

BOLD LIVING

February 2017

The newsletter of St. Thomas Episcopal Church

diverse ... Christ-centered ... committed

Exciting, eventful times at St. Thomas



Dear Friends:

February promises to be an eventful month for St. Thomas Church. We will begin on Sunday, February 5, with the Annual Parish Meeting following our one Sunday liturgy at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will convene in the Great Hall.

The other important event in February will quite likely be the call of the next rector of St. Thomas. That long anticipated moment will put in place a whole series of separate events.

The Annual Meeting is our once a year opportunity to hear reports on the ministry and mission of St. Thomas, receive the mission budget for the year, and elect a new class of vestry members. As of this writing we have eight qualified nominees for vestry. We will be filling six vacancies. The reason we will replace six instead of the usual three has to do with a couple of resignations which led to people filling unexpired terms, and secondly because two vestry members including the senior warden extended their terms by a year as is permitted by our bylaws. We now need to get the usual rotation back on track, i.e. three classes of three people with three rotating off every year.

You will hear from the Search Committee both in Bold Living and in Church on their progress. If the Committee's schedule holds up, they hope to recommend a candidate in February. Once the Vestry has made the call, the call accepted, and the Bishop notified, there is a short time for further background checks. Then the parish will be notified. This process is moving quickly now. The Search Committee is excited about the wonderful candidates they have interviewed. I ask your prayers for the candidates, the Committee, and the Vestry.

When we know who the next rector will be, we will

begin to discuss how to welcome the rector. That's a process some of which will come naturally, and some things we'll need to highlight and address with more intentionality.

Once again I want to thank you, the good people of St. Thomas Church, for your faithful commitment to the work of God in and through this parish church. You have made possible a new beginning for St. Thomas. We are looking forward to calling a full time rector for the first time in a long time. I hope you will give thanks to God and celebrate this fresh start.

The community of the Church is most itself at worship gathered around the Table of the Lord. We need this nourishment more than ever. We are ourselves because of one another, united in Christ. Every week you will find newcomers seeking God and the fellowship of this Christian community. I hope we will be faithful in gathering and faithful in welcoming. In our current harsh national environment the grace of Christ will heal, guide, and bring peace to our troubled souls.

One final heads up: Wednesday, March 1, is Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent. Liturgies at 7:00 a.m., Noon, and 7:00 p.m.

Faithfully,

Bob Hart, Interim Rector.

Almost There, We Pray!

By Vicki Earnest

In January, the Search Committee sent out teams to meet with the three final candidates and spouses, attend Mass in the candidates' parishes, attend coffee hours, and meet with parishioners. These week-ends are revealing, productive, and confirming — yes, we have focused on very promising future rectors! As of this writing, the Search Committee has not finalized which of these candidates we will invite to Denver so that the entire Committee can meet with them.

How will that work? The Committee must decide: do we invite one, two, or three of the candidates to Denver? Next, the Committee must arrange what events the candidate will attend: social event with the Committee? more formal meeting? meeting with the Vestry alone or with the Committee? We do know that we will be arranging a meeting of our final candidate or candidates with Bishop O'Neill and Ann Fleming, the Diocesan Officer for Transition. Rev. Hart will also meet with the

candidate(s) but only as a courtesy. The Committee will meet in early February to plan these steps.

Many of you have asked if our candidates will attend Mass, deliver a homily, or meet parishioners? No, that is not part of the process. You have also asked if the Vestry will choose our rector. No, that is the sole responsibility of the Committee. The Vestry does make the call to the candidate and negotiate the terms of a contract, but the Committee members decide who should receive that call.

Obviously this is a solemn, anxiety-producing decision. However, the Committee believes that our careful process with all its meticulous work, the enormous input we have had from you, the parish, our own commitment to St. Thomas, and the Holy Spirit will guide us to make the best decision.

Perhaps by next month, we will introduce our new rector. Keep the prayers flowing!

New St. Thomas Kitchen Witch!

A warm welcome and sincere thanks to Nathalie Moir who has accepted the "position" of St. Thomas Kitchen Witch! Ginny Smith has found it necessary to retire due to family responsibilities.

Nathalie's duties will continue to include a weekly or bi-weekly "fly-in" visit to the kitchen to assure it is tidy, items are correctly stored, the refrigerator/freezer is clean and free of out-dated foods, and supplies are ordered as necessary.



Deacon Speakin'

Bring your gifts!



This article is written to provide suggestions in the many areas of lay ministry at St. Thomas. One of the things that make St. Thomas strong and stable is the fact that so many of you share in our many ministry opportunities. Just in case you aren't familiar with these options, I have listed many of

below.

On Sunday mornings many people join the clergy at the altar for specific ministries, which are so important to our community life as a whole.

USHERS, serve as hospitality and support to each and every person who walks into our church each Sunday morning.

CHALICE BEARERS, come to the altar to administer the wine when it is time for communion.

LECTORS, prepare the Scripture reading for Sunday and share it with us.

ACOLYTES and **SERVERS** participate at the altar. There are many adults as well as children serving in these capacities. **E**

UCHARISTIC VISITORS take communion to those who are unable to attend church.

Each of the above ministries includes training and support throughout the Seasons of the year. Please let me know if you would like to be trained in any or many of these ministries. More people are needed at both the 8:00 and the 10:30 services, and your involvement is most appreciated. We welcome new members to any of the above.

There is also a need for more **CHOIR MEMBERS** for the 10:30 service. The choir meets on Tuesday evening for rehearsal. We are hearing many wonderful voices throughout the congregation and would love to have you join the choir. Please contact LaDamion.

There are several **home ministries** I would like to invite you to think about. One is making bread for communion, a spiritually rewarding monthly process. Another one is sending birthday and anniversary cards to parishioners. In both of these cases, it is great to have more than one person doing it.

Please consider each of these ministries and let me know if you think one or more would be right for you. We could not function without the generosity of lay ministry. Please let me know if you would be interested!

Blessings and peace,

Deacon Sally

February Adult Form Schedule

February 5 – St. Thomas Annual Meeting – No Adult Forum

February 12 – St. Thomas Roundtable

We'll hear the latest about St. Thomas projects and will have the opportunity to ask questions about whatever is on people's minds.

February 19 – Cathedral Ridge

Cathedral Ridge is the Camp and Conference Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado. More than just a youth camp, Cathedral Ridge offers a space for retreat for families, individuals, and more. Please join us as Christopher Dunston, the Steward of Cathedral Ridge, and St. Thomas parishioners Erica Pomerenk and Bernard Rowlett, both members of the Cathedral Ridge board, visit with us about this unique space and the gift it is for the people of our community.

February 26 – A Theology of Mosaic

Kathy Thaden links her mosaic art to her faith – expressing awe at creation and the Creator – whether abstracts, liturgical commissions or mosaic sculpture. Her award winning mosaics have been exhibited across North America. Working with stone or glass is transforming. The pieces are broken, change shape, fit together, and then made whole again in new and unexpected ways. In our throwaway culture, she is frequently inspired to reinvent glass scraps or found objects into sacred art, finding beauty in what was once broken. Her mosaics may include glass, ceramic, stone, buttons, found objects, tempered glass and more. It's important to her that nothing be wasted.

Kathy Thaden is a full-time studio artist working in Golden, Colorado, a professional member of the Society of American Mosaic Artists, Episcopal Church & Visual Arts, and founding member and Past-President of Colorado Mosaic Artists. Kathy teaches mosaic workshops and leads mosaic retreats in Colorado and New Mexico. www.thadenmosaics.com

St. Thomas Youth Group to take a short break

Dear St Thomas Parishioners,

I will start by thanking everyone for your support and involvement in Youth Group over the years. It has been an amazing experience for our teens as they served in various roles around the Parish. With many of our teens now involved in weekend activities, working jobs and graduating High School this year, Bernard and I felt it was a good time to suspend older youth education through the end of this year. As many of you know, I am giving birth to my daughter in a few weeks and Bernard is being pulled to focus on finishing his Master's Degree. Please know this is only temporary, and

we will revisit the youth program next year when the new rector is installed. Bernard and I are excited for the new group of tweens that will be coming up in the next few years and look forward to revitalizing this ministry at the appropriate time. Thanks again for your love and understanding, please feel free to talk with Bernard or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Angela Miller & Bernard Rowlett

Capital Campaign reaches its goal

YOU DID IT!!!!

Thanks to your generosity and commitment to St. Thomas, the Capital Campaign was able to reach its goal of \$300,000! The members of the Capital Campaign committee (Karla Bullock, Michelle Cooney, Vicki Earnest, Charm Gilmore, and Joe Hughes) join me in thanking the 80 contributors to the fund raising over the past three years. Due to your willingness to invest in the future of St. Thomas, we now have 4 bathrooms completely renovated (and in one case, relocated) and handicapped accessible. Soon we will have a remodeled kitchen and an accessible hallway that more easily connects the ramp from the courtyard to the office, relocated bathroom, and Great Hall areas of the church.

Since the already completed restroom renovations, improved access to office and Great Hall, and modernization of the kitchen will not use all of the monies collected, the Building and Grounds committee (comprised of former and current junior wardens, chair of the Capital Campaign committee, a representative of the Vestry, and the interim rector) will prioritize the remaining originally planned items for the Capital Campaign funds and decide which items are most needed at this time and we can afford to complete.

We are sorry to say that making all three levels of the church wheelchair accessible

was not feasible at this time due to the cost of such an endeavor. St. Thomas is a "commercial" building according to the City codes and therefore we would have to invest more money into putting in a commercial-style elevator or lift than originally planned. The amount would be almost triple the amount currently in the Elevator Fund. However, the Building and Grounds committee is still looking at ways to install some type of access for all three levels of the building for those who are in wheelchairs or use walkers. The project is not dead...it is only on hold until a feasible, affordable solution can be found.

THANK YOU to all of you who pledged to the campaign. If for some reason you were unable to complete your pledge prior to the December 31, 2016 end of the 3-year campaign, you may still pay on your pledge. Just mark the check "for capital campaign" and give it to John Clark or Maria Wilson.

What a great way to welcome our new priest when he/she arrives...new, modernized, restrooms on every floor, improved access from the courtyard to the office, restroom, and Great Hall areas of the church, and a kitchen that is more modern, efficient, and pleasing to the eye!

Marti Smith, Chair

St. Thomas Capital Campaign Committee

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3 – Olivia Pike

4 – Anthone Ahlenius; Gus Hansen

7 – Miles Harris

9 – Chuck Wilcox

12 – Brian Beagle; Shirley Henry

13 – Claire Gilmore

14 – Sandy Schmidt

15 – Rosalie Chamberlain; Sergio Mukokomani

16 – Barbara Kline; Angela Pleasants

19 – Paul Moe

20 – Kristi Caston

21 – Mary Spoeneman

22 – Partia Byrd

25 – Louise Biffle; Mable Jenkins

28 – Doris Burns; Merrily Leonetti

Share the secret!

By Carol Donahue

Rev. Ruth sometimes referred to our parish library as “our best-kept secret” – an exaggeration perhaps, but we suspect there really are parishioners who have never ventured to the second floor which houses the Emery Library. Even if you attend a meeting in the upstairs meeting room you might not venture down the hallway to the Library which overlooks the patio. We encourage you to make this exploration and familiarize yourself and your family with this parish treasure.

The library was given to St. Thomas as a memorial to John Emery who was killed in an accident in 1983. His wife Jean created a committee that included the Librarian at the Iliff School of Theology, an architect, and an interior decorator. Together they rebuilt a section of the second floor and created what they called a “browsing library.” The shelves were made from the original church pews,

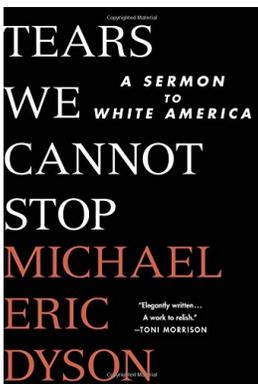
and other furnishings are desks from the same time period. Their vision was to create a serene space that invites meditation, study, and quiet browsing. Books from Fr. Hammond’s library plus donations from parishioners appeared on the shelves. Over the years the collection has grown to over two thousand items! Our Library Committee maintains the facility.

The books are arranged by topics such as World Religions, Personal Growth, Literature, Bible Study, etc... Be sure to bring the kids! The children’s corner in the west room is designed for them and contains lots of books for children and young adults. Seasonal selections rotate with church seasons and other holidays. Bring your children and help them discover the charming Children’s Corner in the west room. You are invited to borrow books to take home by using the sign-out book located by the entrance.

Welcome to the Emery Library! Enjoy!

If We Care About Racism and White Privilege...What Should We Do?

By Elizabeth Bennett



One hundred and fifty-two years ago, slavery ended in the United States, and yet the tentacles of that time touch lives every day, all these years later.

What can be done to make things better? Michael Eric Dyson, a sociology professor at Georgetown University, and an ordained Baptist minister, suggests that white people who

care about the lives of black people should make individual reparations. In his book, *Tears We Cannot Stop...A Sermon to White America*, Dyson says, “{Black people} built a legacy of excellence and struggle and pride amidst one of the most vicious assaults on humanity in recorded history. That assault may have started with slavery, but it didn’t end there. The legacy of that assault, its lingering and lethal effect, continues to this day. It flares in broken homes and blighted communities, in low wages and social chaos, in self-destruction and self-hate too. But so much

of what ails us—black people. That is—is tied up with what ails you—white folk, that is. We are tied together in what Martin Luther King Jr. called a single garment of destiny. Yet sewed into that garment are pockets of misery and suffering that seem to be filled with a disproportionate number of black people.”

The book, unlike Dyson’s other scholarly works, takes the form of a worship service, and uses the concept of an extended sermon, or jeremiad, to lead the reader through confession, repentance, and redemption “through the long night of despair to the bright day of hope.” In Dyson’s view, “whiteness is a problem to be struggled with,” and his book is of inestimable value in grappling with the struggle.

The book speaks at length of police brutality against black people, and fervently tries to create empathy in white readers. It includes an extraordinary bibliography of books which give insight and voice to black history, oppression, pain, achievement, and lives.

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And it speaks of reparations, and our responsibility as white beneficiaries of an unequal system, to take concrete actions to right the wrong, the change our country and the lives of our black sisters and brothers and their children.

Dyson is imaginative and has many suggestions for how an individual or group "I.R.A."—an Individual Reparations Account. We could buy books for black college students, overpay our black accountant or hairdresser, pay the black person who cuts our grass double the amount on the bill, give to the United Negro College Fund, and more. He suggests that faith groups consider giving 10% of their revenues to a church I.R.A. In an interview in the *New York Times Magazine*, Dyson says, "If the sermon ain't making you a little bit uncomfortable, it ain't effective. Look, if it doesn't cost you anything, you're not really engaging in change: you're

engaging in convenience. I'm asking you to do stuff you wouldn't ordinarily do. I'm asking you to think more seriously and strategically about why you possess and what you possess...you ain't got to ask the government, you don't have to ask your local politician—this is what you, an individual, conscientious, 'woke' citizen can do."

I have read many—though surely not all—of the books Dyson recommends. I have grappled with white privilege as a mother of black children, a fighter against apartheid, a civil rights activist, a human being. I have never read anything which more cogently offers "woke whites" a path to being a part of the change. I urge you to read *Tears We Cannot Stop ...A Sermon to White America*, and to take your place in the pantheon of people who help this country grow beyond its racist past.

Caribbean Report: Unexpected Blessings

Dear Partners in Mission,

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for this ministry. God provided me with an unexpected opportunity to be a vehicle to share special blessings on a few young folks here in the Dominican Republic while I was home for Christmas. Tech for All is an organization in Denver that is facilitating access to technology for folks in Denver and abroad. Thanks to their assistance with elderly folks in the Denver area, of which my parents have benefited immensely, I was given the chance to bring 5 small laptops with me to give to people in need. I've delivered 3 as of the writing of this piece, including one

to a family who lives in a batey, a community built up around a sugarcane field. One of the 5 daughters graduated as a nurse and the others are studying various professions. Here Fr. Nephtaly and I are with 3 of them and Maria, their mother. Fatima, on the left, is the junior warden at their church and is studying engineering. God has blessed me to be the one to bring these blessings into their lives, thanks to the good people at Tech for All. Please join me in giving thanks to God for moments such as this to open doors of opportunity to others.

In Christ,

Cathy Donahoe



Cathy Donahoe is a missionary with SAMS, the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders. She is serving in the Dominican Republic as a physical therapist in San Pedro de Macoris and Santo Domingo. E-mail: cathyd@turbonet.com Donations can be sent to SAMS (checks made to SAMS with Cathy's name in the memo line): PO Box 399, Ambridge, PA 15003. Snail mail: Apartado 587, San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic 21000 website: www.cathydonahoe.net

Prayer for a Police Officer

By Elizabeth Bennett

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
Safe throughout your work,
And peaceful at the close of each day

May you be filled with
Courage to use might for right;
Common sense to keep you out of trouble;
Creativity both on and off duty.
May God give you
An enquiring mind with each situation, each case, and each day;
A listening ear to know more and understand better;
Empathy, to walk in others' shoes;
Humor, to lighten the burdens and share joy;
Decisiveness when you need it;

May you find
Compassion for the vulnerability and pain in each person you encounter;
Trust in your fellow officers, family, and friends;
Integrity, the essence of yourself, which must never be compromised;

May a loving God grant you
Kindness, the world's greatest need;
A sense of history...because you will change the course of history, in big and little ways;
Goodness, as your measuring stick for yourself;
Patience, when you think yours is exhausted;
A willingness to ask for help, for backup, for training,

May the Lord bless you with
Friendship to give you balance and purpose;
Humility, since failure and imperfection are inevitable;
Toughness... you will need it and those you serve will need it from you;
Family, because they are the "why;"
Love, because you deserve it;
Forgiveness for yourself and others, and
Music and a dancing spirit of joy in your life.

Wonderful news about the decline of extreme poverty

By Elizabeth Bennett

Many of us contributed to meeting the United States Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce extreme poverty, both through Episcopal Relief and Development and through other organizations. Many people believe that the MDGs failed in their objectives, and that extreme poverty throughout the world continues to worsen.

But it isn't true. As Nicholas Kristof of *The New York Times* points out, "For nearly all of human history, extreme poverty has been the default condition of our species, and now, on our watch, we are pretty much wiping it out. That's a stunning transformation that I believe is the most important thing happening in the

world today—whatever the use from Washington."

According to the World Bank, the number of people living in extreme poverty (living on less than \$1.90 a day) declines by 250,000. Since 1990, childhood deaths have been reduced by more than 100 million by vaccinations, breast feeding reduction, and diarrhea prevention.

In the 1980s, more than 40% of humankind were living in extreme poverty...now fewer than 10% are, and by 2030, expectations are that will be reduced to 3 to 4%.

There are more miles to go...but it is important to know that MAJOR progress is being made...and that you are helping.



We are
GRATEFUL
for all YOU do
for the community of
PETIT TROU

AGAIN AND AGAIN, WE ARE AWED BY
THE OUT POURING FROM YOUR
CHURCH COMMUNITY. THERE ARE
NO WORDS TO EXPRESS THE
BLESSING YOU ARE TO US AND THE
ST PAUL'S PARISH IN
PETIT TROU DE NIPPES, HAITI.

LOOK OUT FOR A FULL UPDATE
COVERING HURRICANE RECOVERY
COMING IN MARCH!



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**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY:
THE MUSIC OF AFRICAN AMERICAN COMPOSERS**

DAZZLE JAZZ

930 Lincoln St.

“PURNELL STEEN AND LEJAZZ MACHINE”

(P*S*A*L*M)

February 4th, 2017

7pm & 9pm \$20.00



Max Wagner - Sax



Ed Stephen - Guitar



Kevin Smith - Drums



Purnell Steen - Piano



Myra Warren - Vocals



Ron Bland - Bass



Derek Banach - Trumpet

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The St. Thomas Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5 following one service at 9:30 a.m.



Food Ingathering for Greater Park Hill Community Food Bank: Sunday, February 5

Our monthly ingathering of food on the first Sunday of the month benefits the Greater Park Hill Community Food Bank.

The Servants for Justice Committee

prepares sacks with lists of the most needed items. The sacks are available at the back of the church. If you would like to take a sack, fill it with one or many items, and return it on the first Sunday of the month, you will be helping to feed hungry neighbors.

Men's Group Breakfast – New Location! This month's meeting of the St. Thomas Men's Group will be on Saturday, February 11 at 9:00 am at Bogies on the Green (City Park Golf Course), 2500 York St., Denver



February Office Closure – The Parish Office will be closed on February 20 (Presidents' Day).

Ash Wednesday services at St. Thomas will be held at 7:00 am, noon, and 7:00 pm on March 1, 2017.

Volunteer Needed for Greeting Card Ministry – For many years, Eva Williams and Cindy Rowley faithfully stewarded the St. Thomas greeting card ministry, sending birthday and

anniversary cards parishioners. Since Cindy's death last summer, Eva has managed the program on her own but would welcome another volunteer. For more information, please contact Eva at 303-791-2068 or frogeva@aol.com.

A Word of Thanks – Becca Atayde thanks St. Thomas parishioners for helping her to collect 69 pairs of shoes for Clothes to Kids of Denver.

Altar Flowers – A donation of altar flowers is a great way to remember loved ones, anniversaries, birthdays, and those who have gone on to sainthood before us. To donate flowers, please sign up in the Great Hall. You may bring in your own flowers or the office will order them with your \$50.00 donation.



St. Thomas Coffee Hour – Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Great

Hall after each service. We gladly welcome any contributions (store bought or home-made) or cash donations to help cover the cost. A coffee hour sign-up sheet is on the counter. Please sign up! Contact Ginny Smith at 303-404-3491 with any questions.



EVENTS AND MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

5 – St. Thomas Annual Meeting following one Sunday service at 9:30 am

5 – Greater Park Hill Food Pantry Sunday

11 – Men's Group Breakfast at Bogie's on the Green (2500 York St.) at 9:00 am

20 – Parish Office closed on President's Day

20 – Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm

23 – *Bold Living* Deadline for March issue

March 1 – Ash Wednesday services at 7:00 am, 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Weekly:

Dalcroze – Mondays from 2:00-7:00 pm

Tuesday Morning Eucharist – Tuesdays at 9:15 am

Theology Class – Tuesdays at 10:00 am

A.A. – Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

St. Thomas Choir Practice – Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Morning Prayer – Wednesdays at 7:00 am

Al Anon – Fridays at noon

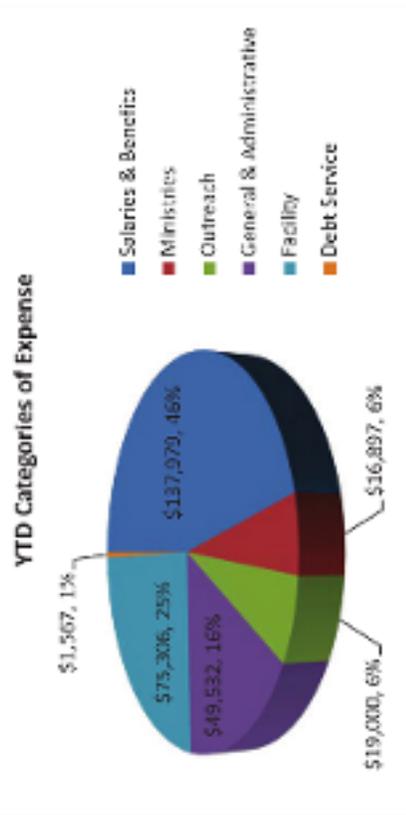
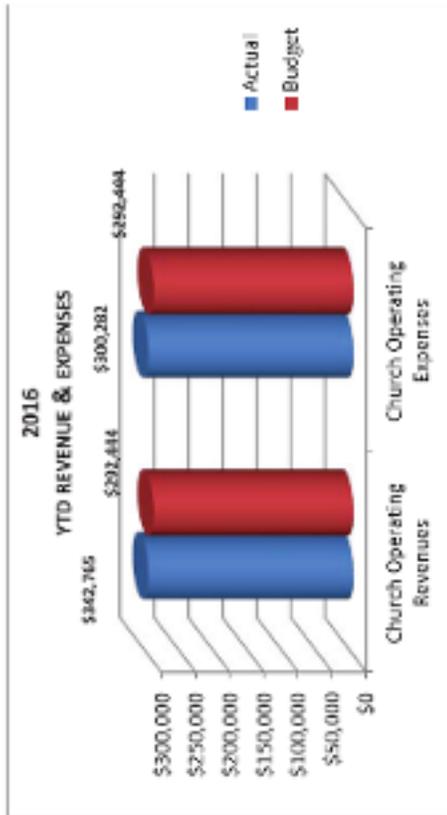
Sunday Services – 8:00 am Spoken Mass & 10:30 am Sung Mass

Christian Education for all ages – Sunday at 9:15 am

HFASS – Sundays at 5:00 pm

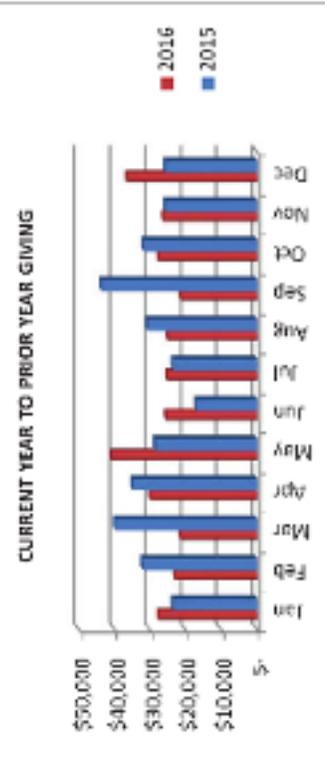
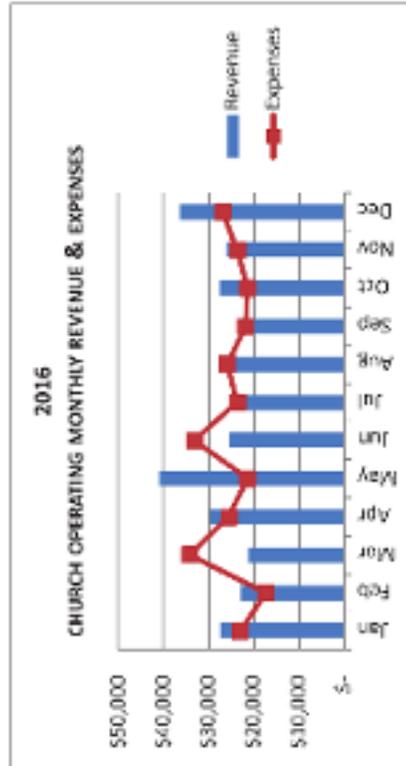
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2016

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Financial Dashboard as of December 31, 2016



Total Cash Availability

Cash Balance 12/31/16	\$259,694
Current Liabilities	(858)
Upcoming payments (12/15 payroll, est.)	
Temporarily restricted balances	(231,378)
Available cash	\$27,458



Unrestricted Cash Availability

Cash Balance 12/31/16	\$28,316
Current Liabilities	(858)
Upcoming payments (12/15 payroll, est.)	
Available cash	\$27,458



BOLD LIVING

The newsletter of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
diverse ... Christ-centered ... committed

February 2017

saintthomasdenver.org
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
2201 Dexter Street
Denver, CO 80207

Our Mission

Boldly living with Christ, we open doors to God's household of love
as we welcome and embrace all people
through worship, service, and learning within and beyond our walls.