



THE SALTY SAINT

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

Collect for the Search Committee

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ promised us that when we are gathered together in His name, He would be there with us. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we seek the person you want to lead us closer to you, the one God who lives and reigns forever and ever.

2021 Vestry Nominees

This year we have three Vestry members (Ginger Morrison, Jack Piland and Kay Leager) rotating off and one vacant position with two years remaining due to Hutch Stewart's resignation a few months ago. Below are Vestry nominations with a bio provided by each candidate.



Becky Enzor

I grew up in Coolidge, GA on a family farm and infused in Southern Baptist everything. I graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in Horticulture, moved to Raleigh in 1980 and joined St Michaels Episcopal Church. I was active in Episcopal Church Women, Flower Guild, served on the Vestry and was Chair of the Grounds Committee.

Jimmy and I were married at St Michaels in 1995 and continued to be active until joining St. Thomas in 2017. I serve on the Flower and Altar Guilds, Backpack Pals and a Food Group. I have also assisted with the grounds. One of the reasons we chose Bath to retire was St. Thomas. We felt welcomed and simply love the parishioners. Sara Jo Manning introduced us to St. Thomas and Jimmy had known Bill and Mary Ann Howard through work.

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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.

Jimmy and I spent ten years restoring a house built in 1886 that we moved from the town of Fair Bluff NC to a tobacco field across the road from where Jimmy grew up. While working on the restoration we were active in Spring Branch Baptist Church and I served on the Food Committee and the Grounds Committee.

We have two children, Ben, from my first marriage and Courtney, from Jim's first marriage. Ben is an Episcopal Priest in Arizona and Courtney has recently married and lives in Burlington NC.



David Moretz

I was born and raised near Boone, NC growing up in the Lutheran church (being of German ancestry). After attending UNC-CH and receiving a BS degree in biology, I served in the Peace Corps in Nepal as an agricultural extension agent specializing in fish culture. Upon returning to the states, I attended dental school at UNC and established a general practice in Beulaville, NC, joining the local Presbyterian church where I served as a deacon and on a search committee for a pastor. As the kids grew to high school age, the First Baptist church in Jacksonville had a tremendous youth program so we joined to support our children whose friends were there. (Gail and I have 4 daughters between us and just celebrated our 25th anniversary). I have been on 15 dental mission trips (Mexico and Honduras) and am just finishing up a 2 year term as president of the Christian Dental Society. In my spare time I service and repair portable dental units that go on mission trips enabled by the Christian Dental Society.



Buddy Conner

Ernest L. (Buddy) Conner, Jr. was born in Jasper, Alabama and raised in Fort Bragg/Fayetteville NC. He was confirmed as an Episcopalian in 1977 while a member of St. Pauls in the Pines Episcopal Church in Fayetteville. He joined the Army immediately after graduating Douglas Byrd High School. In the Army, he served at Fort Bragg and Hawaii. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; the Army Commendation Medal; and the 1978 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Award for the United States Army Support Command in Hawaii. He met his wife, Lisa, an Army Nurse, while serving in Hawaii. After the military, he attended East Carolina University, graduating with honors, being awarded the 1984 ECU University Outstanding Senior Award. He obtained his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987.

Upcoming Events **at St. Thomas**

Adult Education

Each Sunday at 10 am

All Saints' Day

November 1st

First Sunday of Advent

November 29th

Annual Meeting

December 6th

He has continuously practiced law in Eastern North Carolina, concentrating in criminal defense, with an emphasis on defense of those charged with capital murder. He has practiced law in the District and Superior Courts of North Carolina and in the U.S. Federal District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina; the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals; and the U.S. Supreme Court. He received the Pamlico Sound Legal Services Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award in 1991. He was recognized as the Outstanding Project Chair, by the University City Kiwanis in 1992. He was recognized as the Pitt County Legal Secretaries' Boss of the Year in 1993. He was the 2007 recipient of the J. Kirk Osborn Award for excellence in legal service and mentoring through encouragement and example on behalf of indigent men and women. He served as a member of the Board of Directors for: the Center for Death Penalty Litigation; the North Carolina Advocates for Justice; and the Pitt County Family Violence Center. He was 2010 Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Fair Trial Initiative, working in North Carolina and surrounding states to ensure fairness for indigent defendants facing the death penalty, and to help address systemic inequalities in the justice system's handling of capital cases. He was the 2018 recipient of the NC Advocates for Justice's Charles Becton Teaching Award.

He and his wife, Lisa, have two daughters, Melissa and Jessica. They also raised their nephew, Marcus Wayne Conner, Jr. They are the proud grandparent of 5 grandchildren. They have called Bayview home since 2006.



Ric Miller

Ric is a retired commercial building contractor having served the Greenville community as a City Councilman, a volunteer on the Salvation Army Board, Boys and Girls Club Board, and various other charitable organizations. He has been attending St. Thomas Church for almost 20 years. He has served on the Vestry for 2 separate terms. He has also served as the Junior and Senior warden at different times and as the Chairman of the building committee for the Noe Building addition.

Ric is married to Judi and is presently serving a life sentence with no chance of parole. They have two grown married children, 5 grands and 5 greats; they love tail lights.

Ric has agreed to run for the two-year position and serve as Junior Warden.

The Treasurer's Corner

— by Mickey Cochran, Treasurer



St Thomas continues to carry out its financial operations in as normal a fashion as the present pandemic circumstances will allow. The “cost of doing business” continues for the church but the fact that the church is not at present paying a Rector and Choirmaster will result in a temporary financial windfall. Be assured, the operative word is *temporary*. As has been the longstanding practice of vestries at St Thomas, any funds budgeted but not used in a budget year are carried forward and made available, at the discretion of the vestry, in future mission and ministry activities. I believe it to be our responsibility as St Thomas parishioners to continue to financially support it through the present “peculiar” circumstances and, if possible, enable the church to emerge even stronger than before. Sounds like a “stump speech” but in this setting very appropriate. As we entrust to the Rector Search Committee the responsibility of locating our next Rector, it will be essential that St Thomas strongly show that we are serious about being church, and serious about our church in this unusual environment.

Through the first half of October, total receipts received from all sources were \$172,202.59 or 72.46% of budget expectations. Prorata receipts through October normally would be at 83.33% of total annual receipts. Most receipts received were from those of us who annually pledge financial support. Pledge receipts totaled \$139,207.00 or 79.15% of estimates. Non pledge receipts totaled \$7,430.00 (28.58%) and plate cash totaled \$646.20 (16.16%).

Through the period, a total of \$87,323.02 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	\$12,810.00	-0-	100.00%
CARES Proceeds	\$11,227.00	\$11,227.00	\$-0-	100.00%
Pledges	\$139,207.00	\$175,875.00	\$36,668.00	79.15%
Non-Pledge Receipts	\$7,430.00	\$26,000.00	\$18,570.00	28.58%
Plate Cash	\$646.20	\$4,000.00	\$3,353.80	16.16%
Endowment	-0-	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	-0-
Prior Year Pledge Paid 2020	\$525.00	XXXXXXXXXX X	(\$525.00)	XXXXXXXXXX X
Misc. Income	\$500.00	\$330.23	\$169.77	66.05%
Checking/Savings Account Interest	\$27.16	\$27.16	\$50.00	54.32%
TOTALS	\$172,202.59	\$237,662.00	\$65,459.41	72.46%

[X] = No Budget Estimate



Upcoming Birthdays

November

- 1 – Maurice Hampson, John Britt
- 2 – Johnie Williams
- 5 - Kate Satterfield
- 6 – Mary Ann Howard, Jerol Selby, Lucy Horton
- 10 – Maggie Brienza
- 11 – Vicki Clement
- 14 – Susan Simpson
- 15 – Reid Betham, Becky Enzor
- 16 – Linda Davis
- 28 – Judi Miller
- 29 – Patti Phelps

December

- 7 – Bonnie Ahlberg
- 9 – Anne Wester
- 10 – Donald Cartwright
- 11 – Ivan McRoy
- 18 – Angie Satterfield
- 20 – Vance Long
- 22 – Mary Helen Ellis, Pat Mansfield
- 23 – Hutch Stewart
- 27 – LaRue Chuman

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Spot On Old Rock and Roll

“Money can’t buy me love.” So said Lennon and McCartney of the Beatles in one of their hits from the ‘60’s. They were right and you can’t run a church, or at least a church like St. Thomas, without either love OR money.



We’ve got the love. Plenty of it. And we show it every day, not only with the way we care for each other, but in the many ways we care for others in our larger community who need our help. Others like Martha’s Project, Salvation Army, Angel Tree, Backpack Pals, Zion Shelter and Soup Kitchen, Eagles’ Wings, Beaufort County Community College, Pet Food Pantry, Easter Egg Hunt, Literacy Volunteers, Open Door Community Center, and the Blind Center.

All those organizations that have been the beneficiaries of St. Thomas’ love in the past have seen their revenue streams ebb like a falling tide. So while our personnel costs have decreased (with no rector or music director), our other costs have increased. This is where we show our love for others with the money we provide.

We fell a bit short this calendar year in meeting our pledge goal. So our goal for 2021 has to increase in order to keep our commitments to the community and to meet our ongoing operating expenses. It should also demonstrate to a potential rector that we are a congregation that cares.

As of this date, November 3, we have received pledges totaling \$99,987. Our goal is \$225,000.

So if you haven’t yet pledged, PLEASE do so soon. You can mail your pledge card in, drop it in the secure drop box outside the office, or bring it to the office. Barbara works on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Thank you!

The Stewardship Committee
The Beatles

St. Thomas Annual Meeting



The Annual meeting will be on Sunday, December 6. It will most likely be a Zoom meeting, which allows anyone with internet access to attend and enables us to account for all who were present for voting and record-keeping purposes. The Vestry is working on the technology to make this possible, so keep an eye on the Fishnet for updates on that meeting.

The Bill Pruitt/St. Thomas Scholarship

Since 2016 the St. Thomas Bill Pruitt Scholarship has helped deserving students in Beaufort County achieve career goals and follow their dreams for the future. Our Pruitt scholarship students have earned degrees and certificates that declare that they are “workforce ready.” We have also had scholarship awardees go on to pursue advanced degrees in their field.



This semester our scholarship is helping to support three students at BCCC. One is completing the associate degree in nursing while she is also enrolled in ECU’s RIBN bachelors degree program. A second student is starting the BCCC nursing program. Our third student is in the college’s Business Administration program.

Our St. Thomas community should have the satisfaction of knowing that the Pruitt Scholarship has had a positive impact, improving the lives of individual students in need while enhancing life for all of us in Beaufort County.

Many individuals in our area have suffered from the impact of the COVID 19. During these challenging days we should remember that we are blessed to be able to help those who want to improve their lives and contribute to the quality of life in our community.

Your contribution to the St. Thomas Bill Pruitt Scholarship is appreciated. You are making a difference!

Thank you.

Scholarship Committee
Betty Pruitt
Sue Brown
Susan Simpson

Be Still
AND KNOW
THAT I AM GOD
-PSALM 46:10

Centering Prayer

When I start my quiet time, my prayer time, I always begin with words from the Broadway show “Jesus Christ Superstar”: Thank you for the gift of knowing you more dearly. This is what I hope to gain from my prayer time and its focus is on now, not on an outcome. Centering prayer is a method not a technique, we should have no expectations, and not expect perfection because there is no such thing as perfection. When we have thoughts, wanderings, attractions, new insights and even revelations about ourselves, we need to respond by returning to our sacred word. These are normal happenings during Centering Prayer, but we should not resist, retain, react; merely return to our sacred word. It is our intention that matters.

The gifts of a regular practice of centering prayer are subtle. We may become kinder, more patient, enjoy solitude, be of service to others. As Paul says we are transformed in our connection to God. Centering prayer moves us from conversation with God to communion with God. It habituates us to God’s first language-silence.



History at St. Thomas

— by Patti Phelps

During the time I’ve been writing this article we’ve covered the beginning of the parish, and our earliest priests Rev Garzia, and Rev Stewart. This article will take us to the Revolutionary War by covering people who served St Thomas: Peter Blinn and Nathaniel Blount.

Peter Blinn of Bath was a representative to the Colonial Assembly, a justice of the peace, and a commissioner for the Port of Bath. Although he was a prominent citizen he was determined to take up the work of ministry and so he traveled to London for ordination by the Bishop. In this endeavor he was supported by Rev Stewart, and Governor Tryon. After his ordination the Society for the Propagation of the Ministry appointed him as one of 4 unattached missionaries. Although we do not have a record of his serving St Thomas it is a fair deduction based on his ties to Bath. Unfortunately he passed away soon after his return to NC, in 1770.

Nathaniel Blount, of Beaufort County, was a wealthy landowner in Chocowinity and active in Rev Stewart’s congregation on the south side of the river. In 1773 he embarked to London for ordination with the encouragement of St Thomas and Governor Josiah Martin. After he was ordained he returned to NC and the St Thomas parish. Rev Blount was the last clergyman ordained in England for service to NC.

The Revolutionary War emphasized a fundamental weakness within the Anglican Church in America. There were no bishops in America and in order to be ordained perspective clergy had to travel to London, which was expensive and dangerous. The church suffered greatly from lack of clergy at the same time that dissenting sects (Quakers, Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, etc) were growing. Many Anglican clergy left for Canada but Rev Blount stayed committed to NC.

In the next Salty Saint I will continue with Nathaniel Blount’s ministry up to the end of the 18th century.

From the Senior Warden

— by Kay Leager

This is my last Senior Warden column; someone else will take over in January. The Vestry will elect new wardens at the end of this year. Vestry nominations are covered in a separate article in this issue of the Salty Saint.

COVID has affected so many traditions at our church, most especially indoor worship services and other gatherings which we all have missed. Some groups, however, have continued or have recently resumed, including the Flower Guild, Adult Education, Book Discussion and Centering Prayer. Groups that meet regularly publish their meeting times in the Fishnet each week and you may want to participate in one or more of them.

The Stewardship Committee, chaired by Tom Chuman and Mack Simpson, has been busy. Hopefully you have received a letter and a 2021 pledge card as well as a PowerPoint presentation, all describing the vital importance of stewardship especially as we search for a new Rector. Please send in your pledge card by November 17 so that the Finance Committee can develop a budget for 2021. The financial health of a parish is an important part of a prospective Rector's decision to pursue our position. Any salary funds that are not spent in 2020 will be carried over in 2021, a year which will undoubtedly bring significant additional expenses as we conduct a search and hire a new Rector and organist.

The Search Committee, chaired by Gib Ash, has also been busy getting ready to publicize our Rector position. We will advertise through the Diocese and through other outlets which have proven to be effective, but for which there are charges. An important part of the first phase of the search is developing a Parish Profile, which relies heavily on input from the congregation to describe our parish. You should have received a Parish Survey two weeks; please respond by November 6 so that the Search Committee can proceed with its important tasks. Please call the church office if you did not receive a survey. Thanks to all who have responded so far.

We have had some outdoor services during the past few weeks, with good attendance and participation. Thanks especially to Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers, especially Larry McAvoy, for leading the services and to others who have helped make the services go smoothly. We are planning more outdoor services in the near future as weather permits. They are unique, with the occasional barking dog or passing car, but singing birds and a blue sky overhead actually add to the experience!

The Vestry has voted to continue suspension of indoor services for the foreseeable future. When we personally contacted all active parishioners recently, we learned that the majority of our membership is not ready to return to indoor services yet. With our demographic and the size of our church buildings it is not possible to safely accommodate significant numbers of people inside for a service at one time, and multiple services involve extensive cleaning between groups which is not

feasible. A group of Vestry members is investigating the technology required to record and publish services online, both in the near future and later, even after we return to indoor worship, to reach parishioners who are not able to attend in person. Bishop Skirving has written a letter recently with updated guidelines for indoor worship, addressing the increasing numbers of COVID cases; it is included below.

Speaking of the recent phone calls made by members of the Vestry, we appreciate all parishioners we spoke to for sharing their questions and concerns. It was great to catch up with everyone and it gave us some context for future discussions.

And finally, you might be interested to know that we have people visiting our church every week. Hardly a day goes by that there are not multiple visitors, going into the church for quiet meditation, walking around the grounds and taking pictures. Some of them have commented on how unusual but much appreciated it is for a church to always be open. While we are not having indoor services, we are still providing a welcome opportunity for people to worship and reflect, and that feels like an important part of our mission at this time. Many thanks to the Flower Guild for providing beautiful arrangements in the church, enhancing our visitors' experience and adding to the quiet reverence of our space. Thanks also to Junior Warden Jack Piland and other parishioners who work to make our building and grounds attractive and inviting.

Be sure to check out the virtual walking tour on the St. Thomas webpage <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxgPMAyGW9M&feature=youtu.be> Organist Billy Endicott finished this project during his last weeks at St. Thomas before he left to take another position. It is delightful.

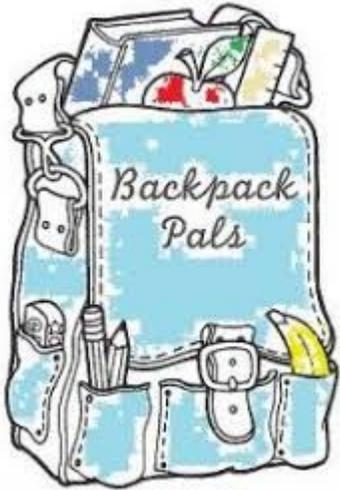
Thanks to everyone who is working to maintain the spirit and mission of St. Thomas during these uncertain times. "For the body is not one member, but many." I Corinthians 12:14



A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Skirving

Bishop Skirving sent a letter in mid-October to address current limits for in-person worship, which reflect Governor Cooper's Phase 3 guidelines.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/3283933/Bishop_Skirving_s_10_6_Pastoral_Letter_Updated_Guidelines_for_Worship.pdf



Backpack Pals

Backpack Pals is a nationally recognized program designed to meet the needs of children, identified by school staff, who have little to eat over the weekend. During the 2019-2020 school year, the BPP committee members packed up to 34 bags of food for children at Bath and Northeast Elementary Schools. BPP Committee members delivered the bags to the schools on Wednesday or Thursday. The school bus drivers transferred the bags of food to the designated students in need as they got off the bus on Friday afternoons. Although the Covid Pandemic cut this BPP service off in March of 2019 and is not allowing it to begin for the 2019-2020 school year until October of 2020, with your help, we are preparing to once again address the needs of hungry children for this school year. Your

monetary and food donations are gratefully received and make it possible for us to continue this valuable outreach service to our community.

Food donations for BPP are collected the second Sunday of each month. Nonperishable, individually wrapped single servings of the following items are most needed. Each child receives a total of 17 items weekly. They are: 2 hot chocolates/cocoas; 2 100% Fruit juices; 3 snacks (pretzels, pudding, granola bars); 2 breakfast bars or cereal (grits, oatmeal, individual boxes of sugar-free cereal); 4 protein items (canned tuna or chicken, peanut butter packs, macaroni & cheese, soup); and, 4 fruit cups (applesauce, Mandarin oranges, mixed fruit, peaches, pears).

During the 2019-2020 school year the approximate food cost per child was: \$4.70 a week; \$19 a month; \$57 for three months; \$114 for six months; and, \$133 for the 2019-20 modified school year. BPP is a community effort. Bath Christian donates money to the program and Bath Methodist prepares food for half of the students in need at Bath Elementary. Throughout the school year we also receive some food donations from St. Thomas congregants, from Martha's Kitchen, and from the American Red Cross.

THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF BPP shows up as improved student behavior, attendance and academic achievement. We are frequently told how much the students look forward to getting their backpacks full of food and how much they count on it.

If you are interested in getting involved in the work of this important committee, please contact Ginger Morrison at 919-760-9982 or gingermorrison@gmail.com. A month;

Thank you for your support!!

The image shows the words "Friendly Reminders" written in a black, cursive script. A red flourish is drawn over the word "Reminders", starting from the top of the 'R' and looping back to the top of the 'i'.

Church Reminders

Stewardship/Pledge Cards due November 17th

**Annual Reports are due in the church office by
November 22nd.**

Christmas Outreach Initiatives



2020 Christmas Angel Tree

Again this year our “Christmas Angel” event will address an important need among adults in Beaufort County who have either mental or physical disabilities and who have no one who is able or willing to support them. We will receive wish lists from adults who are wards of the Beaufort County Department of Social Services. St. Thomas' Christmas tree with “Angels” will be in the Noe Building or

your Angel tag can be delivered to you.

Look for specific dates for Angel tag availability and gift collection in upcoming editions of the Fishnet.



**Plans are being made for the Salvation Army bell ringing.
Updates will be in upcoming editions of the Fishnet.**

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Kay Leager
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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

Ministry Chairs

Fritz Morrison, *Outreach*
Betty Eschenbauch,
Altar Guild
Susan Tankard
& Kay Leager,
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
Kay Leager
Joe Tomaini