



ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*God's Spirit
is, alive
here!*

St. Thomas Episcopal Church 2009 Annual Report

January 24, 2010

RECTOR'S REPORT

To the People of St. Thomas Parish, Greetings!

During my four months here at St. Thomas, my family and I have been welcomed with great warmth and enthusiasm. My decision to leave the parish I had loved for 17 years was a difficult one. I agonized over it, dragging my feet, debating it endlessly with Ann, members of my family, and close friends. Even once I had arrived, it caused me much anguish. I am someone who forms deep attachments and I get homesick often. That said, you have made a challenging transition much easier than it could have been. Thanks to your embrace, I am startled to find how readily I have come to think of Lancaster as home.

Particularly instrumental in easing my transition were the two wardens, Katie Pearson and Lynn Sekel. They were both very able guides to the inner workings of the parish, solicitous of any needs I might have, and gracious and efficient in helping me find ways to know the parish better. Their love for the people in this place and their commitment to their growth in Christ was evident in everything they did. It became clear, too, that they had done an enormous amount of work with Fr. Fishwick during the interim period to make the parish ready for a new rector. Organization, efficiency, clarity, and openness were principles they had sought to achieve in the day-to-day workings of the parish and their efforts have born considerable fruit. In this work, they had much help from many people who were deeply committed to the life and mission of St. Thomas, not least among them the remarkable staff. I can honestly say that I have never worked in a parish — or any other institution, for that matter — where I have grown so fond of my colleagues so quickly. All of them are gifted, enthusiastic, helpful, and caring. They do their work with humor, grace, and a deep affection for one another and for the people they serve.

All of this has made me most hopeful for the future. I truly believe the Holy Spirit is working among us and that great things await us. What these things might be remains to be seen, but there are some self-evident needs that point to a place to start. A system of lay pastoral care needs to be developed, both to minister to the needs of an ageing core group, but also to provide for growth, since a single priest can cover only so many people. A more systematic and compelling approach to adult formation needs to be developed, including a "core curriculum" that enhances biblical literacy, deepens awareness of the Anglican heritage, and encourages a spiritual praxis of prayer and service. The needs of our youth and young adults need to be addressed through a vital youth ministry and a forum and fellowship for young adults who are struggling to find their place in the church and its mission. Our visibility must be augmented through improved signage and publicity, as well as the enhancement of our website. Lastly we need to ensure that newcomers to our parish are readily incorporated into our common life, that they are able to find a prayer group, Bible study, or service project they can readily slip into, as well as fellowship opportunities through which they can get to know us better.

I also believe there are a couple of major works God has for us to do for our broader community and the world. What they are is not yet clear, to be sure, but could include outreach to the families of service members overseas and returning veterans, renewing St. Thomas' commitment to St. Matthias in Haiti, increasing our involvement in Honduras, or any number of other

opportunities for a ministry of compassion. No doubt they will emerge as we develop a vision for our future together in the next few months.

I come to work every day excited about the prospects ahead, eager to see where the Holy Spirit will lead. I can't wait to see what 2010 will bring!

Wishing you peace always,

Fr. Jonathan +

INVESTMENT OVERSIGHT

Function: A committee that meets as needed with Fulton Financial managers to keep abreast of our financial endowment holdings. Fulton Financial is in the third year of oversight with our holdings. The committee is impressed with their work.

Participants: Paul Wedel, Frank Fryburg, Jeff Smith , Katie Pearson -Sr. Warden, Mel Peiffer, Art Grimm, chairman

Highlights/events of 2009: Based on the recommendation of the people at Fulton, we averaged the asset value of each fund over the past three years and then multiply by 4%. This approach is used by many non-profit organizations and averages out the good and bad years of market fluctuations. It also insures that our investments will continue to grow and keep up with inflation. The market value as of the end of November was \$720,000. This committee does not determine how the money is used.

Submitted By: Art Grimm

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Function: It is exciting and fulfilling to be involved in Pastoral Ministry at St. Thomas Church. It is a many faceted ministry and there are parishioners involved in much of it, individuals who are using their giftedness to the glory of God. Those who are Prayer Partners are always willing to serve, as are our faithful Parish Visitors and the Prayer Shawl knitters keep on knitting. This year we have knitted forty warm caps that were donated at Christmastime through Crisps Attucks.

Participants: There are now three of us on the Parish Health Committee. Dr. Pam Vnenchak has joined Gail Borris and myself. We will be discerning how best to serve St Thomas parishioners this coming year.

Highlights/events of 2009: I am involved each week with the Healing Service on Wednesdays to give them an hour of teaching and it is always a pleasure to do that. I am involved in Hospital, Nursing Home and home visitations. There has also, this year, been opportunity to be of assistance to those in AA, NA and OA, as they work their way in ongoing recovery.

In addition, I do a great deal of individual Spiritual Direction and some counseling and make referrals, when needed, for professionals counseling. I co-taught a short adult class with Deacon Jane and look forward to more of that.

Individuals interested in taking part in any of these ministries would be warmly welcomed. There is great joy in service.

Submitted By: Mildred Lorch

MUSIC

Function: To provide musical leadership in the worship service, including anthems and accompaniment for hymns.

Participants: Bethel Berner, Todd Berner, Laura Whetstone, Jeanie Wilson, Michelle Phillips, Becky Deibler, Debbie Moore, Pat Lorraine, Sheryl Roche, Ed McCorkle, Bill Brooks, John Sullivan, Gary Davis, Mike Widlake, Derek Martin, Benjamin Hallowell, Ken Moyer, Doris Shirck

Highlights/events of 2009: The choir continues to strive to enhance the worship experience through music, both as a group and individually. A number of the members have stepped forward to volunteer in leadership of psalms, as the role of cantor has been added to the worship service, and to provide meditative music, usually a capella, at the beginning of communion.

The funding issues from last year have continued. Our paid singers—Mike, Ben, and Derek—will continue at least through Easter after a cost cutting move of having them come most Sundays, not all, and alternating Thursdays. A fundraiser for the music program is planned for March 21, with some of the money raised now designated for Haitian relief efforts

Submitted By: Maria Thompson Corley

CHILDRENS MINISTRY FOR INFANTS THROUGH 5th GRADE

Function: Through the Promiseland, Sprouts Preschool, and Nursery ministries, the St. Thomas Children's Ministry exists to supplement the family in bringing children to Jesus Christ; to help lay a spiritual foundation which will, in God's timing, lead children to follow Jesus as they grow.

Participants:

- In August, Kim Olenderski wrapped up over 5 years of faithful service in the St. Thomas Children's Ministry program. Her presence in Promiseland is missed by the children as well as the adults who were blessed to share this ministry with her.
- Andy and Kara Jones, Evelyn Roberts, and Wendy Souders continue to lead discussions, "referee" activities, and get messy doing crafts and cooking with the kids during Promiseland.
- Vickie Hilton and Rob Criswell light up the Sprouts Preschool ministry with their enthusiasm, creativity, and genuine love for the kids.
- Many wonderful parents and teens support the Children's Ministry programs and events with their donations of time and resources. Let's not forget to thank the families who volunteer to provide breakfast for all of the children and youth every Sunday morning!
- Lynn Brubaker knows that God blesses her with the opportunity to both teach and be taught by the children of St. Thomas every single week.

Highlights of 2009:

- Promiselanders did a *super* job at collecting over 200 cans of soup as part of the 3rd Annual Souper Bowl of Caring campaign. Delicious soup as well as fun games and activities were enjoyed at the Souper Bowl celebration on Super Bowl Sunday. All food and monetary donations were passed along to local food banks.
- Holy Communion instruction was presented during Lent and included lessons presented by Fr. Jeffrey and Deacon Jane. The children prepared unleavened bread for use in the Maundy Thursday service at which time the children were also recognized for their participation in the Holy Communion instruction.
- Families journeyed through the annual Stations of the Cross for Children on Good Friday and celebrated the resurrection of our Lord on Easter morning with the flowering of the cross and Easter egg hunt.
- The annual Mother's Day Tea was hosted by the children in celebration of the blessing of their wonderful Moms. The kids presented their mothers with tea, treats, musical performances, and special readings.
- Everyone enjoyed eating the homemade waffles at the 2nd Annual Waffle Breakfast celebrating the end of the school year and the beginning of summer vacation!
- **HOWEVER**, Children's Ministry *did not* take a summer vacation! Once again, the kids from Sprouts and Promiseland joined up for programming that continued throughout the summer.
- The kids did not forget their Dads on Father's Day when they made homemade barbecue sauce and designed their own bottle labels for the grillin' dads in their lives.
- In August, Children's Ministry families prepared and hosted a meal at Crispus Attucks.
- The new school year was kicked-off with the 2nd Annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Students with their backpacks and educators with their plan books and tote bags received a blessing for a successful and enjoyable school year.
- Sheep, shepherds, and angels joined Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus at the altar during the annual Christmas Eve Family Service. This recreation of the birth of Jesus continues to be a treasured tradition at St. Thomas.

Submitted By: Lynn Brubaker

YOUTH MINISTRY AT ST. THOMAS FOR GRADES 6 - 12

Function: To provide guidance and support for the growth and development of St. Thomas Youth in their knowledge and faith of God through Jesus Christ.

Participants:

- Effective Jan 1, 2010, Jonathan Druce has accepted the position of Youth Ministry Director. In this capacity he will direct and lead youth programming for middle school and high school aged youth at St. Thomas. Additionally he will seek to foster a Christian community through building relationships with young people that strengthens their commitment to the church while growing in faith in Jesus Christ.
- Margaret Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, and Kathleen Zechman continue to lead and inspire the middle school youth on Sunday mornings, which include 6 and 7th grade students. .
- Francis Roberts has offers his time and wisdom by sitting in and supporting the high school Sunday morning class.
- Many other members of our St. Thomas family support the Youth Ministry programs and events with their donations of time and resources. Thank you so much!
- Jan O'Brien is the children & youth ministry liaison to the vestry.

Highlights of 2009:

- Youth Fundraising Projects: including Car Wash at Oregon Dairy; Pretzel sales during coffee hour; yard work and other service projects – earning enough money to cover cost of mission trip/Group Workcamp.
- 6 students and 2 adults from St. Thomas participated in a Group Workcamp in Erie, PA in June '09. They spent one week during the summer to help others by using their hands to perform meaningful home repairs.
- Confirmation Classes were given by interim Fr. Jeff in spring '09. Eight youth from St. Thomas were confirmed by Bishop Baxter on April 26, 2009.
- Mother's Day & Graduation recognition Sunday service was led by St. Thomas' Children & Youth.
- Everyone enjoyed eating the homemade waffles at the 2nd Annual Waffle Breakfast celebrating the end of the school year and the beginning of summer vacation!
- Summer vacation for Youth Sunday morning programming started the first Sunday of June with classes starting up again the week after Labor Day.
- During Sept – Dec '09 several members of St. Thomas offered their time and talent and led the Sunday morning Youth class with an Episcopal Lectionary-Based outline. Our thanks go out to David Miron, Jane Miron, Rob Philips, Jay Anderson Jonathon Currier and Francis Roberts.

Submitted By: Jan O'Brien

CAMPUS MAINTENANCE

Highlights of 2009:

- New roof over Sanctuary
- Steeple straightened, secured and properly lighted
- Resealed the rubber roof over the kitchen
- Repaired a leak in the dishwasher
- Replaced 102 light bulbs in the Sanctuary with energy efficient compact fluorescents
- Repaired cracked drain pipe in lawn
- Polished floors and cleaned carpets

Submitted by: Lynn Sekel

PARISH STATISTICS

- 4 Funerals at St Thomas
- 8 Youth Confirmands
- 4 Adult Confirmands
- 2 Letters of Transfer to St Thomas

MISSION AND OUTREACH

We made these things possible:

- Assistance for our seminarian (Matt MacDougall)
- Assistance for the Youth Mission Trip
- Support for Carol Orwig and Wycliff Bible Ministries
- Financial and/or “hands-on” help for: Christ Home, Mom’s House, Teen Challenge, Milagro House, Central American Relief, Salvation Army, Water Street Mission, Arch Street Center. USO (phone cards for servicemen), Crispus Attucks dinners (four dinners), Lancaster County Food Bank, and Lancaster County Council of Churches

We had donations of Honduran food for our luncheon, cookie dough for Crispus Attucks, 40 knitted hats for the homeless, coat donations for Arch Street Center, and money donations for the food bank. With your envelope donations the total given to all these missions was \$13,238.

This is a story of “loaves and fishes”.

God bless each of you who made possibilities realities. If you’d like to join our committee in 2010, please let us know.

Committee Leadership: Lois Shadwell and Pat Anderson

Mission Support (2009)

31-Dec

<u>MO.</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Collection</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Spec. Events</u>	<u>Total</u>
J	Seminarians	\$418	\$400		\$818
F	Youth Mission Trip	\$1,165	\$400		\$1,565
M	Wycliffe	\$227	\$400		\$627
	Crispus Attucks		\$42		\$42
A					
M	Christ Home	\$488	\$400		\$888
J	Mom's House	\$150	\$400		\$550
	Crispus Attucks		\$86		\$86
	Matt MacDougall-Discretionary F.		\$200		\$200
J	Seminarians	\$615	\$0		\$615
A	Teen Challenge	\$354	\$400		\$754
	Crispus Attucks		\$185		\$185
S	Milagro House	\$97	\$400		\$497
O	C.A.R.E. (Honduras)	\$2,135	\$400	\$259	\$2,794
	C.A.R.E. (Luncheon)		\$206	\$406	\$612
	Salvation Army (Thanksgiving)		\$200		\$200
	Water Street Mission (Thanksgiving)		\$200		\$200
N	Arch Street Center	\$204	\$400		\$604
	U.S.O		\$300		\$300
D	Crispus Attucks	\$61	\$594		\$655
	Wycliffe		\$300		\$300
	Lan. Co. Food Bank	\$1,202			\$1,202
	Lan. Co. Council of Churches		\$2,000		\$2,000
	TOTAL	\$7,116	\$7,913	\$665	\$15,694

NOTES:

1. The \$259.00 for C.A.R.E. was drawn from the undesignated Mission restricted funds. The \$3,200.00 total covered the cost of transporting the container of medical supplies to Honduras. The \$206 covered the cost of the luncheon.

Saint Thomas Episcopal Church

Financial Statement

	<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Pledges	\$244,595	\$229,893	\$244,250
Plate	\$58,758	\$60,000	\$60,000
Rental & Interest	\$6,046	\$1,300	\$1,500
Endowment Fund Income	\$26,675	\$26,675	\$19,128
Endowment Fund Principal	\$2,467	\$2,467	\$9,300
Fellowship Income	\$2,466	\$2,000	\$2,500
Singers Donation	\$8,356	\$8,100	\$2,000
Miscellaneous	\$25	\$0	\$0
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Total Income	\$349,388	\$330,435	\$338,678
<u>Expense</u>			
Mission--Fair Share	\$49,633	\$49,633	\$45,000
Mission--Other	\$7,974	\$8,000	\$6,000
Rector	\$72,079	\$73,854	\$104,450
Staff	\$95,451	\$100,579	\$99,062
Building	\$59,845	\$63,620	\$62,800
Parish Life	\$26,060	\$27,300	\$16,450
Administrative Expense	\$11,828	\$13,300	\$9,900
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Total Expense	\$322,870	\$336,286	\$343,662
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Gain / (Loss)	\$26,518	-\$5,851	-\$4,984

Notes:

1. An anticipated deficit for 2009 was avoided by an influx of \$48,500.00 in Pledges in the month of December.
2. Also the absence of a Rector for the months of July-Sept further aided by reducing anticipated expenses.
3. The significant increase in Pledges for 2010 has made it possible to retain our normal staff without a significant anticipated deficit.
4. The expenses associated with our new Youth Ministry Director were covered by the Youth Ministry Fund which is part of our investment portfolio.

5. By becoming a member of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce in 2010, we are able to obtain electric power from their supplier at a project annual savings of \$1,600.00.

Saint Thomas Episcopal Church
Balance Sheet--Dec. 31,2009

Assets

Current Assets

Checking	\$30,587.13
Money Market (Fulton)	\$30,609.94
Restricted Funds (Fulton)	\$722,765.22

Subtotal (Current) \$783,962.29

Fixed Assets

Land	\$121,000.00
Buildings	\$2,852,219.80
Contents	\$316,910.66
Parking Lot	\$27,714.76

Subtotal (Fixed) \$3,317,845.22

Total Assets \$4,101,807.51

Liabilities

Current	\$56,604.60
Restricted Funds	\$722,765.22

Total Liabilities \$779,369.82

Fund Balance \$3,322,437.69