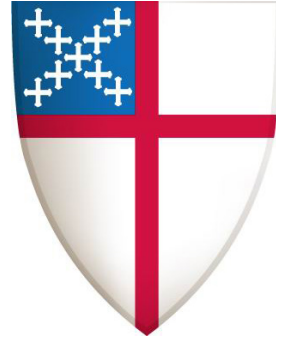


# The NewSpirit

Being a Light to the World: Worship • Youth • Discipleship  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church Battle Creek, Michigan  
Summer 2019



## Church is Good for You

Rest, relaxation, and keeping the Sabbath in summertime

by Fr. Brian Coleman

I was interested to read in an article titled “Secrets of Longevity” (*The Week*, May 17, 2019) that according to researchers at National Geographic there are nine factors that most contribute to our living long and healthy lives. They are the following: keeping physically active, maintaining a sense of purpose and drive, taking time to relax and play, avoiding overeating, eating a plant-based diet, drinking wine, participating in a faith-based community, having close family ties, and staying social.

It seems to me that St. Thomas offers its members five out of the nine factors that lead to longevity. The most obvious one is participation in a faith-based community. Several other factors result from this participation, namely staying social, maintaining a sense of purpose and drive, and drinking wine (though the experts recommend a glass or two per day, not just a sip at the communion rail).

Social interaction has always been an essential element of Christian community. In the early church this was expressed through house

church gatherings and agape meals, in our own day coffee hours, circle meetings, and pub nights fill the bill.

As for maintaining a sense of purpose and drive, I hope that each of us understand deeply our call to discipleship as defining our purpose and compelling us into the world to work for God’s kingdom and its righteousness. Whenever we rehearse our baptismal covenant (as we will on the Feast of Pentecost on June 9), we articulate this purpose and drive through the promises we make and keep as Christians. Our faith and values are not just precious and private beliefs, but public and outward commitments to engage in the world to resist evil and bring about transformation by proclaiming Christ and the difference his presence makes in our lives.

As summer approaches, for many the focus shifts from school and

work to vacation and time off; it’s a time to relax and play. We would do well to remember that keeping the



Sabbath – a time for rest and play, recreation and enjoyment of God’s creation – is a commandment, not a suggestion. This seems to be at odds with the American work-ethic which frowns upon taking vacation or time off, and fetishizes busy-ness and productivity at the expense of health and wellness. The truth, as many workplace psychologists will confirm, is that neglecting time off and vacations hurts productivity, and regular time for rest and refreshment improves it. Setting aside regular, weekly time for rest and play is part of our

*continued on p. 2*

continued from p. 1

faith and practice as Christians. We understand that this helps us reconnect with God and each other in life-giving ways.

So, it turns out being a member of St. Thomas is potentially good for your health and improves your chances of living a long and happy life. If you can work in the other four factors on your own: keep physically active, avoid overeating, eat a plant-based diet and maintain close family ties, you'll have it made. And even if you don't live to a ripe old age, you will have lived well and been a blessing to many.

## Keep Summer Pledges Current

Please endeavor to keep your pledge current this summer.

St. Thomas offers automatic pledge payment through Realm.

For more information call the parish office, or speak to a member of the vestry.

Budgeted Pledge income YTD:  
\$90,120.97

Actual Pledge income:  
\$84,137.27

**Deficit: \$5,983.70**

*The NewSpirit* will be taking the summer off - your next issue will be the September issue. Send submissions to Karmel Addis, editor, at [kpuzzo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kpuzzo@sbcglobal.net) by August 15th.

## Summer Worship begins Sunday, June 23rd



through September 1st  
*Enjoy the fellowship!*



## Summer Breakfast begins June 10th

It's not officially summer until the Summer Breakfast Program has begun.

St. Thomas is staffing breakfast the first week, June 10-14th.

Be generous with your time as we seek volunteers throughout the summer.

You can sign up at church or by calling the office at 269.965.2244



## Congratulations to Patrick Rowe

Patrick Rowe is graduating from Harper Creek High School on May 31, 2019. Throughout his middle school and high school career he has participated in band, marching band and wind ensemble. He was part of the National Junior Honor Society as well, but his most beloved accomplishment was being in the First Robotics program for 8 years.

Patrick was accepted into Adrian College and was awarded the Dean's

Scholarship and the Scholarship Day Scholarship. He plans to start in the fall of 2019.

Patrick has grown into a great young man and we owe a debt of thanks to our church family for helping get him to this place. Thank you for all of the love and support you have given us through the years!

– Suzette Holcomb Rowe



## Jackson Kiess graduates from Olivet College

Jackson Kiess received his Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry from Olivet College on Saturday, May 18, 2019. He's been accepted to Western Michigan University's Graduate School and is planning to begin work towards his Masters Degree in Chemistry this fall.



## Quinn, Claire and Macy Nickerson

At the Senior Awards for her class, Claire Nickerson (middle) received the following:

- Outstanding Senior Choral Award
- Outstanding Senior English Award
- National Honor Society Award
- Was a nominee for Outstanding Senior

Claire is planning to attend

Albion College and has received the following Scholarships:

- Albion College Choir Scholarship
- Albion College Webster Scholarship
- Thomas H. Elliott Scholarship

Quinn (left) and Macy (right) will also be receiving awards for Highest Honors for maintaining a 4.0 GPA at their upcoming year-end recognition programs.

## We Will Rise

a concert with  
**sounding light**  
and the St. Thomas Choir

Monday, June 3rd 7:30 p.m.  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
247 Lovell St. Kalamazoo

The glorious voices of **sounding light** offer an uplifting program that carries a message of resilience, renewal and rebirth. The inspiring music of J.S. Bach, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Moses Hogan, Craig Hella Johnson, Abbie Betinis and Tom Trenney, as well as beloved hymns, spirituals and folk songs promises to lift our spirits, revive our souls, and restore our hope.

Tickets:  
\$15 - individual  
\$5 - student  
\$30 - family

**sounding light** is committed to offering its members a spiritual and holistic approach to ensemble singing while offering its listeners a compelling and timeless experience with the choral art.



# Ending the Choral Year with a Bang!

by Dr. Stephen White

The St. Thomas Choirs will wrap up the 2018-19 choral year with several notable performances. The final Choral Evensong of the season will take place on Sunday, June 2 with both the Treble Choristers and the St. Thomas Choir joining forces. Music will include responses by Thomas Ebdon, evening canticles by Peter Aston, and *Easter Hymn* by Granville Bantock. The pre-service organ recital will be given by Mr. John Ourensma – director of music at First United Methodist Church in Hillsdale, MI. Mr. Ourensma previously held the position of Director of Music & Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Battle Creek.

On Monday, June 3, the St. Thomas Choir will join forces with

Sounding Light, a professional choir from the metro-Detroit area for a 7:30 p.m. concert at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo. In addition to joining forces for three selections, the St. Thomas Choir will be featured in two independent pieces – John Blow's ethereal *Let My Prayer Be Lifted Up* and Jonathan Dove's exciting *They Will Rise*.

The Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, June 9th. It will be celebrated with a 5 p.m. choral concert presented by the St. Thomas Choirs. Featuring a wide variety of music, this concert will celebrate the gifts the Holy Spirit bestows upon us through music. A freewill offering will also be accepted to benefit the choir's 2020 England Choir Tour

fundraising and scholarship fund. We hope to have a full house for this concert – so plan to attend and bring your friends!

The St. Thomas Choir will wrap up the season on Trinity Sunday, June 16th with a rousing setting of *Ride On, King Jesus!* by Moses Hogan. This has been an exciting year for the treble and adult choirs and, while we are ready for a much anticipated summer break, we look forward to returning in September to sing praise to God in another exciting choral season which will culminate with a Choral Eucharist at the American Cathedral in Paris and a week-long choral residency at Winchester Cathedral in the United Kingdom.

## St. Thomas Church Music for the Soul presents

### *One with the Spirit*

featuring  
the St. Thomas Treble Choristers and the St. Thomas Choir  
Dr. Stephen White, Director of Music  
Eric Strand, Organist

Sunday, June 9, 2019 5:00 p.m.  
St. Thomas Church 17 E. Van Buren

*Repertoire includes music by*  
Adrian Batten, Harold Friedell, Moses Hogan, George Richford, Peter Hurford,  
Jonathan Dove and more . . .

A free-will offering will be collected  
to benefit the St. Thomas Choir's 2020 England Choir Tour and scholarship fund.

# Educatius Groups Seeks Host Families

Educatius Group has reached out to St. Thomas in hopes of finding host families for international students attending high school at St. Philip Catholic High School in Battle Creek.

The host family provides a furnished room and meals in the home for the student. Host families will receive a monthly stipend to help offset the expenses of having a student in their home. Host families are asked to provide meals, love and guidance, as well as a room with a bed, desk and dresser.

Educatius' Host Families come in many different shapes and sizes - young couples with small children, single persons, one parent families, empty nesters, etc. The one characteristic all Host Families share is a big heart with a lot of love for a new family member!



Educatius Groups has a local coordinator that will be supporting the student, host family and school throughout the year. They also have 24/7 national support. Their students come with their own spending money for personal needs and activities they wish to get involved in.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share the United States with someone and learn about another country as well. These are amazing young people and come from places like Brazil, Germany, Italy, Spain, Scandinavia, Vietnam, Korea, Taiwan, China and Thailand.

If interested, email Lisa Scovel at [lisa.scovel@educatius.org](mailto:lisa.scovel@educatius.org).

## Additional Thoughts on Coffee Hour

by Elizabeth Neumeyer

Based on questions and comments to me about Coffee Hour, I would like to explain the set up. Volunteers are not expected to bring so many items that it becomes a "brunch." It may seem that way sometimes because we have things left from some other gathering or a whole family is doing the Coffee Hour. You can bring one thing and join with others in having Coffee Hour or you can help pour coffee and do clean up. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money or have some



big production to put on coffee hour. I appreciate your help at any time, a plate or package of cookies, or fruit, etc. or help is plenty for any one person. As always, I also

thank those who are willing to step up and run the dish washer and make the coffee in the early hours. Remember, volunteers are needed during the months of February, May, July, September, November and December. The ushers cover January and August in their respective weeks. The Vestry covers March and June. St. Mary's does April and October. There is a sign-up sheet at the serving table for the various months.



# Can't Deduct Charitable Gifts Anymore?

Retirees over age 70½ can use IRA distributions, if handled properly

by Ellen Stark, AARP

This year, you may be disappointed to find that you can no longer deduct your charitable gifts on your taxes. That's because the 2017 tax law nearly doubled the standard deduction, sharply cutting the number of filers who itemize.

Under the old law, 1 in 5 filers took a charitable deduction, reports the Tax Policy Center; now, just 8 percent are expected to. You're not paying more in taxes as a result — but you're also not getting credit for your generosity.

If you're a retiree over age 70½, though, you have a workaround that preserves the tax benefits of giving, even if you don't itemize. Once you reach this age, you must start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your individual retirement account every year. In what's called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), you can donate all or a portion of your RMDs, up to \$100,000 a year, directly to charity.

While you don't get a write-off for your gift, you also don't owe taxes on that retirement-account distribution. For a taxpayer in the 22 percent bracket, funneling a \$5,000 RMD to charity saves \$1,100 in federal income taxes, the same as if you'd been able to deduct it.

Even though this rule became a permanent part of the tax code in 2015, the 2017 tax law has added to its luster. "It's even more valuable now if you lost the charitable deduction," says Mark Luscombe, principal federal tax analyst for Wolters Kluwer Tax

& Accounting. "It makes even more sense."

A smaller tax bill is not the only potential benefit. By forgoing that RMD income, you reduce your adjusted gross income (AGI) on your tax return. And a lower AGI can mean

Steffen, director of advanced planning at Baird Private Wealth Management. "Even accountants can be confused."

That's because the brokerage or fund company that holds your IRA will report it on the Form 1099-R as a regular IRA distribution, and you have

to note on your return that it's a QCD and not taxable. "The IRA trustee doesn't know if the charity qualifies," says Steffen. "The verification onus is not on them." Make sure you get a letter from the charity documenting your gift.

Finally, if you donate your RMD directly to charity, you cannot also deduct that amount as

a charitable contribution if you still itemize. "That's double dipping," says Steffen. "It's a mistake."

less of your Social Security being taxed, lower Medicare premiums, or a chance to qualify for other deductions or tax credits that would otherwise not have been available to you.

To do a QCD, you simply instruct the firm that manages your IRA to direct some or all of your RMD to one or more charities. The firm must send the money directly to the charity, or send you a check made out to the charity, which you forward (you can't collect the money and then donate it for the QCD to count). This strategy won't help with your 2018 taxes because the donation must be made during the calendar year for which you are filing a tax return, but it will set you up for savings next year.

If you did donate your RMD in 2018, you now have one more job to do: Report it correctly on your return. This can be a filing headache, says Tim



## Battle Creek Bombers Faith Night



Saturday, June 15th  
7:05 p.m.

**Bombers vs. the Rockford Rivets**

Tickets can be purchased at the stadium or by contacting the BC Bombers' box office at (269) 962-0735



# From the Archives

Article from 1967 on St. Thomas's 125-year anniversary

BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER AND NEWS

## St. Thomas to Mark 125 Years

Three special services Sunday, Aug. 6, will mark the 125th anniversary of the formation of the St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Since it was first organized as a satellite of Trinity Episcopal Church, Marshall, Aug. 7, 1842, the Battle Creek church has grown to one of the largest in the area.

Only a few years ago it expanded further by sponsoring a satellite church of its own in Lakeview. There are now more than 1,200 communicants or 1,800 baptized members.

At its founding the church was called St. Thomas Church of Battle Creek. Services were started in 1839 by the Rev. Montgomery Schuyler of the Marshall church, but were not officially organized until 1842. The congregation of St. Thomas, in appreciation for his work, presented him with a horse and buggy.

A small wooden church served the parish until the present building was erected in 1876 at N. E. Capital Avenue and E. VanBuren Street. Built at the cost of \$20,000, the church for many years was the costliest edifice in the city.

In 1855 the Rev. George Willard became pastor of St. Thomas at an annual salary of \$600. He remained until 1890. His son, the Hon. George Willard, also prominent in the Episcopal church, gave Willard Library to the city.

On Easter, 1885 a new white marble front for the church was consecrated. It was a gift of the Sunday School children, who had been contributing funds weekly for four years.

The church was one of the first to carry services to shut-ins. In April, 1905 the Michigan

With the establishment of the 85th Division of the National Guard at Camp Custer during World War I, the church felt a moral and spiritual responsibility toward the troops, so the old rectory was fitted out as a soldier's club house.

By the time St. Thomas celebrated its 84th anniversary, it had grown in size to include 459 communicants, 27 church school teachers and 238 pupils.

In January 1926 a boy's choir was instituted, and it sang for the first time on Easter during the afternoon children's service.

It was a fortunate day for St. Thomas Church when the Rev. William A. Simms came in January 1930. He used to say that no sooner had he arrived than the great depression moved in, but he stayed for 31 years.

One of the first things Father Simms did was to establish an endowment fund. The inspiration came to him when Mrs. Lucile Ralf gave him \$25 to "do with as you see fit." The fund has continued to grow.

The legal name of the church was changed in 1930 to St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Battle Creek.

After World War II, a new \$175,000 parish house was built. The dedication ceremony in December 1949 was highlighted by a 60-voice massed choir.

Shortly after the parish house was completed, the church was ruined by a fire caused by sparks from the American Steam Pump foundry next door. The interior was quickly rebuilt, and new stained glass windows were given by individuals and circles of the parish.

In 1961 Father Simms retired, and the Rev. Charles P. James was instituted as rector.

When the parish decided to expand into the Lakeview area in 1965 made possible extensive renovation in the downtown church. A new classroom addition at the St. Thomas Chapel in Lakeview will be dedicated Aug. 6 as part of the 125th anniversary year celebration.

## Opposition to the 1979 BCP Revision

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER  
BOX 12206, ACKLEN STATION  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37212

THE FOREGONE CONCLUSION AND THE UNFORESEEN

SPBCP  
Gentlemen:

I have read your recent communications. I do not dislike the Green Book services, especially #1, so much that I would leave the Church because of them.

However, more and more I am "cooling" towards the clergy who find it necessary to give out what amounts to falsehoods to gain their point, or to use the EPISCOPALIAN, which is supposed to serve the whole Church, to espouse certain party lines. . . .

We have taken notice of the cause of this complaint in our recent bulletin, "The Truth Must Out!" in which we challenged the pastoral report of the Bishop of Atlanta that Louisville "voted overwhelmingly to bring a new Prayer Book into being by 1976." Let the buyer of this sort of thing beware, as the saying goes. Here are more examples:

. . . it is clear that the Book of Common Prayer is going to be changed. (Bishop of Michigan, Memorandum to Clergy)

. . . our Church is committed to a definite revision of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. (Louisville issued a mandate . . . (The Rev. Macon B. Walton, Chairman, DLC, Diocese of Southern Virginia)

The handwriting is on the wall. (Bishop's Address, Diocesan Convention, Colorado)

. . . the Church is indelibly committed towards /sic/ producing a revised Prayer Book. (Bishop of Indianapolis, address to Diocesan Convention)

. . . the Prayer Book will be revised . . . Give thanks to God for unambiguous affirmation by the Church /The Church? of many of the things which we have fought for . . . (The Rev. H. Boone Porter, letter to membership, ASSOCIATED PARISHES)

The vote in . . . Deputies . . . to continue the Green Book was a resounding "yea" and an almost inaudible "no." /We had thought the vote was on revision, not the Green Book. . . . we had better start to take seriously Trial Use whether we like it or not . . . (Bishop's Letter, North Carolina Churchman)

Did the Bishop of North Carolina inadvertently let the cat out of the bag when he added, later, "Unless something unforeseen happens, the decision of this General Convention has set the Church on course for a new prayer book"?\*

Isn't that, in fact, precisely the point -- that SOMETHING UNFORESEEN MAY HAPPEN? We must not be put off, or discouraged, by these official declarations of foregone conclusion. The Church can see to it that SOMETHING UNFORESEEN WILL HAPPEN -- that it and the Prayer Book alike will survive. Pronouncements such as the above are a "bluff." Let's call it.

\*The Bishop of Colorado was less modest, or more desperate: "We will, barring some cataclysmic intervention by God Himself, undoubtedly have a new version of the Book of Common Prayer. . . ."

Recently Jill Goodsell and Bob Harberts were cleaning out the storage. One (above) is an article in the Battle Creek Enquirer and News about the church's 125-year anniversary in 1967. The other (right) is a letter of opposition to Church leaders on objections to the revision of the Book of Common Prayer. Many were opposed to the BCP's revision because they believed it threatened traditional Anglicanism.

ST. THOMAS  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



16 E. Van Buren Street  
Battle Creek, MI  
49017-3916

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**The Rev. Brian Coleman**

Rector

**Dr. Stephen White**

Director of Music

**Denise Genise**

Bookkeeper

**Karmel Addis**

Communications

## Parish Schedule

### Sundays

**Summer Worship Schedule begins June 23rd**

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

*Childcare available for infants and toddlers  
from 8:45 a.m., upstairs in the nursery.*

*Coffee reception following both services.*

### Weekdays in the Chapel

Monday – Saturday

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

### Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### Fridays

11:00 a.m. Bible Study in the Lounge

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



# June 2019

Sun/2nd	<b>Graduate Recognition Sunday</b> <b>Organ Recital</b> , 4:30 p.m. <b>Choral Evensong</b> , 5:00 p.m.
Wed/5th	<b>iBelieve Class</b> : Stewardship: It's not just about money! 6:30 p.m.
Sun/9th	<b>The Feast of Pentecost</b> <b>Last Day of Sunday School for the summer</b> <b>Choral Concert</b> , 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Wed/12th	<b>Preaching Circle</b> , 6:30 p.m.
10th-14th	<b>Summer Breakfast begins: St. Thomas volunteers</b>
Thu/20th	<b>Vestry</b> , 6:00 p.m.
Sun/23rd	<b>Summer worship schedule begins</b> , 9:00 a.m. Potluck brunch following 9 a.m. service
Tue/28th	<b>St. Mary's Circle</b> , 12 noon
Sun/30th	<b>Fifth Sunday</b> - Behind the Scenes at St. Thomas: Ministers of Liturgy: Acolytes, Vergers and Subdeacons