move forward. Please see the abbreviated financial statement in this issue.

We are awaiting a report from Jason Stradiotti, a local professional engineer, on the condition of our church and church hall. This structural report is a requirement of the Diocese every ten years. Jason has generously undertaken this work at a greatly reduced fee. Informally, we understand there are no significant issues with the overall fabric, foundations and mechanical systems of our buildings.

Finally, special thanks are offered to Ted Bigelow, Davina Doorly, and Norm Franks for their leadership around the hugely successful Heritage Homes Tour. And of course our gratitude to the home owners for their generous participation. As you read the rest of the articles in this issue of the *Times,* you will come to realize that there are many, many people who are responsible for the lively activities and warm fellowship of this very special parish.

ALTAR GUILD

by Christine Rose

Time has just flown by since accepting the position as coordinator for the Altar Guild at St. Thomas and to be honest the first couple of months were a challenge at times as I was not fully aware of what the Altar Guild responsibilities entailed. Easter and other events took place within a short period of time including the official celebration for Rev. Sandor as Incumbent at St. Thomas so I leaned heavily on the expertise and support of Marilynn Forbes as well as other members of the Altar Guild and I am very grateful to all the members for their support and help.

I now realize that looking after the Altar is a real privilege and is done so by all altar guild members with such loving care – the altar table is set and made ready for communion, flowers are sometimes brought from a members' garden or purchased with funds donated "in memory" and these are arranged with joy and they bring living colour into our church.

The altar guild team members do such wonderful work throughout the year and their commitment to St. Thomas and the Alter Guild is exemplary. I would urge anyone who may be interested in becoming a member of the Altar Guild (male or female) to please contact me by email at: crose_51@hotmail.com or call: 705-737-0360 or any member of the Advisory Board.

Donations to the Altar Guild Fund in memory of or in gratitude to a loved one are gratefully accepted.

Church Chatter – Conversations with St. John's Craighurst

By John Woollett

In June St. Thomas', along with several other churches in the Greater Barrie Area, held a Special Vestry to discuss the ongoing conversation regarding consolidation of churches in Barrie.

At the Vestry it was established that St. Thomas' is not in the process of consolidating with any other parish. The Vestry unanimously agreed that our incumbent and wardens should continue to be part of the ongoing conversation where participation made sense.

Over the last two months the main conversation has focused on key inner Barrie parishes and has not required our active participation.

In the meantime we have continued to build on the initial friendship developed with the St. John's Craighurst team. We've met on a couple of occasions and our discussions have focussed on how we might support, promote and attend one another's events. We have discovered that St. Thomas' and St. John's have a lot in common. Similar rural based community, similar demographics, similar size and similar challenges.

As we move forward we hope that we can find opportunities to informally work together for our mutual benefit. We will, of course, make sure that parish members are all kept fully informed so that you can easily refute any misleading information that may emerge from the Barrie Rumour Mill!

St Thomas Financial – Jan – June 2016

Bank Balance $44,373.95

SUMMARY

INCOME	JAN – JUNE 2016	BUDGET	JAN – JUNE 2015
TOTAL INCOME	57,000.87	56,899.92	49,674.12
EXPENSES	53,403.59	54,291.94	58,133.24
NET	3,597.28	2,607.98	-8,459.12

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While we are doing better than last year, we still have some work to do. Our offerings have remained the same as this time last year and our expenses are in line with our budget. Keep up the good work. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 705-722-7864.
Yours in Faith
Catherine

Outreach

By Davina Doorly

Out Reach…reaching out to others is an important part of our Christian life. We may do it without realizing it, the smile or hello to a stranger on the street, a donation made to support others, a phone call to someone you have not seen for a while. Reaching out can feel risky, in case you become relied upon! No risk no gain! Risk making new acquaintances, risk giving of yourself, energy and time for the benefit of someone else – the benefits are immeasurable.

The congregation of St Thomas continues to reach out to others. The "Sandwich Sunday" which is the third Sunday of each month lead by Janice Greenwood has been very successful. Janice organizes what is needed, the production and delivery of the sandwiches. The ingredients for the sandwiches are donated by our parishioners and on the day folks step into sandwich production mode after the Sunday service. We have an understanding with the Busby Street Van to expect 8 loaves of sandwiches from us.

We contribute to the Out of the Cold Program in Barrie. We make a meal one Sunday a month from November to April. Many volunteers step up to make the meal and deliver it to Collier Street United Church where the clients congregate for their evening meal. Our dates for the coming season are December 11th, January 8th 2017, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd and April 30th. Please look at your calendars consider volunteering to be part of a team or a team leader by signing up in the church hall at coffee time.

St Thomas' has reached out to the community with music! Julie MacLeod has used her talents and knowledge of music to connect musicians with St Thomas's church and the local community. A wonderful way to meet new people in our midst.

As we move forward to the fall and winter months, opportunities to be part of outreach projects will emerge. We look forward to everyone's enthusiasm and efforts. Thank you.

Property Committee

By Ted Bigelow

Thanks for the good will that St. Thomas Church enjoys in the community, Don Campbell has offered to repaint the water damaged south wall in the church. Thanks Don!

Anyone who has time and talent such as pulling weeds, gardening, trimming saplings, washing windows etc. please don't wait for an invitation – just enjoy the pleasure of preserving the pristine appearance of the church property on your own initiative.

Historic Homes Tour (lessons learned)

1) Plan early: **the benefit of having an "events committee" allows time to detail success.**

2) Preserve our unique heritage: **Home tour guests enjoyed the casual and friendly atmosphere of the event.**

3) Publicity: **We have a talented core of writers, poster and signage creators whose skills will be applied to future events.**

4) Core committees: **are most efficient if small but able to recruit as needed.**

5) Community focus: **The 'home tour' would not have been possible without the good will and active help of our neighbours.**

With the experience gained we can look forward to enjoying both the planning and success of upcoming events.

Nursery School

By John Woollett

Those of you who go downstairs in the hall will have noticed that the Shanty Bay Nursery School has repainted the area they use. The work was done to a very high standard by the school's staff and volunteers under a formal agreement at no cost to St. Thomas'.

For those who may not know, the school has been St. Thomas' tenant for well over 40 years. This year Davina, as People's Warden, has actively participated in the school's board meetings to see how we can work more closely together for our mutual benefit and the good of the Shanty Bay community.

Christmas in the Village

By Susan Woods

As I write this, we are experiencing some of the hottest, muggiest days of summer and Christmas seems a long way away.

But come November 18 and 19, it will be a very different scene. Christmas in the Village re-introduces a long-standing tradition in Shanty Bay – an annual sale of homemade food and crafts and artistic items, all well in advance of Christmas's most hectic shopping days. Not only does the sale give vendors a chance to showcase their wares, it allows shoppers an opportunity to purchase gifts for those on their long lists.

We are looking for vendors to fill our ten spaces in the church hall. If you have something you've made, something special to sell, call us (Julie MacLeod at 705-487-0767 or Susan Woods at 705-721-0734) and we'll follow through. Please be in touch by September 30th so we can plan adequately for the sale.

Even if you don't see yourself as an artisan or chef, there's plenty of other ways you can contribute to this annual fundraiser. We need people to provide food for Thomas's Tea Room. That's sandwiches, cookies and squares in abundance! And we also need people to volunteer to make coffee and tea and serve table. Please let us know if you're willing to donate sandwich making and table serving to the cause! Sign up sheets will be up soon!

Something for Everyone

Fall Programs offered at St. Thomas

Sept. 8, Thurs. @ 7 pm – Church History Series starts (overview and covering the first century A.D.)
Sept. 15, Thurs. @ 7 pm – Digital Help Desk (workshop to facilitate computer literacy)
Sept. 29, Thurs. @ 4 pm – Book Study starts (*Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr)

Oct. 1, Sat. @ 10 am to 4 pm – Parish Retreat: *Noticing God*
Oct. 6, Thurs. @ 7 pm – Church History Session 2 (covering 100-313 A.D.)
Oct. 13, Thurs. @ 4 pm – Tea & Spirituality starts

Nov. 3, Thurs. @ 7 pm – Church History Session 3 (covering 314-1099 A.D.)
Nov. 10, Thurs. @ 4 pm – Tea & Spirituality continues
Nov. 30, Wed. @ 7:45 pm – Advent Meditation Course for four weeks (to Dec. 21)

Dec. 1, Thurs. @ 7 pm – Church History Session 4 (covering 1100-1599 A.D.)
Dec. 8, Thurs. @ 4 pm – Tea & Spirituality continues

Coming up soon…mark your calendars and be sure to take part!

Oro African Church

Dedication and Re-opening of the Oro African Methodist Church, Friday, August 19th. beginning at 11 am. Guests should be seated by 10:45 am and the official ceremonies will conclude by 1 pm. Entertainment is scheduled to continue until around 4 pm.

The church is located at the corner of Line 4 north and Old Barrie Road.

St. Thomas's First Fish Fry

(or Kitchen Party if you're from down East!)

Thursday, September 22 from 5 pm to 7 pm

Individually deep fried portions of delicious Georgian Bay whitefish, slaw, baked potato, dessert – all for $20 per adult or $10 per child. Best of all, dinner will be accompanied by lots of great East Coast music! Tickets from church members or by reservation at 705-487-0767.