



Saint Thomas Episcopal Church  
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*Growing in Faith*  
*Proclaiming the Love of Christ*

# ***October/November*** ***2024 Newsletter***

# Announcements

●**Tuesday Community:** meets every Tuesday in the Parish Hall at 10am. Everyone is welcome to attend this fun and lively group for a variety of activities. For more information, please contact Deacon Deirdre at: 928-399-0677

●**M.O.S.T.:** The Men of St. Thomas (M.O.S.T.) meet for breakfast on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9am at Randall's Restaurant, 891 S. Main St, Cottonwood. All men are welcome to attend.

●**ECW Meetings:** are the first Saturday of each month at 10am. All women of St. Thomas are welcome to attend!

●**Bible Study:** Every Thursday at 10am in the Parish Hall. Please contact Deacon Deirdre Moulinier for details. 928-399-0677 or [moulinierdeirdre@gmail.com](mailto:moulinierdeirdre@gmail.com)

●**St. Thomas Live Streaming:** The Stream Team of St. Thomas brings you Sunday Worship Services in real time on YouTube. The link for viewing is on our webpage at [stthomas.azdiocese.org](http://stthomas.azdiocese.org)

●**Last one out!** If you use the Parish Hall, please make sure, before you leave the building, that all lights are off, including the restroom lights. Make sure all the fans are turned off. Make sure the thermostats are set appropriately and lastly, please make sure all the doors are locked, including the door to the outside patio. Thank you!

# *A Prayer for Peace*

*For those who are fleeing: Sanctuary*

*For those who are staying: Safety*

*For those who are fighting: Peace*

*For those whose hearts are breaking: Comfort*

*For those who see no future: Hope*

***We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, the Yavapai –Apache, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.***

## **Senior Warden's Corner with Barbara Evans**

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL who donated items for the Haycock Family who lost everything when their home was destroyed by fire. The Haycock Family lives north of us in the Navajo Nation and they attend our sister church, St. Mary's of the Moonlight. We were able to provide the family with clothing and bedding and other items.

Another BIG THANK YOU TO ALL who donated much needed items for the Yavapai-Apache Nation Learning Center. They were so happy to receive all the backpacks, school supplies and other things.

One more BIG THANK YOU TO ALL who helped with the potluck during our Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> during Bishop Reddall's visit with us at St. Thomas. The Bishop preached for us and

led the Confirmation Service for Mira Bai Fairlight and Marilee Stemmler. (There are photos in the accompanying booklet.)

Upcoming in November is our annual United Thank Offering. There are special UTO envelopes in the pews and you are free to use them for your donation anytime in November. Vicar Susan will bless our UTO Offering before we send it out.

St. Thomas is still in need of some volunteers. First, we need people to help with Coffee Hour. This is simple and doesn't take much of your time. We need help with providing snacks, setting up the table for drinks and cleaning up afterwards. Second, we need volunteers to help clean our church buildings every other Saturday. It usually takes about 2 hours, sometimes less. There are sign-up sheets for both of these volunteer opportunities on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If you need more information about volunteering, please call me, Barbara Evans, at 928-300-8442 or email me at: [bhippo4@yahoo.com](mailto:bhippo4@yahoo.com)

### **Update from your Junior Warden, Ken Shenton**

Our building and grounds continue to be a blessing in freeing St. Thomas from any significant budgetary expenses. Marilyn Shreve's son, Noel, kindly offered to replace an aging toilet in the Parish Hall ladies room with a new 16" toilet to be installed by Ken Shenton and Jim Gemmill. We greatly appreciate Noel's thoughtfulness during these trying budgetary times.

Our Parish Hall is fast becoming a center for both young and old to enjoy outstanding programs in our weekly Tuesday Community events hosted and orchestrated by our Deacon, The Rev. Deirdre Moulinier. Recent events include:

- Chair Yoga with Instructor, Mira Bai Fairlight, for Seniors on how to regain those youthful movements and, for those of any age, rehabilitating from recent joint replacement or joint injury.
- Garden Club for Healthy Living, planted usable plants, as well as flowers that are beginning to bloom. The plants are located on our Parish Hall outside patio for all to enjoy. Our Chief Gardener is also our Parish Administrator, Shirley R. Pogány.

- Classic Movie Club, with our Projectionist Deacon Deirdre who also provides popcorn, has become an opportunity to enjoy inspirational movies such as I Can Only Imagine and, on occasion, a movie like Grumpy Old Men, creating a time to relax in the laughter at some of our own misgivings at growing older.

- Bingo for Prizes, with our Bingo Master, Mary Ann Palmquist, provides a game of luck with many participant winners taking home “priceless” prizes.

- The Art of Beading, with Artist Carolyn Bennett, who works at Nelly Bly’s in Jerome, gave us an intriguing art form creating articulate sculptures demonstrating each person's imaginative styles in a hands-on experience.

- Handwriting Analysis, with State Certified Handwriting Specialist, Marcia Shenton, gave us revelations of the inner minds and personalities of world famous names in: Politics, History, Hollywood, Crime, and of course, ourselves.

- Photography As Art Form, with Award Winning Photographer, Dr. Gilbert C. Pogány, provided a truly outstanding demonstration of the remarkable development of photography from the Big Box early cameras of the 19th century to the future of Artificial Intelligence and its impact on photography. A captivating two hours of inspiration in the sophistication and beauty of photography in the hands of a gifted artist of photography.

The successes of the Tuesday Community program continues to pursue an active outreach program in serving the needs of our community by soliciting grant applications from Federal, State and National Foundations to provide financial support for the development of an Outreach Center at St. Thomas, Clarkdale. Those researching grant possibilities include: Deacon Deirdre, Carolann Chambers, and Ken Shenton.

## **A Word from your Parish Administrator, Shirley R. Pogány**

The first scripture reading on Sunday, September 29, 2024, was about Queen Esther and how she saved her people, the Israelites.

This story is well known among Jews and is celebrated every year in the holiday called Purim. Although the Purim holiday was celebrated back on March 23-24, 2024, the particular scripture mentioned above reminded me of Purim and I thought it fitting to explain how and why the Purim holiday is celebrated in the Jewish community world-wide. The festival of Purim commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from annihilation which was to be carried out by an official of the Achaemenid Empire, probably around the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE.

The story begins after King Xerxes divorced his first wife, Queen Vashti, because she would not obey him and so the King was seeking a new queen. One of the king's advisors, Mordecai, who was a Jew, began coaching his cousin Esther to gain the king's favor. Esther was an orphan who Mordecai had raised as his own daughter. King Xerxes chose Esther as his new queen. She was beautiful and the king loved her very much. After Esther became Queen, Mordecai advised her to keep her Jewish identity hidden from the King. Queen Esther followed his advice and early during her relationship with the King, Esther did not tell King Xerxes she was Jewish.

Haman, who was another advisor to the king, was an evil man and a descendant of the Amalekites who were ancient enemies of the Israelite people. All of the king's men routinely bowed to Haman except for Mordecai, who refused. Mordecai told Haman that he only bowed before God. Haman, who was aware that Mordecai was a Jew, was greatly angered at Mordecai's refusal to bow before him and he began plotting to destroy all the Jewish people in an act of revenge.

One day, Haman went to King Xerxes and said to him, "*There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them*" (Esther 3:8). So, King Xerxes handed over the fate of the Jewish people to Haman. Haman began his preparations to kill them. Part of his preparations involved determining what month he would annihilate the

Jews of the kingdom and so to make his decision, Haman cast lots. The word “lots” in Hebrew is “Purim”

Mordecai found out about Haman’s evil plan and he persuaded his cousin, Queen Esther, to speak to the king. However, this was dangerous because if a person spoke to the king without being summoned they were often put to death. Mordecai pleaded with Queen Esther, saying: *“Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this”* (Esther 4:13-14).

Queen Esther began to prepare herself to meet with the king. The Jews fasted for three days to show their support to the Queen. Speaking about the three days of fasting, Queen Esther said to Mordecai, *“When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish,”* (Esther 4:16).

As the three days of fasting in the Jewish communities came to an end, Queen Esther approached King Xerxes. He welcomed her when she went to see him because he loved her very much. Queen Esther told the king about Haman’s evil plot and she revealed her Jewish identity to the king as she begged him to save her people.

Because of his deep love for his Queen, King Xerxes did save the Jewish people. The King ordered that Haman be hanged. Haman was hanged on the same gallows that had originally been prepared for Mordecai’s death.

King Xerxes granted another request from Queen Esther and issued an edict allowing all the Jews in Persia to defend themselves against their enemies. To celebrate the Jewish communities salvation from destruction, Queen Esther and Mordecai created the festival of Purim which is, *“a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor”* (Esther 8:16). Mordecai said that the festival would be, *“days of feasting and joy and giving of presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor”* (Esther 9:22).

Today, the celebration of Purim contains four main religious duties, (mitzvot). The first mitzvah is the public reading of the Megillah, the story of Esther. It is read once on the eve of Purim and again on the day of Purim. During the reading at the synagogue, Jews boo and hiss and stomp their feet every time Haman's name is mentioned.

The second mitzvah is the requirement to be happy. This is done by having celebrations, gathering with family and friends, eating special treats, dressing in costumes representing the characters in the story of Queen Esther, and often re-enacting the story.

The third mitzvah is sharing food with friends on the morning of Purim. Jews hand deliver baskets of food to friends to symbolize kinship and love that they believe will prevent the rise of a future Haman.

The last mitzvah is giving gifts to the poor to ensure that all Jews are able to experience the joy of Purim.

The Purim holiday is one of joy but it also serves as a reminder that Jews in any generation may have to face their own Haman. Purim inspires courage in the face of danger and reminds us to never despair, even when our survival is threatened, because God and goodness ultimately triumph over evil. Purim also reminds us to never be silent in the presence of evil. We should confront evil and eliminate it with our strength and trust in God's salvation. The celebration of Purim affirms that God's covenant with His people is everlasting even as oppressors come and go.



Happy Purim, written in Hebrew



## Recent Events at St. Thomas

**Life Line Health Screening:** On Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Thomas hosted this health screening event. Many people were in and out of the Parish Hall all morning for their health screening. The event was a success.

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** On Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, St. Thomas hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive. This was the second time we have hosted this event and it was an even greater success than last year. The goal was to collect 23 units of blood from local donors. The total amount collected was 27 units! **A HUGE THANK YOU** to Barbara Evans and her sister, Ruth Tasa. They were the only people who signed up as volunteers to help with the event. Barbara and Ruth worked ALL day at the blood drive. Thank you both, so much!

**Bishop Reddall Visit:** On Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Bishop Jennifer Reddall visited St. Thomas. During the Sunday worship service, the Bishop, along with the support from congregants in attendance, confirmed Mira Bai Fairlight and re-affirmed Marilee Stemmler. Photos are in the insert with this Newsletter. Photos in the accompanying booklet.

**Guest Speaker at Tuesday Community:** On Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Gilbert C. Pogány was the guest speaker. Dr. Pogány, who has a PhD in Embryology from Tulane University, is also an award winning photographer, and he's also our Parish Administrator's father. Read more about his presentation in our Junior Warden's article on page 3. Photos in the accompanying booklet.



## Autumn Humor: Growing old

- Reporters interviewing a 104 year old woman: “And what do you think is the best part about being 104?” the reporter asked. She simply replied, “No peer pressure.”
- I have outlived my feet and my teeth. I’ve had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought cancer and diabetes. I’m half blind, can’t hear well, take 40 different medications, and have bouts with dementia. I’ve got poor circulation and numbness in my hands and feet. I can’t remember if I’m 85 or 91 years old. I’ve lost most of my friends but, thank God, I still have my driver’s license.
- I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape so I got my doctor’s ok to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But by the time I got on my work-out clothes, the class was over.
- Two things I don’t like about getting old. 1) My memory is not as sharp as it used to be and 2) my memory is not as sharp as it used to be.
- Some good advice for growing old: To prevent sagging, just eat until the wrinkles fill out.
- The Senility Prayer: Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the people I do like, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

## October/November Celebrations

### ***Happy Birthday To:***

*Lee Worthen – Oct 1*

*Shirley R. Pogány – Oct 2*

*Melissa Steidl – Oct 7*

*Marilyn Shreve – Oct 19*

*Jennifer Schauffler – Nov 1*

*Sam Sturzebecker – Nov 1*

*Ba’Saw Khin – Nov 4*

## October and November Serving Schedules

Date	Readers	Counters	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour Hosts
<b>Oct 6</b>	#1 V. Chanda #2 B. Evans #3 L. Worthen	J. Schauffler J. Gemmill	A. Hadermann M. Shreve	
<b>Oct 13</b>	#1 D. Gemmill #2 M. Palmquist #3 K. Shenton	M. Shreve M. Palmquist	J. Gemmill D. Gemmill	M. Shreve M. Palmquist
<b>Oct 20</b>	#1 M. Shreve #2 V. Chanda #3 E. Williams	K. Shenton B. Evans	J. Gemmill D. Gemmill	D. Gemmill J. Gemmill
<b>Oct 27</b>	#1 D. Gemmill #2 J. Schauffler #3 E. Williams	M. Shreve J. Schauffler	J. Gemmill D. Gemmill	
<b>Nov 3</b>	#1 B. Evans #2 K. Shenton #3 M. Shreve	K. Shenton J. Gemmill	M. Palmquist J. Schauffler	
<b>Nov 10</b>	#1 E. Williams #2 M. Palmquist #3 K. Shenton	M. Shreve B. Evans	M. Palmquist J. Schauffler	
<b>Nov 17</b>	#1 M. Fairlight #2 V. Chanda #3 L. Worthen	M. Palmquist J. Schauffler	J. Gemmill D. Gemmill	J. Gemmill D. Gemmill
<b>Nov 24</b>	#1 D. Gemmill #2 B. Evans #3 E. Williams	K. Shenton M. Shreve	J. Gemmill D. Gemmill	

## October and November Readings

October Readings	November Readings
<p><b>October 6: 20th Sunday after Pentecost</b> Job 1:1, 2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16</p>	<p><b>November 3: All Saints Day, 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34</p>
<p><b>October 13: 21st Sunday after Pentecost</b> Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31</p>	<p><b>November 10: 25th Sunday after Pentecost</b> Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44</p>
<p><b>October 20: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost</b> Job 38:1-7, 34-41 Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45</p>	<p><b>November 17: 26th Sunday after Pentecost</b> I Samuel 1:4-20 I Samuel 2:1-10 Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8</p>
<p><b>October 27: 23rd Sunday of after Pentecost</b> Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52</p>	<p><b>November 24: Last Sunday after Pentecost</b> II Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-19 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37</p>

## October Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10am-Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10am- ECW
<b>6</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 10am-Worship Service 11am-Coffee Hr.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10am-Tue. Community 1pm-PEO	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10am-Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 10am-Worship Service 11am-Coffee Hr.	<b>14</b> 5:30pm-Mt. Gate	<b>15</b> 10am-Tue. Community	<b>16</b> 6pm-Mt. Gate	<b>17</b> 9am-MOST 10am-Bible Study 1pm-Bishop's Cmt Mtg	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 10am-Worship Service 11am-Coffee Hr.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10am-Tue. Community	<b>23</b> 12:30pm-CHS	<b>24</b> 10am-Bible Study 6pm-Mt. Gate	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 10am-Worship Service 11am-Coffee Hr.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10am-Tue. Community	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Halloween</b> 10am-Bible Study		

### Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday

10am to 3pm

Gone for

Lunch from:

12pm – 12:30pm

## November Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		.			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10am- ECW Mtg
<b>3 All Saints Day, 24<sup>th</sup></b> Sunday after Pentecost 10am-Worship Service 11am-Coffee Hr.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10am-Tue. Community	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10am-Bible Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 25<sup>th</sup></b> Sunday after Pentecost 10am-Worship Service 11am-Coffee Hr.	<b>11</b> 5:30pm-Mt. Gate	<b>12</b> 10am-Tue. Community 1pm-PEO 6pm-Mt. Gate	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10am-Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 26<sup>th</sup></b> Sunday after Pentecost 10am-Worship Service 11am-Coffee Hr.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10am-Tue. Community	<b>20</b> 12:30- Clarkdale Historical 6pm-Mt Gate	<b>21</b> 9am-MOST 10am-Bible Study 1pm-Bishop's Cmt Mtg	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Last Sunday after Pentecost 10am-Worship Service 11am-Coffee Hr.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10am-Tue. Community .	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> Office Closed No Bible Study	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b>

**St. Thomas Financial Report**  
**January 1, 2024 – September 27, 2024**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Operations Income</b></p> Pledges = 54,385.00 Plate/General Offering = 8302.50 Regular Giving = 3950.00 Altar Guild/Flowers = 300.00 Calendars/Day by Day = 20.00 Parish Hall Donations = 570.00 Account Transfers = 10,780.00 <b>TOTAL = 78,307.50</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Operations Expenses</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Red indicates amount Unpaid as of 9/27/24</b></p> Advertising = 357.00 Building/Maintenance = 7195.21 Insurance = 11,646.25 Mission Share = <b>(11,387.87)</b> Office = 6574.30 Payroll = 50,828.96 <b>(16,540.81)</b> Professional Fees = 9622.79 Worship/Education = 1140.07 Other = 269.71 <b>TOTAL = 99,022.16</b> <b>Less = 27,928.68</b> <b>TOTAL = 71,093.48</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Other Income</b></p> CDF Fund = 320.00 Chapel Rock = 140.00 Good Friday = 135.00 Building Fund = 100.00 Haycock Family Donations = 200.00 Bishop's Discretionary Fund = 371.00 <b>TOTAL = 1266.00</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Other Expenses</b></p> CDF Assistance = 1582.77 CDF Outreach = 62.89 CDF Account Fees = 18.00 Chapel Rock = 140.00 Good Friday = 135.00 Haycock Family Donation = 200.00 Bishop's Discretionary Fund = 371.00 Account Transfers = 10,000.00 <b>TOTAL = 12,509.66</b>
Operations Income = 78,307.50 Operations Expenses = 99,022.16 Difference = <b>-20,714.66</b> Income is <b>20% less</b> than Expenses	Other Income = 1266.00 Other Expenses = 12,509.66 Difference = <b>-11,243.66</b> Income is <b>89% less</b> than Expenses

## St. Thomas 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:**

Rik Weir  
Michael Romero  
Dave Crossett  
Dottie Cole  
Anita Hadermann  
Kenyon Worthen  
The Rev. Deirdre Moulinier  
Boyle Family  
Martha Childers  
Greg Orr  
Pauline Crossett  
Juliana  
Connie Griffin  
Connie Griffin

### **For the soul of:**

Barbara Ann

**If you would like to add a name to our Prayer List or remove  
a name from the list, please call the church office.  
928-634-8593**