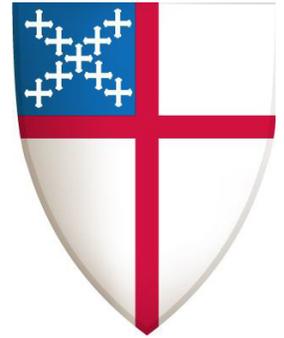


The NewSpirit

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



Two Sundays in May

Past and Present Parishioners to Sign Books May 5th & 19th
by Kathy Dingwall

On two Sundays in May 2019, St. Thomas will host two book signings: one by former parishioner John Wemlinger, and the other by our own Bob Hibbard.

To jog your memory, John Wemlinger was active at St. Thomas, both as a member of the Vestry and of the search committee when we called Father Brian to be our rector in 2008. In the fall of 2013, John and his wife Diane left St. Thomas to make their home in Onekama in northern Michigan. A retired U.S. Army Colonel with 27 years of service, John began writing as early as 2003 and published his first book, *Winter's Bloom* in 2016. Having now gained an insight into the process of writing fiction, he returned to rewriting the novel he had begun in 2003, renaming it *Operation Lightswitch* and publishing it in 2017.

In March of 2018, fully ingrained in the writing life, he published his third book *Before the Snow Flies*. John draws deeply on his life as a career military man to create characters who, as returning hometown veterans, struggle against the ravages of years in

combat to build normal lives in their hometown environs. With the M-22 corridor of northwest Michigan as his venue of choice, John is finishing his fourth book called *The Housekeeper's Diary*, set in Frankfort, Michigan.

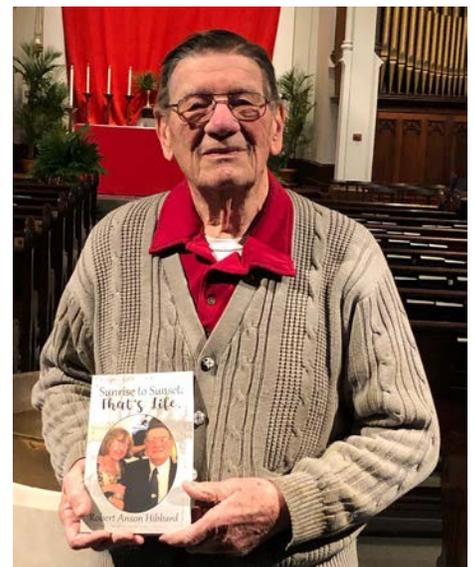
John Wemlinger will join us on Sunday, May 5 for the second service and afterwards will be in the Parish Lounge for a book signing event. All of his books will be available for sale at a special price of \$10 each.

Our second writer is Bob Hibbard, who has written an autobiographical book called *Sunrise to Sunset; That's Life* which chronicles his life and times in 89 years. In this intriguing book, Bob writes about his life from his early years during the Great Depression, to his service in the Korean War, and into the world of changing technology and values that has characterized and shaped our lives through the 20th century and into the 21st.

"Nothing seemed to change much from the 1920s to the 1950s, people raised their children, men worked



John Wemlinger at Lake Michigan near his home in Onekama. He will be at St. Thomas on Sunday, May 5th for a book-signing.



Bob Hibbard will sign copies of his memoir *Sunrise to Sunset; That's Life* on Sunday, May 19th.

and mothers took care of the house,” Bob reflected. But from that time on, everything began to change and to change fast. “We went from oatmeal to bacon and eggs!”

To write this book, Bob’s daughter Chris sat down with Bob on Monday mornings, and while

Bob talked, she recorded, asking questions for clarification and further details until she had enough to go home and write down her father’s words chapter by chapter. With her connections and those of Bob’s granddaughter, a published writer of romance novels, his book was published in early 2019.

And on Sunday, May 19, Bob will be here to sign his books and share some of the many stories he has stored in that fascinating mind of his. Please mark both of these dates on your calendars and plan to join us for these two special events.

“British Invasion”

Cereal City Concert Band’s Spring Concert



Join the Cereal City Concert Band on Sunday, May 19th at 3:00 p.m. at Kellogg Community College Binda Performing Arts Center for their tribute to British Composers. They will be performing the masterpieces of Eric Coates, Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Thomas Arne, John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Concert-goers will enjoy such pieces as First Suite in Eb for Military Band, British Eighth March, Rhosymedre, The Beatles: Love, Bond....James Bond, and Rule Britannia, just to name a few.

KCC Binda Theatre is located
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at 450 North Ave, Battle Creek. Tickets at the door: \$10 for Adults and \$5 for Students & Seniors 65+. An added bonus is that we will be having two raffles! We will be raffling off beautiful flowering plants donated by K Drive Greenhouse, as well as our 50/50 raffle. We will also have Finley’s Fund for Friends coupons to support us on May 22nd. All you have to do is show up at Finley’s for dinner. Doesn’t get any easier than that!

This is CCCB’s last concert of the season before they start their summer schedule. Please join them for a great afternoon of music! For more information about the band, please visit their website at www.cerealcityconcertband.org or email at cccb@cerealcityconcertband.org.

The following St. Thomas parishioners participate in the Cereal City Concert Band:

Dr. Stephen White, Conductor
Heather Lane-Fowler, Flute
Barb Hibiske, Clarinet
Austin Shook, Tuba
Charles Dixon, French Horn

– Heather Lane-Fowler
Treasurer/Publicity, CCCB

Combined Sunday Summer Worship

After much consultation and consideration of several helpful suggestions about how to accommodate my vocal limitations, last month the vestry enthusiastically and unanimously supported a proposal to combine Sunday services in the summer to one service at 9 a.m. This would begin Sunday, June 23 and conclude after the service on September 1. The rationale behind this recommendation is three-fold:

- 1) It will lighten my vocal load on Sundays, for the 11 weeks of its implementation.
- 2) It will facilitate relationships among parishioners who usually attend different services.
- 3) There will be modest cost savings in paying supply clergy and organists during staff vacations.

In order to successfully implement this temporary change, the roles and tasks that are normally segregated into 8 and 10 a.m. services will be distributed across the two congregations. Dr. White and I will be developing the liturgy together in order to be sensitive to both traditions. It would be unhelpful to see this simply as the 10 a.m. service being moved to 9 a.m., or the 8 a.m. service being moved to 9 a.m. Rather, this will be developed as a new Summer Worship Service at 9 a.m.

I expect that once the summer is over we will resume normal operations with two services on Sunday mornings. I am grateful for this and the many other ways that folks at St. Thomas are seeking to accommodate my vocal limitations and abilities. I am looking forward to the new possibilities this experience will afford us all.

– Fr. Brian

Olivet College Media Prize Goes to Jackson Kiess



Jackson Kiess received the Olivet College Media Prize at the recent Honors Convocation Ceremony. The honor is awarded to students involved in mass communications disciplines, and typically (but not exclusively), is awarded to

students majoring in the Journalism and Mass Communications curriculum who demonstrate exemplary leadership and outstanding achievement.

Jackson is majoring in chemistry and will graduate with his Bachelor of Arts degree next month. He's been working as a DJ at Olivet's radio station

WOCR since his freshman year, which started through a spur of the moment request from his then-roommate, who is a JMC major, to "help out" one evening when another DJ couldn't make his shift. Almost 4 years later, he's

still a WOCR staff member, doing three radio shows a week. He has learned valuable skills in time management, preparation, poise and communication, and through the news component in his shows, has made him deeply appreciate how important current and world events are to society as a whole. We couldn't be prouder of how he conveys himself on-air and with the manner in which he bring world events to his listeners. Not bad for a Chemistry major! 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.

– Lori Kiess

Message from Keith Phillips

Thank you for your help

I am very grateful for the many parishioners who have helped so much in providing me with all the necessities I needed to furnish an apartment! The care and thoughtfulness with which you made certain that I would be well-provisioned . . . thank you!

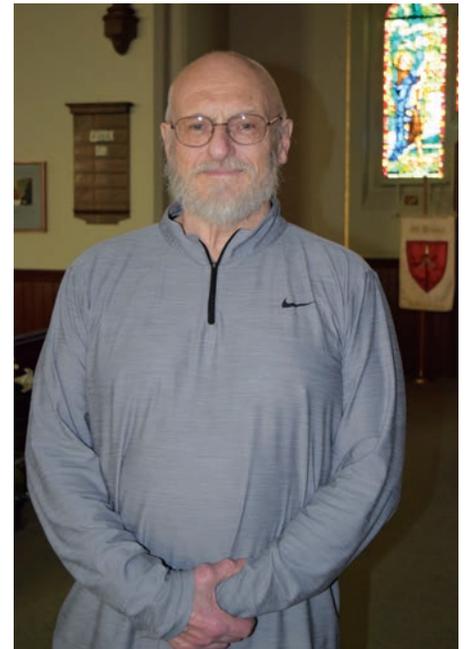
I am also deeply appreciative for the many prayers, words of caring inquiry and counsel I've also received. I've long known the reality of the well-grounded and practiced prayers that sustained and supported me for many years: these are a great blessing.

Annual Vow of Non-Violence

Following the 6 p.m. Eucharist on Wednesday, May 8th, I will renew my Annual Vow of Non-Violence, before Fr. Brian. While committing to this is an affirmation of the process of Formation, I invite each of you, if possible, to attend and witness this commitment. I ask humbly ask prayers, also.

The form of the Vow, which is succinct, yet of great depth and meaning, can be found on the Pax Christi USA website.

My intention in keeping this Vow is not only living my Baptismal Vows more thoughtfully, but also



a renouncement of the violence I have committed.

Sabbatical of Stephen

Dr. Stephen White, Director of Music, on his Jan.-Feb. 2019 Sabbatical

by Dr. Stephen White

The opportunity to take a sabbatical from one's regular work routine in order to reconnect, refresh, and remember is, by all accounts, a real privilege and something not to be taken for granted. That opportunity was afforded me during January and February 2019 and I must thank Fr. Brian, the Vestry, Brooks Grantier, the members of the St. Thomas Choirs, and the entire parish for providing and supporting this opportunity.

If you happen to follow me on Facebook, then you will already realize that I tend to post A LOT of pictures – I do this for a couple of reasons: 1) to share my blessings of travel/experiences with friends who may not have similar opportunities, and 2) to help remind myself at a later date how good my life and experiences truly are. That being said, I would like to share some of the highlights of my sabbatical experience and also some lessons I learned, as well as a few ideas gleaned to help deepen my vocation both here at St. Thomas and in the broader Church.

I planned my sabbatical travels in three sections: South, West



and East. During each period, I was able to combine rest and reconnection to friends with sabbatical-related observations, personal practice, and professional development.

Points South

My initial stop was in South Florida where I was able to soak up some warmth and sunshine in the Miami area – highlights included worshipping at Trinity Cathedral, practicing on the cathedral's instrument, spending time over New Year's with a friend I hadn't seen in over a decade (he serves in the Peace Corps in Ecuador), and enjoying the sights/sounds/food of South Beach.

I then traveled north to Tallahassee where I had spent time during my graduate studies. I felt honored to observe my major professor teach his current graduate students, roamed the halls that hold so many memories, and played the instrument at Trinity United Methodist Church (my old church post during graduate school). I also had the opportunity to discuss chorister recruitment, training, and retention with the music director at St. John's Episcopal Church, and attend worship with them on Feast of the Epiphany.

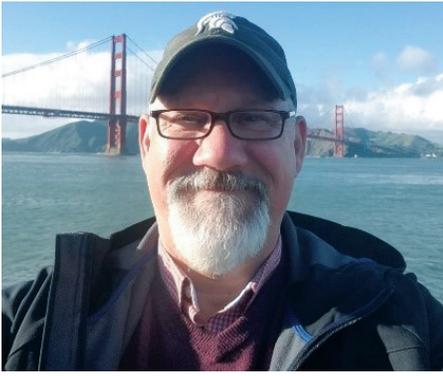
From Tallahassee I made the short drive to Pensacola to visit Fr. Nick and Teresa Phares, along with Kay, Lexi, and Pax. How wonderful it



was to catch up and see how they are flourishing in this new phase of their ministry. After the all-too-brief period in Pensacola, I headed back north to Lexington, Kentucky where I spent the weekend observing the boys, girls and men of the Christ Church Cathedral Choir, shared meals with former students and colleagues, and enjoyed reminiscing about past choir travel and other experiences with those cherished friends.

Westward bound

After a brief return home, the next phase of my sabbatical took me to California. Initial plans for this portion included visiting many Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM) colleagues, experiencing San Francisco as a local, and getting some much-needed rest. I had the privilege of spending quite a bit of time at Grace Cathedral observing the rehearsals of the choir of men and boys, speaking with the music staff about their roles/responsibilities/challenges, as well as spending an



entire day of practice on the great cathedral organ. Additionally, I was able to observe the wonderful chorister program at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame, CA and spend time with a friend who is canon musician at Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento. While in Sacramento I was fortunate to observe their diocesan choir festival rehearsal with David Flood, Music Director at Canterbury Cathedral, as conductor. It was great to re-connect with him since I had last seen him prior to our 2016 pilgrimage.

I was able to worship in various friends' churches. This helped me develop a greater sense of



our shared vocation, as well as understand how each of them realizes that calling within their own parish.

I also took time to visit longtime friends and see places on my bucket list. I shared time with a dear friend in Lake Tahoe, and enjoyed the hospitality of friends in Palm Springs during the polar vortex that swept through Michigan at the same time.

The Eastern Shore

The final phase of my sabbatical took me to North Carolina and then up the East coast with stops in Baltimore, Wilmington, Delaware, Arlington/Washington D.C., Princeton, New Jersey and Philadelphia. The continuation of visits with friends and colleagues also included chorister program observations, a three-day conference on stational and processional liturgies at Princeton, as well as a sacred music workshop at Washington National Cathedral. I was able to visit with colleagues, see brand new worship spaces and organs, check a couple things off my bucket list such as the Biltmore Estate and Duke Chapel, and observe a wonderful chorister festival at the cathedral in Asheville.

My fascination with the show *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives* served me well as I played food tourist in Baltimore while en route to Washington, DC. While there, I also had the opportunity to visit Fort McHenry and learn about the history of our National Anthem. Upon arrival in our nation's

capital, I was able to once again visit with colleagues, observe rehearsals of both the boy and girl choristers at the National Cathedral and St. Paul's K Street, and spend hours wandering in the cathedral with unfettered access. This included some practice time on the cathedral's great organ.

The conference in Princeton, organized by American Sarum, focused on Sight, Sound and Movement: Liturgical Processions and Stational Liturgy. As the organization states, the Sarum Rite (more properly called Sarum Use) was a variant of the Roman Rite, widely used for the ordering of Christian public worship, established by Saint Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury in the 11th Century. Although originally a local form used in the Cathedral and Diocese of Salisbury, it later became prevalent throughout most of England, Wales, Ireland and later Scotland until the reign of Queen Mary. Although abandoned after the 16th century, it was a notable influence on the pattern of Anglican liturgy represented in Thomas Cranmer's *Book of Common Prayer*. The American Sarum conferences focus on how the historical Sarum liturgies

continued on p. 6



Sabbatical, continued from p. 5
inform current worship and move the Christian community toward reconciliation.

The sabbatical period wrapped up with a few days observing the choristers at St. Mark's Church, Philadelphia, taking in a bit of the rich history of that city, and then a return to Washington, D.C. for a one-day sacred music workshop focused on chorister recruitment and vocal pedagogy. I was able to worship with the cathedral community prior to returning to Battle Creek.

As you can see, I packed quite a bit into the eight weeks of my sabbatical. The chorister observations and conversations with colleagues revolved around my sabbatical project: Chorister

Recruitment, Training and Retention and its impact on the spiritual life of congregations. Details about that project will come in a future *NewSpirit* article. Through the observation of fifteen different chorister programs, however, I confirmed that things at St. Thomas are going quite well. When compared to these fifteen parishes/cathedrals, each of which have significantly high average Sunday attendance (ASA), we are doing remarkably well with our youth choristers, who represent nearly 10% of our ASA and total choir participation.

While I am always eager to welcome new choristers and their



families, I return from my time away with a newfound appreciation for those who actively participate in our music ministry and the congregation that whole-heartedly supports this ministry. I believe we are making a powerful statement to the community about the importance of music to overall spiritual growth and development. The ability to participate in and be surrounded by this musical form of beauty helps us to experience a small glimpse of God's grace and majesty.

St. Thomas Endurance Athletes: The Chapels



Amanda and Doug Chapel traveled with friends from the area to Louisville, KY for the the Kentucky Derby Festival Marathon and Mini-marathon on Saturday, April 27th. Amanda said, "It's unique because you get to run through Churchill Downs the week before the derby."

It was Doug's fourth marathon, and it took him 3:48:45, which was about six minutes faster than he had ever run a marathon before. He started training on New Year's Day and ran about six days per week. Later in the year, he'll be pacing the Battle Creek Half Marathon right here in town, and then racing at least two more half marathons in the summer/fall.

Amanda ran the half marathon in about 2 hours 37 minutes. She runs about 3 times a week, and swims and bikes throughout the week as well. She's also been training for this since New Years Day.



Like Doug, she will be pacing the Battle Creek half marathon with the 12:30/ mile group doing 3 min running 1 min walking intervals. Since it's now officially Triathlon season, she is also doing a few sprint distance triathlons this summer (500m swim, 12 mile bike, 3.1 mile run) in preparation for the Traverse City Half Ironman Triathlon (1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike, 13.1 mile run) at the end of August.



Karmel Addis, Fr. Brian Coleman and A.J. Puzzuoli ran the Habitat for Humanity Spring Colors 5K on 4/27/19. A.J. placed 2nd in his age group and Fr. Brian placed 3rd in his.

About the Altar Guild

by Bob Harberts, Member of the Altar Guild

On Sunday March 31, 2019, during the worship service, the Altar Guild members were highlighted as a “behind the scenes” group at St. Thomas. Members demonstrated some of the skills they use weekly to prepare the Altar and the Sanctuary for service. A slide presentation was presented to share the Altar Guild’s “behind the scenes” activities as well as the personal feelings experienced by Altar Guild members. At the end of the service, Father Brian blessed the hands of the Altar Guild members.

As an introduction to the Altar Guild’s ministry, I shared a few personal remarks regarding the Altar Guild and its members. These remarks follow this paragraph. If you would like additional information about the Altar Guild or would like to join the Altar Guild, please feel free to contact me at 269-275-1523.

Serving on the Altar Guild is being part of a service ministry. We have 14 active members, one trainee and two members who are on leave. We serve our Lord, the clergy and you, the congregation. We prepare the Sanctuary and the Altar for every church service, be it a service such as today, or a weekday service, a wedding, a funeral or any other special service. We prepare the holy items that are used during the worship service. We set the Lord’s table for holy communion. We connect with our Lord through our service to him and you.

The Altar Guild readies the church

behind the scenes so that all of us can conveniently participate in the worship services, Eucharists and sacraments. The Altar Guild is here to set the table for God’s visit and for our gifts to him. The clergy and the congregation do not have to worry about things like finding the wine, bread, water, the Gospel, the altar book, the linens, the candles, the vestments and so on. All of us can concentrate on the Liturgy.

Serving on the Altar Guild is a spiritual experience. It is a connection to the liturgy and the Eucharist. Let me share a personal example with you. When I first became a member of the Altar Guild ten years ago, my thoughts were about doing everything correctly and perfectly. I was told that I was setting God’s table and remember – that is an awesome task, so do it right! Somewhere along the way those thoughts became secondary. I still wanted to do things correctly and perfectly, but I began to realize the deep significance of setting the Lord’s table for him and the congregation. I began to understand and internalize the significant connection that the preparation of the Church has with the Liturgy and the Eucharist.

Walking into the Church for a Sunday service, especially after the Altar Guild members have spent a Saturday morning preparing the Church’s worship area, is a calming, joyful and very humbling experience. It prepares the soul for the service.

Seeing the altar in all its beauty, seeing the beautiful frontal filled with meaning and tradition, the chalice perfectly veiled, the linens carefully pressed, the lovely flowers flanking the tabernacle, the candles standing tall with their flickering flames, and the wine and bread ready for the Eucharist: these are the things that fill the hearts of the Altar Guild members with reverence and humility.

The feelings created by preparing the Church for you and our Lord, are what make the Altar Guild a gratifying ministry for all of us who serve as members.

Ministering through service, reverence and humility – that is what the Altar Guild is all about.

Thank you, Altar Guild members for your faithful service. And, Thanks be to God. Amen

“A society grows great when Episcopalians plant trees whose shade they know they will never enjoy!”

*St. Thomas Planned Giving Committee Proverb
Circa April 2019*



To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it.

Mother Teresa

Think Planned Giving!

ST. THOMAS
Episcopal
CHURCH



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Dr. Stephen White

Director of Music

Denise Genise

Bookkeeper

Karmel Addis

Communications

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Battle Creek, MI
Permit No. 734

Return Service Requested

Parish Schedule

Sundays

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

*Childcare available for infants and toddlers
from 9:30 a.m., upstairs in the nursery.*

Coffee reception following both services.

5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong (First Sunday)

Parish Evensong (Third Sunday)

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.

May



- Wed/1st **iBelieve Class: Praying. Changing God or Us**, 6:30 p.m.
- Sat/4th **Janine Adrianson Memorial Service**, 2 pm in the chapel
- Sun/5th **The Rev. Canon Bill Spaid**, Regional Missioner,
presides at both services
St. Mary's Deli Sale, following both services
Organ Recital, 4:30 p.m.
Choral Evensong, 5:00 p.m.
- Wed/8th **Preaching Circle**, 6:30 p.m.
- Thu/16th **St. Margaret's Circle**, 1 p.m.
- Sat/18th **St. Thomas Volunteers - Saturday Breakfast**
- Sun/19th **Parish Evensong**, 5:00 p.m.
- Mon/20th **Ladies' Night Out**, 6:00 p.m.
- Tue/21st **Mutual Ministry Review**, 6:00 p.m.
- Tue/28th **St. Mary's Circle**, 12 noon
- Thu/30th **Ascension Day**
Holy Eucharist with hymns in the Church, 7 p.m.
- Fri/31st **The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin**
Holy Eucharist in the chapel, 12 noon