

St Thomas Episcopal Church

located in beautiful downtown Clarkdale

Living His promise in service to others



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Saint Thomas Newsletter

***January 2020
Edition***



Happy New Year

Announcements

Saint Thomas has a New Choir Director and Pianist



Please welcome Eric Williams, our new Choir Director and Pianist. Eric began playing the piano by ear when he was 11. In high school he learned to read and write music and often wrote musical arrangements for the school big band group. He earned a Bachelor's Degree at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, and a Master of Music degree at Youngstown State University in Ohio. Eric enjoys playing a variety of music including; classical, jazz, blues, and rock and roll, to mention only a few. Eric has been living in Sedona for 25 years, playing and teaching piano, saxophone, guitar, harmonica and voice. Although he sometimes keeps it a secret, Eric also plays the tuba. Eric has recorded four CD's and a DVD of one of his concerts. Eric has also been a long haul truck driver and currently drives a route for Sedona Recycles. St. Thomas is grateful to have Eric here with us. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to him and welcome him to the family of St. Thomas.

Special Thanks

Many thanks to the dedicated Altar Guild members and others who were able to help decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service. Special thanks to Connor Steidl who was very helpful in setting up the pew lights. The church looked especially lovely which added to the beauty of the worship service.

Blessings to all, Dinah Gemmill

St. Thomas Annual Meeting – is Sunday, January 19th immediately following the morning worship service. All are encouraged to attend this meeting as many important aspects of our church will be talked about. There will be items voted on so, let your voice be heard and come to vote because, your vote counts!



A word from our Vicar, The Rev. Susan C. Armer

As we begin to think about the New Year, many turn their thoughts to all those things we might like to accomplish next year. When we make our list of resolutions for the New Year, let us not forget the Christmas just past, the birth of Jesus, and the joy we felt listening to that sacred story in word and song. Each new resolution is an opportunity to live into the hope of the Christmas season throughout the year to come. Howard Thurman put it this way in his poem,

The Work of Christmas:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among (sisters and) brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Happy New Year to all in the St Thomas community, and thank you for your presence here. Everyone is an important part of our life and ministry in this beautiful Verde Valley. I look forward to our work together in the coming year!

Vicar Susan+

A word from our Deacon Intern, Keehna Sture

An Overview of the Ministry of Deacons

The word “deacon” comes from the Greek word, diaconos, meaning “servant.” The roots of diaconal ministry are found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. The diaconate is one of three distinct orders of ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church—deacons, priests and bishops. In our diocese—the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona—after a discernment process overseen by the Commission on Ministry, an individual embarks on a rigorous, two-year formation program, which, upon completion and with the approval of the Standing Committee, culminates in ordination. God willing, my ordination to the diaconate will occur on June 13, 2020, at the Cathedral in Phoenix.

At the ordination of a deacon, the Bishop gives the following charge to the candidate:

"In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely. As a deacon in

the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by word and example, to those among whom you live, and work and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself" (Book of Common Prayer of The Episcopal Church, page 543).

Jesus is the model for servant leadership, and a deacon is called to exercise servant leadership in a variety of ways, including encouraging and enabling others to serve. A deacon has one foot in the world and one foot in the church.

The church has had deacons since New Testament days. The process of choosing the first deacons is described in Acts 6:1-6. Familiar deacons from history include Stephen, Philip, Lawrence, and Francis of Assisi.

The Book of Common Prayer provides roles for deacons within liturgies and defines the responsibility of deacons in serving others in the name of Christ and in leading and training lay people in such service. Many deacons define their true ministry as being outside the four walls of the church itself, often at the ragged edges of society and our comfort zones.

Senior Warden's Corner with Barbara Evans

Another two months have come and gone and we continue to see new people come to join us and worship with us. What a wonderful blessing!

In November we had a very successful Italian Night dinner. The food was delicious, the photo booth was fun and the fellowship was joyous. We are all looking forward to more fun dinner evenings in the New Year.

As you might recall from the October/November Newsletter, I wrote about the need for new Bishop's Committee members for 2020. The term expired for one of our current Bishop's Committee members at the end of 2019, so, we need one new member to fill that seat. Please think about joining our Bishop's Committee. We need you! It is a three year commitment and you will need to take a class called *Safeguarding God's People*. You can take the class at home on your computer and at your leisure. The total amount of time is approximately four hours. This is required by the Arizona Episcopal Diocese.

Another important event that happened in 2019 was a fire drill. This fire drill was pre-announced and brought to us by C.A.R.T. (Coordinated Assistance Response Team) of St. Thomas. The drill went very well. Three to four fire drills are required each year by the fire department. Future fire drills will not be pre-announced so do not be alarmed when one happens, just be prepared and follow the instructions you are given.

Have you noticed our wonderful Deacon Intern, Keehna Sture? It is hard to miss her smiling face all around our church. Keehna's assistance on the altar, her participation in the Bible Study on Thursdays, and her leadership of the Grief Discussion Group has been a real blessing. Keehna also volunteers at the Food Sharing events and we are grateful to have her. Unfortunately for us, we only have Keehna until the end of February 2020 when her internship will be completed. Please take a moment to tell Keehna how much you enjoyed having her with us and wish her all the best in the future!

Until next time, take care and be well.

Food Sharing Update from your Junior Warden, Jim Gemmill

First let me thank all those who have helped with the food sharing St. Thomas has been providing. We have great volunteers, (about 20 regulars), from our church and the community. We have people bringing in food for the sharing and bags so folks can carry home some of the goods we provide. Because of your service we have provided thousands of pounds, if not tons, of food to many people in Clarkdale and the Verde Valley.

There are big changes coming. There are several new venues for the sharing of food from St. Mary's and Manzanita Outreach. These venues will help make food available in more locations and more often for those who need the service. A big change for St. Thomas is that we will be serving only once a month, the fourth Tuesday. TEFAP Boxes and Senior boxes are being electronically tracked and will be distributed at the warehouse near the senior center in Cottonwood.

Manzanita has some volunteers to deliver food to those who do not have transportation. The food will be packed and ready for pick up at the warehouse on certain days which will be announced soon. If you are interested in performing such a service, please contact me and I will give the info to Manzanita Outreach.

The Food Sharing 2020 schedule from January through March is currently posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall and also on our webpage at: stthomas.azdiocese.org

Again, thank you all for your financial aid, food donations and work provided to our Food Sharing outreach.

A note from the Parish Administrator, Shirley R. Pogany

For some reason, I always feel more reflective and thankful for things at Christmastime than I do at Thanksgiving. Perhaps it is because of the approaching New Year that makes me more reflective and thankful to have lived another year. I spent a lot of time thinking about 2019 and all the things that made me smile and happy to be alive. Yes, of course there were some tough times, like when my dog Nala died, but with the support, love and caring from so many people, I

got through it and quickly realized that there really are a lot of people in my life who truly care for me and for that, I feel very lucky and very grateful.

Yes, 2019 was a great year for me! It is difficult to list all the things that made this such a good year for me and that is because I really can't figure out how to single them out and put them into a list format. You see, all the things that made me happy in 2019 are sort of combined into one big, beautiful emotion that makes my heart smile. But, what I can do is list the things I am most grateful for and be assured, these are the things that made me feel happy, loved and lucky.

I am grateful for my family. Over and over, year after year, these are the people who love me unconditionally. They might not like me on some days for one reason or another but I always know they love me. We had many opportunities to spend time together in 2019. Whether it was all of us sharing a meal together or spending some special time with my son, Michael, just the two of us kayaking down the river together, these happy memories will remain with me forever.

I am grateful for the man in my life. Dale is so special in so many ways. He is always willing to help me with whatever I need. He is smart, compassionate, a talented and accomplished musician, and of course, incredibly good looking. I've actually known him since I was 17 years old but it wasn't until 4 years ago that we reconnected here in Clarkdale. January 1, 2020 is our four year anniversary and during these four wonderful years we have never, not once, not even come close to having an argument. Now that is something to be grateful for!

I believe that one of the worst feelings a person can experience is a horrible sense of dread about going to work. I have never felt that way about coming to work at St. Thomas! I actually look forward to coming to work. I love my job and I must credit all of you, my family at St. Thomas, for this fact. Yes, I consider you as my family. Each of you has treated me with kindness and love and I am grateful for your gift of friendship. Thank you!

So, moving forward in 2020, I feel happy to begin another year

and look forward to making new, happy memories that I can reflect on again this time next year and feel my heart smile! ☺

C.A.R.T. Update

On October 27, 2019, C.A.R.T. conducted the first fire drill at St. Thomas which was pre-announced but the next one will not be so stay alert. There were 52 people in attendance on October 27 and everyone was safely out of the building in 3.5 minutes. Good job!!

It is required by the Fire Department that we conduct at least three fire drills per year so in 2020, let's try to exit the building in less than 3.5 minutes. We can do it!!

Stay safe in 2020!

January Celebrations



Diane McFayden – January 4

Jean Vickers – January 11

Edwin Shrenk – January 21

Robert Andres – January 26

Sarah Felix – January 31

January Readings & Serving Schedule

<p>Jan. 5 – 2nd Sunday after Christmas Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a Matthew 2:1-12</p>	<p>Lector: S. Mitchell Prayers of the People: M. Childers Acolytes: S. Duffy & G. Nichol Coffee Hour: C. & A. Hadermann Counters: B. Evans & J. Vickers Altar Guild: A. Hadermann & D. Gemmill</p>
<p>Jan. 12 – Epiphany, The Baptism of our Lord Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17</p>	<p>Lector: B. Evans Prayers of the People: J. Vickers Acolytes: C. Steidl & K. Sture Coffee Hour: J. & D. Gemmill Counters: M. Shreve & C. Hadermann Altar Guild: A. Hadermann & D. Gemmill</p>
<p>Jan 19 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 I Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42</p>	<p>Lector: D. Gemmill Prayers of the People: J. Gemmill Acolytes: S. Duffy & G. Nichol Coffee Hour: B. Evans & A. Hokanson Counters: J. Gemmill & J. Vickers Altar Guild: M. Shreve & J. Vickers</p>
<p>Jan. 26 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 5-13 I Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23</p>	<p>Lector: J. Gemmill Prayers of the People: D. Gemmill Acolytes: J. S-Vircsik & C. Steidl Coffee Hour: L. Worthen & P. Coffey Counters: C. Hadermann & B. Evans Altar Guild: M. Shreve & J. Vickers</p>

January Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day! Office Closed	2 10am-Bible Study	3	4 11am-ECW
5 2nd Sunday after Christmas 8:30am – Choir practice 9:50-Sunday School 10am – Worship service Susan preaching	6	7	8	9 10am-Bible Study 12 – Grief Discussion Grp.	10	11
12 Epiphany, Baptism of our Lord 8:30am – Choir practice 9:50-Sunday School 10am – Worship service Deirdre preaching	13	14	15	16 8:30am-MOST 10am-Bible Study 1pm-Bishop's Cmt. Mtg.	17	18
19 1st Sunday after Epiphany 8:30am – Choir practice 9:50-Sunday School 10am – Worship service 11am – Annual Mtg Priest's Discretionary Fund Sunday Susan preaching	20	21	22 5:30pm-Mountain Gate	23 10am-Bible Study 12 – Grief Discussion Grp.	24	25
26 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30am – Choir practice 9:50-Sunday School 10am – Worship service Deirdre preaching	27	28 2-3:30pm-Food Sharing	29	30 10am-Bible Study	31	

Prayer List

*Comfort and heal all those who suffer
in body, mind or spirit; give them
courage and hope in their troubles, and
bring them the joy of your salvation.*

Please pray for:

Nancy McAnally
Peter and Doris Gardner
Mike Clifton
Douglas Gilbert
Joyce Harry
Jake and Sally Baker
Ruth Allen
Karen & Keith North
Theresa Parson-Laupes
Baby Kai
Karen Zorbas and Family
Bentley Dean (age 4)
The Bentley Family
Karen O'Regan
Monte Bonderaunt
Diane McFayden
Naomi Cornelson
Janice Benatz
Carolann Chambers
Michael Romero (Carolann Chambers
son)
The Boyle Family
Deacon Deirdre's Sister-in-law
Nathan (Bishop Reddall's son)
Bishop Jennifer Reddall
Tim
Kelly Somers
Cindi Ruetter
Doug McFayden

Those serving our country:

Andrew Gillis
Jesse Reeves
Mike Kellenbenz
Chris McKeag
Joshua Lawton
Buster Kellenbenz
Jason Allred
Melissa Jones
Nathan Smith
Robert Jones
Jeremiah Juhlin
Ann Henry
Taylor Zale
Michael Shaklee
Josh Edgerton
Brandon Gemmill
Rande Robinson
Caleb Edgerton
Jason Geier
Zachery Geier
Ben Jujawa

**If you have an immediate prayer request call
Devon Lewis - 928-210-8929 or the Church office - 928-634-8593**

Photos



Lee Worthen, Food Sharing Volunteer, inspecting the produce.



Some of the produce at a recent Food Sharing event at St. Thomas.



Mingus Mountain in winter.

***But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord,
I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.
(Micah 7:7)***