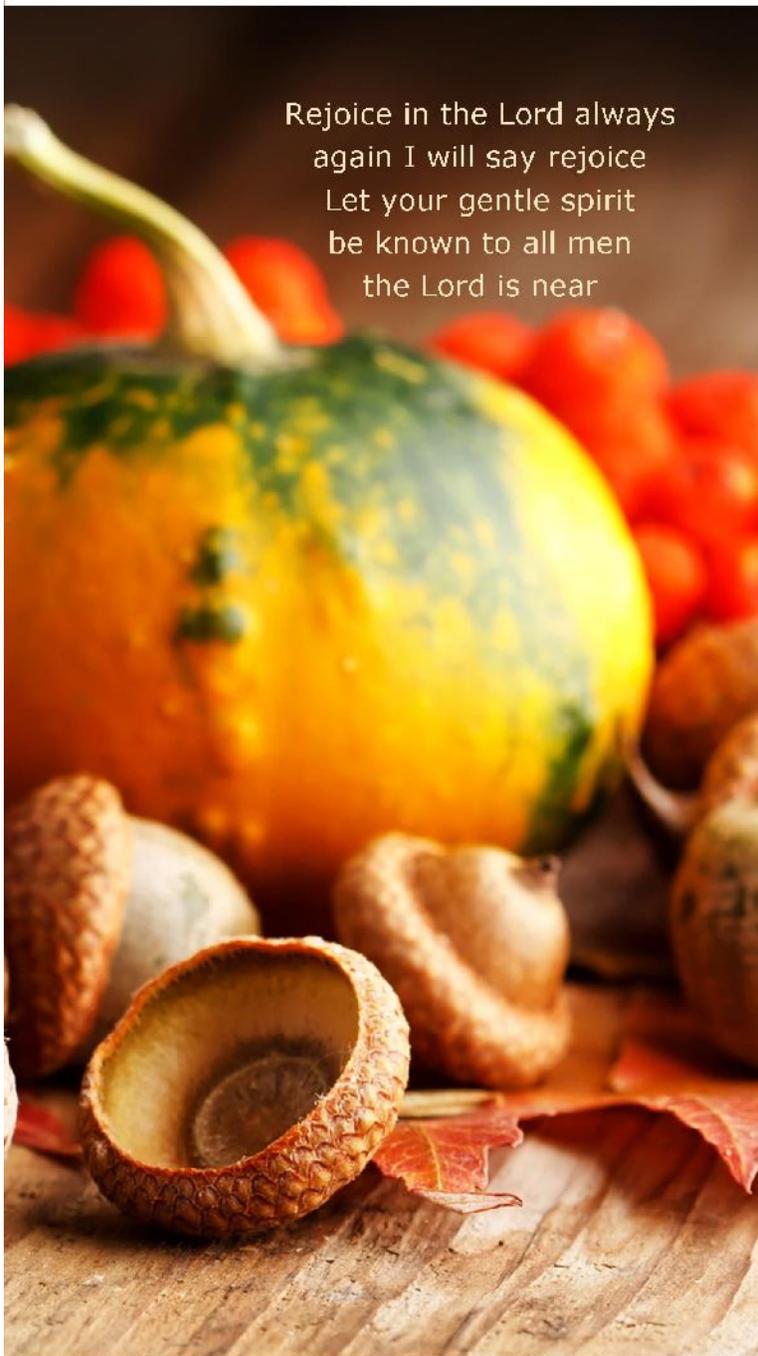




# THE SALTY SAINT

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

## *Fall into life at St. Thomas*



Rejoice in the Lord always  
again I will say rejoice  
Let your gentle spirit  
be known to all men  
the Lord is near

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#### **GOING TO THE HOSPITAL? Having an outpatient procedure?**

*Please call or email the office to let us know. We really, really want to pray for you, visit you, and support you and those you love, but we cannot do that unless you tell us first.*

pick up your copy in the

# The Treasurer's Corner

by Mickey Cochran, Treasurer



Unusual times. Yes, quite unusual times. And they seem interminable. Thankfully for our church, there is “a loyal customer base”; faithful, committed parishioners and friends who continue to support St Thomas through their financial pledges and contributions. Such support has allowed the church to maintain a” sort of” normal business regimen. This must be a small source of pride when it is happening amongst all the “all but normal,” interminable environment through which we are passing. As your Treasurer, I appreciate it.

There will soon be a stewardship campaign. It happens every year at St Thomas, just like clockwork. This year’s campaign will carry special significance. In addition to providing an outline for how we emerge from Covid-19, it will hopefully be the financial blueprint for, among other things, the hiring of our next Rector. When it comes, I ask for your very thoughtful and prayerful consideration so our church will not lose its financial footing, lately achieved.

Through August 16<sup>th</sup>, total receipts received from all sources were \$138,820.39 or 58.18% of budget expectations. At this point in the budget year, this percentage should be approaching 66.67% in order to meet budget expectations. Pledge receipts received totaled \$109,471.12 or 62.24% of budgeted amounts. Non-pledge contributions totaled \$4,810.00 or 18.50% of budgeted amounts. This percentage should be in the 60-65% at this point to maintain a healthy budget. Plate cash remained constant at 16% of expectations.

Through the period, a total of \$71,017.63 has been expended for operating expenses. Please review the table below for detailed information.

	2020 Budget Results	2020 Budget Estimate	2020 Budget Remaining	Actual % of Budget Realized
Beginning Cash From Prior Year	\$12,810.00	\$12,910.00	-0-	100.00%
CARES Proceeds	\$9,785.68	\$11,227.00	\$1,441.32	87.16%
Pledges	\$109,471.12	\$175,875.00	\$66,403.88	62.24%
Non-Pledge Receipts	\$4,810.00	\$26,000.00	\$21,190.00	18.50%
Plate Cash	\$645.20	\$4,000.00	\$3,354.80	16.13%
Endowment	-0-	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	-0-
Prior Year Pledge Paid 2020	\$525.00	XXXXXXXXXX	(\$525.00)	XXXXXXXXXX
Misc. Income	\$746.23	\$500.00	(\$246.23)	149.25%
Checking/Savings Account Interest	\$27.16	\$50.00		54.32%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$138,820.39</b>	<b>\$237,662.00</b>	<b>\$98,841.16</b>	<b>58.41%</b>

[X] = No Budget Estimate

## St. Thomas/Bill Pruitt Scholarship Committee

During this time of uncertainty, schools are trying to resume classes, whether in person or virtually. Beaufort County Community College has resumed classes in the ways they feel are best for their students. As we all have been dealing with the pandemic, some parents have lost jobs and are feeling the financial strain of being able to continue paying for tuition, books, transportation and everyday expenses. Young folks need an education now more than ever. St. Thomas can step up and help these young people stay in school and continue their studies toward fulfilling their goals.

One of our scholarship recipients, Loren Cherry, sent a thank-you note that was shared with you earlier. Another of our students, Carter Boyd, sent this note: "Thank you so much for awarding me with the Bill Pruitt/St. Thomas Episcopal Church Scholarship. This means so much to me and my family. Carter Boyd."

Our third student, Kendall Watkins, whom we have been helping for three semesters, wrote, "I am writing to thank you for your generous \$500 Bill Pruitt/St. Thomas Episcopal Church Scholarship. As you may know, I am a nursing major in the RIBN program at both BCCC and ECU. I only have two more semesters left before graduating from BCCC with my Associates in Nursing. After graduation I plan to continue my education at ECU to complete my bachelors degree. During this time I will also be working as a registered nurse. Thanks to your endless support, I am one step closer to that goal. By awarding me the Bill Pruitt/St. Thomas Episcopal Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school--learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to my community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me. I am forever grateful for the continued support you have given me. May God bless you. Sincerely, Kendal Watkins".

Our committee believes we have selected three very good and deserving students with the help of Serena Sullivan at BCCC. If you would like to help more young folks from Beaufort County start college or finish their studies to reach their goals, please send your donation to the church office and make sure you mark it for the scholarship fund.

Thank you for your continued support!

Scholarship Committee – Susan Simpson, Sue Brown, Betty Pruitt



### **Upcoming Birthdays**

#### September

- 3 – Susan Stewart
- 7 – Ginger Morrison
- 11 – Bill Monroe,  
Linda Thornton
- 13 – Mark Batton,  
Dot Batton
- 22 – Harry Wetmore
- 25 – Kay Leager
- 26 – Betty Wheeler
- 29 – Linda Baldree

#### October

- 1 – Mike Baker
- 3 – Jim Bowman,  
Mike Farschon
- 21 – Vicki Tomaini
- 26 – Kathy Sutter
- 29 - Carole Deaton
- 30 – Jack Whichard

## History of St. Thomas

by Patti Phelps

In the last Salty Saint I introduced Rev Alexander Stewart who was rector here from 1753 to 1771. If you remember I described his first wives; one who came with him to the colony, after her death he married Elizabeth Porter. After her death he married Penelope Johnston who was from a prominent and wealthy family in our area and New Bern. And you guessed it, after her death he married Sarah Coutanch, widow of the builder of the Palmer Marsh house. Less than a year later she died and he married Elizabeth Hobbs who survived his death in 1771.



What an interesting life he must have led but also it is indicative of how difficult life in the colonies was. Rev Stewart's parish covered most of present day Beaufort, Hyde, and Pitt counties. In addition to ministering to the white communities he worked with Negroes and the "pathetic remnants of the several Indian tribes". He visited the "Attamuskeets, the Roanoak, and Hatteras Indians" attempting to spread Christianity. He established a school in Hyde County in 1763. His reports to the SPG (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in London) show that every year he baptized around 25 blacks, 300 whites, and administered Holy Communion to 200 individuals. His parish was around 3,000 people who were Anglican. His bairn were the Anabaptists. After Pitt County was made a different parish his parishioners consisted of approximately 1,000 white and 400 negroes. According to Governor Hobbs "In Bath town where the church is finished and Divine Service is performed there are about 20 families". Rev Stewart's report to the SPG state that the church was "is ruinous but is now repairing". In 1765 Gov Tryon reported that the church was again in need of "considerable repairs".

Rev Stewart's last years were plagued with ill health most notably rheumatism brought on by his travels. In 1765 he was carried to New Bern where he strove to meet the needs of his parish. Sadly, he like Rev Garzia, was not well treated by his lay leaders. He was not compensated as they had promised and he suffered great losses from a terrible storm (hurricane). He died in the spring of 1771 and although his internment location is not known it is said that his body was laid to rest within St Thomas.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
PO Box 257  
Bath, NC 27808  
Office: 252-923-9141  
[stthomasbath@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasbath@gmail.com)  
[www.StThomasParishNC.org](http://www.StThomasParishNC.org)

Kay Leager  
Senior Warden  
[kayleager@gmail.com](mailto:kayleager@gmail.com)  
cell: (919)227-6354

Barbara Owens  
Parish Administrator

### 2020 Vestry

Kay Leager, Sr. Warden  
Jack Piland, Jr. Warden  
Mickey Cochran,  
Treasurer Clerk  
Betty Eschenbauch  
Joe Tomaini  
Tom Chuman  
Ginger Morrison  
Barbara Craig  
Robert Tankard  
Hutch Stewart

### Ministry Chairs

Fritz Morrison, Outreach  
Betty Eschenbauch,  
Altar Guild  
Sue Brown & Sharon  
Britt, Flower Guild  
Dick Haar,  
Endowment Fund  
Barbara Owens,  
Communications

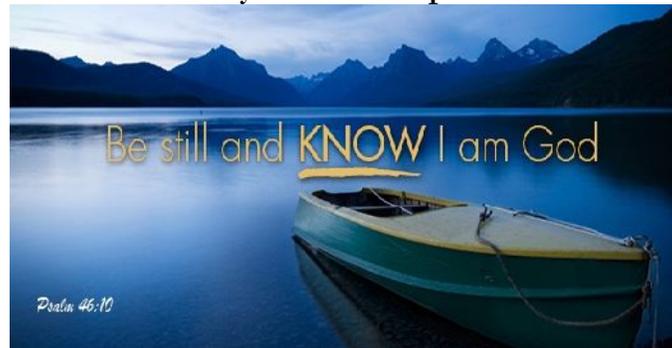
### Communication

Ministry  
This committee is  
responsible for the Salty  
Saint, weekly Fishnet and  
the website.

Barbara Owens  
KayLeager  
Joe Tomaini

## Centering Prayer

by Patti Phelps



Centering prayer was an important part of my life even before covid and the present turmoil in the world. A recent commentary in Richard Rohr's daily meditations suggested that with centering prayer and contemplation we can learn to be present in the NOW.

“Being present means that one is paying attention to what is happening in the moment. This does not mean forgetting about the past or future, but rather in the moment, fully attending to what is taking place right now. Being present also means being observant, listening carefully, not judging the situation or people in it, and being less occupied with thinking and more engaged in consciously being with whatever is occurring. It also means being embodied which does not mean that one must be aware of every body sensation at the time, but simply conscious of inhabiting one's body. What is most useful in supporting that awareness is the breath. . . .

Breathing deeply assists us in centering ourselves in the physical body and staying in the moment as opposed to becoming lost in the mind, thereby disconnecting from our physicality. . . .”

Using breath is a tool for centering and many people choose it instead of, or in addition to, a sacred word. Whichever you use, this is the time to practice being present.



## St Thomas Angels Read (STAR)

by Judi Miller

As you know because of Covid 19 the school year is different for the time being. With that in mind we will not be able to volunteer to read with the 2nd graders, which makes us sad. Since the children will not be attending school we have no way of dispensing our usual gifts of books to them so we are postponing the purchase of the books for the time being. We will keep you up to date on any changes. Please keep all the teachers, staff and students in your prayers each day. Love to all and stay safe!

## **From the Sr. Warden**

At this time we are still in Phase 2 of reopening with no more than 10 people allowed in the church, but more allowed in outdoor services as long as we can maintain safe distances. With this in mind, the Vestry and Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM's) are planning an outdoor **Morning Prayer Service on Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 a.m.** You'll need to wear a mask and bring your own chair and prayer book if you have one, but you'll be able to worship again with fellow parishioners. If all goes well we will plan additional outdoor services during the fall.

### Vestry Communication

The COVID pandemic has lasted far longer than anyone would have predicted, and everyone has had challenges. We have tried to keep in touch, sending out messages from the Diocese and providing updates about our clergy search through regular electronic communications. Now the Vestry is planning to reach out by phone to every parishioner to check in, hear any concerns, offer assistance if needed and get your input about what you would like to see in our next Rector. During the next few weeks each Vestry member will call a group of parishioners; our goal is to speak with each of you personally.

### Rector Search Committee

The Vestry has appointed a Rector Search Committee, with Gib Ash acting as chair. Also appointed were Vestry member Betty Eschenbauch; Allison Smith, Susan Tankard, LaRue Chuman, Buddy Conner and Larry McAvoy. This committee will be very busy over the next months, working in conjunction with the Diocese to gather information, solicit input from parishioners and create a parish portfolio as we prepare to call our next Rector. We are grateful for this team of capable and committed parishioners who will help us achieve an important goal.

### Stewardship Committee

It has never been more important for our parish to meet its stewardship goals as we make plans for this year and beyond. We have been very fortunate to continue receiving pledges and other contributions even during the suspension of regular services, and we have been able to keep all our financial commitments. This year's Stewardship Committee will include Vestry member Tom Chuman; Roberta Kincheloe, Mack Simpson and Gail Kenefick. You'll be hearing more from these folks over the next couple of months; St. Thomas' financial health will be a big factor in attracting our next Rector. We ask for your prayers and careful consideration as you consider your pledge for next year.

And finally, in this time of limited activity and social interaction, take a moment to contemplate the beautiful place where we live. If we must stay home, can you think of a better place to be?

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it."*

*Psalm 19:1; Psalm 24:1*



*Bath Creek on a recent Saturday morning taken by Mary Ellen Adams*

## **St. Francis Sunday October 4th**

St. Francis Sunday is October 4<sup>th</sup>.

At a 9:00 am outdoor Morning Prayer service, we will give thanks to God for His creation remembering we are to care for all its inhabitants. The service, conducted by Rev. Douglas Culton, will be followed by our traditional pet blessing

All pets are welcome!

St Francis, who founded the Catholic Church's Franciscan order, lived in Italy during the late 12th and 13th centuries. He is remembered for his generosity to the poor and his willingness to minister to the lepers. He is remembered for his love for animals and nature. St Francis died at Portiuncula, Italy on October 4, 1226.

Pope Gregory IX pronounced St Francis a saint in 1228. The pope also laid the foundation stone for the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi, Italy.

