

12 1/2 Madison St.
Hamilton, NY 13346
315-824-1745 (for fax also)
E-Mail: stchurch@cnymail.com
Website: StThomasHamilton.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

RECTOR:

The Rev. Brooks A. Cato 501-554-1236
brooks.cato@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Dianne Adams McDowell 315-684-7215

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Leah Schmitt 315-750-6040

WARDENS

Hannah McClennen 315-691-2001
Deb Barker 315-691-6203

VESTRY MEMBERS:

Jana Laxa '22 315-750-9111
Erin Loranty '22 716-440-3097
Dan Schult '22 315-750-8183
Heidi Riley '23 352-200-9931
John Orr '23 610-716-2501
Susan Beattie '24 315-824-0209
Valerie Morkevicius '24 312-218-1389
Anne Perring '24 415-280-8943

CLERK OF THE VESTRY:

Susan Cerasano 315-824-1037

TREASURER:

John Bowen 315-824-4118

SEXTON:

Barbara J. Hicks 607-244-3397

TIDINGS EDITOR:

Rose Novak 315-824-2082
movakhamilton@gmail.com

Tidings



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is an inclusive and worshipping Christian community that accepts the challenge of living the Gospel.

The Rector's Column

By the time you're reading this, I am very likely either somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean or firmly on the ground in Iceland. I'll be in Iceland with my sister-in-law Lisa and most of the rest of the family from September 1st through the 15th. This is her big bucket list trip, a chance to see the Northern Lights, and likely the last adventure we'll get to go on with Lisa.

It's a bittersweet thing. We're fortunate to be able to steal away some time with her while she's still mostly herself, but, of course, we'd all prefer not to be taking this trip. Rather, we'd all love to take this trip, but we'd rather go at a more convenient time and with no dark clouds hanging over us. Sure, there will be beauty and wonder. The delightful ways existing in a new place can challenge us to our core, but there will also be the delicate care paid to Lisa and her well-being while we're there. We've signed up for all sorts of things while we're there, and I'm sure I'll come back with some good stories. But mostly, I'm hoping to come back with fond memories of Lisa's amazing life well and fully lived.



I was looking up handy Icelandic phrases the other day, and I was delighted to learn the way to say something like "goodbye" or "see ya later" is "Bless bless." You better believe this priest delights in that particular turn of phrase!

So, with Iceland on my immediate sights, and a whirlwind of activity buzzing upon my return, I look forward to seeing y'all in the back half of September. In the meantime,

Bless bless!
Brooks+

Monday, September 5th Labor Day

The office is closed. There will be no Friendship Inn.

IN THIS ISSUE:	
The Rector's Column	1
Hamilton CROP Hunger Walk	2-3
Hospitality Opportunities	3-4
Christian Education	4
Annual Meeting	4
Nave Gazing	4
Community Bikes	5
Outreach Summary	5
Sermon for the Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost: Luke 13:10-17	6-7
July Vestry Minutes	8-9
When Fall Comes to New England	10
The Church Property	10
Madison Lane's Fall Dinner	11
Schmitt Sisters Dance	11
Autumn at the Palace	12
Prayers of the People	12
Thanksgivings	12
Annual Picnic Pictures	13
September Calendar of Servers	14

Hamilton CROP Hunger Walk October 16, 2022, 2 pm

Why raise money for the Crop Walk?

- To help families locally and abroad who are struggling with hunger.
- Worldwide between 702 and 828 million people were affected by hunger in 2021. 46 million more than in the previous year. A total of 345 million people in 82 countries are in danger of dying due to insufficient food. Extreme weather, wars, the pandemic, and high inflation are all creating havoc with people's access to adequate food. This is intolerable.
- A quarter of the money raised is returned to Madison County's local food cupboards and the Friendship Inn. Suzanne Collins of the local Food Cupboard notes that they have been serving between 108 and 133 households this year. They are seeing increases in both the number of households as well as those who come several times a month.

www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/online/cb4474en.html

What does Church World Service [CWS] do?

See <https://cwsglobal.org/about/>

- Since 1946 CWS has been combating world hunger, assisting refugees immigrants, victims of Natural disasters, and struggling farmers.
- Their food security, water, sanitation, hygiene, health and livelihood programs focus on everything from crop diversification in Honduras to renewable energy in Bosnia to water access at health posts in Myanmar. You can see the stories of people helped at <https://cwsglobal.org/stories/>
- CWS has a 4-star rating on Charity Navigator.

How did the Hamilton Community do last year?

- Last year the Hamilton Crop Walk raised: \$19,725.
- **Our St. Thomas' team raised \$16,683 of**

this, GIVING US THE HONOR OF RANKING 8TH IN THE COUNTRY amongst individual Crop Walk teams! Local pride!

Our Team: "StThomas Highroad Walkers"
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/highroad-walkers-st-thomas-episcopal-church>

Team Captain: Emily Hutton-Hughes,
ehutton@colgate.edu

Wanted: creative people to make posters for the walk

Want to join & fundraise for the Highroad Walkers?

Team website:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/highroad-walkers-st-thomas-episcopal-church>

- Click the "Join the Team button." This will allow you to track your own online donations to the Team.
- Sign up using email if you don't want to bother with social media.
- If you already have an account, just log in.

Alternative access to the Team. [Focus your computer/cell phone camera on this QR code and then click on the url for the Team webpage that pops up]



Note, if you just want to fundraise without joining the team online, that is ok too but consider giving the people you canvas the option to donate online.

Continued from Page 2

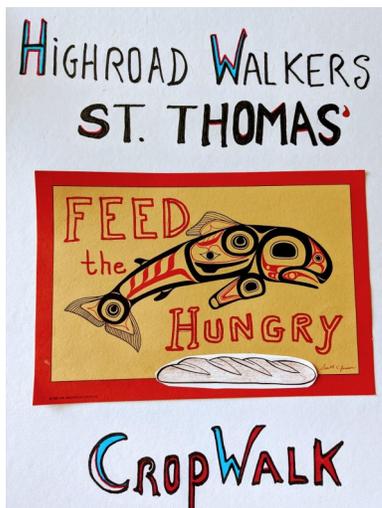
Fundraising tips:

1. Start with your friends, family, and neighbors. Don't be afraid of asking.
2. Send personal emails or letters explaining why this cause matters to you. Emily will provide sample letters on request which you can tailor.
3. Keep track of everyone you've contacted. Be sure to thank everyone individually for their donations.
4. Consider using social media.

How do I donate / what do I do with money raised?

- Encourage folks to directly donate **online** via the team webpage. Advantages: Donor gets a printed receipt and you avoid the hassles of ensuring donated funds are properly accounted for and submitted in an acceptable manner.
- Collect **cash** and donate online yourself OR convert the cash to a check.
- Collect **checks** made payable to **CWS/CROP**.
 - ***Important:** In the note line write "StThomas Highroad Walkers"
- Team captains will be responsible for mailing checks to CWS **after** the Crop Walk is over. We ask that you please don't mail them yourself.

Many thanks to all of you who are able and willing to support St. Thomas' in this important cause!



—Emily Hutton-Hughes

Radical Hospitality

We have two upcoming opportunities to practice hospitality in some radical ways!

First off, FoJo Beans will be hosting an intern from September 19, 2022 - May 31, 2023. His name is Tuguldur, and he will be working at the coffee shop to save money to pay for a college education. The Dans are hoping to find a generous soul that would host Tuguldur with a guest room for his year in Hamilton. For more information on the program that got Tuguldur connected with FoJo, check out <https://www.cetusa.org/trainee-internship-programs/> If you are interested in details about how you can help, please let Fr. Brooks or Dan Foust (danfo@fojobeans.com) know!

Second, we are working with some folks in town to get a Ukrainian refugee family of six out of harm's way and settled into life in Hamilton! At the moment, the biggest need they have is money, primarily to pay for flights out of Ukraine, fees along the way, and funds to provide them as soft a landing as possible. Once they arrive, there are sure to be more ways we can support them, but in the meantime, financial contributions are the most pressing need. If you would like to contribute, please visit: <https://gofund.me/bf6418ac>

Update on Ukrainian refugee family:

As of 10:30 Monday morning (8/29), the GoFundMe page for the Ukrainian refugee family coming to live in Hamilton has raised just shy of \$4,000. Five out of the six family members are hoping to get to safety as soon as possible while the sixth - the 70-year old father - attempts to get details with his passport finalized. While their journey is only just beginning, so is ours. \$4,000 is quite a success in such a short period of time, but there is a long way remaining.

To respond to a couple of questions that have come up: 1) Yes, this is really happening! Barring any unforeseen barriers, the family is coming to Hamilton, likely in mid-September, though we would love to get them here sooner! 2) This is not

Continued on Page 4

an effort of St. Thomas' solely nor of the faith communities in Hamilton, though we are all helping to facilitate. Brent Potter and Saorsa Wissman, two Hamiltonians, are heading up the effort and tapping into as many groups as possible to make this come to fruition.

Please share with anyone you think might be interested in helping. For more information, please contact Saorsa at swissman@colgate.edu or Brent at brepotte@cisco.com

Christian Education

Into September we'll continue Bible Study on Thursday mornings as a Lectionary-based class, looking primarily at the readings for the upcoming Sunday.

NOTE: Bible Study will not meet September 1st, 8th, or 15th.

The Christian Education Commission is delighted to announce Sunday School classes!



Godly Play begins at 9:45 am on September 11th. The Teen Class will begin a week later at 9:00 am on September 18th. The Adult Forum will begin September 18th following Coffee Hour. If you are interested in volunteering to staff the Godly Play or Nursery class rooms, please contact the office.

--Fr. Brooks +

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church will be held Sunday, September 25th following the 10:00 am service. The Parish Life Commission will provide a delicious luncheon, and we'll do the administrative business that keeps our wonderful church running.

--Fr. Brooks +

Nave Gazing

What a gorgeous church we have! Thanks to famed Nineteenth Century architect, Richard Upjohn, our church is one of a select few across the country built in the "Carpenter Gothic" style. What this means is the church was designed with Gothic elements in a way that your local carpenter could build it. Very cool! But what, exactly, are "Gothic elements?"

One of the primary goals of Gothic churches is to draw your eye heavenward. The buildings tend to be rather tall and have subtle arrows worked into the design pointing your eye where the architect would like you to look. In the case of St. Thomas', those "arrows" can be seen in the many pointed arches throughout the building, the sky-scraping belltower, and the crossed rafters.

Another typical feature of Gothic churches is the use of stained glass windows, ostensibly to bring in light but more realistically to show off the beauty of light playing with color. We absolutely see this from just about every vantage point in the nave.

Finally, though our ceilings are not vaulted, we do have those amazing rafters and purlins that evoke a similar feeling. The complex geometrical designs created by the dark wood against the light plaster inject beauty into otherwise mundane structural elements.

Put differently, the building itself serves the function of reminding us of God. There's an old saying that stained glass windows were the poor man's Bible, and the same could be said for our entire worship space. Just walking in feels like we've crossed a threshold into a different world or at least a more distinct purpose.

Put differently again, it sure is pretty!

--Fr. Brooks+

Community Bikes



Community Bikes is a not-for-profit organization that collects and reconditions donated bicycles and places them with those who would love to have a bike, but for whom buying one would be a hardship. Since 2009, Community Bikes has placed more than 4,000 bikes with low income families in our own Madison County community, as well as with at-risk youth in the Caribbean nation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Our new *In Tandem* program uses tandem bikes to provide a shared riding experience for adults with disabilities. Volunteer Captains (the rider in front from the community and from Colgate faculty, students and staff) team up with Stokers, the rider in back from nearby Heritage Farm. (Heritage Farm provides programming for adults with disabilities, most of whom have never ridden a bike before.)

Community Bikes is an all-volunteer organization that relies on volunteers and contributions from the community to serve our neighbors at home and beyond.

—Maureen Fox



Outreach Summary

The Outreach Commission met in March and August of 2022 to discuss how to spend our current year budget of \$7,500. This is a summary of our allocations to various international and regional charities.

Gifts to international charities, which will be matched by the Diocese:

- \$1,500 to **Episcopal Relief and Development Fund to support Ukrainian refugees**. A churchwide Lenten collection yielded an additional \$2,375 for a grand total of \$3,875.
- \$500 to the **Brackett Foundation** to support the Karen people.
- \$500 to the **Haiti Rehabilitation Foundation**. Its mission is to educate Haitians who want to become Occupational or Physical Therapists. HRF is the primary support for the first and only school in Haiti with four-year degree programs in both OT and PT. With over one million disabled Haitians, the need for therapy services is enormous.
- \$250 to **Educare Africa**. Its mission is to improve living and learning conditions primarily for secondary school students and teachers in Cameroon.

Gifts to other good causes:

- \$1,500 to **Hamilton Central School**. First and second grade reading ability has been negatively impacted by the pandemic and the school desperately needed lower level reading books to help the children come up to speed.
- \$1,000 to **Community Action Partnership for Madison County**, which serves low-income and vulnerable families in Madison, Oneida, and Herkimer Counties.
- \$500 to **Help Restore Hope**, which provides support to survivors of domestic abuse.
- \$500 to the **Hamilton Food Cupboard**. In other news a churchwide collection of school backpacks brought in 48. These were dropped off at the Hamilton Food Cupboard on August 16th. Way to go St. Thomas'!
- \$250 to **Community Bikes**.

—Emily Hutton-Hughes

Sermon for the Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost: Luke 13:10-17

At the risk of sounding like a preacher, if you can make it on a Thursday morning, y'all really gotta check out our Bible Study Class. I know, that it sounds like just about the dorkiest thing in the world. We've even talked about a rebranding campaign to make it sound cooler. When I was a teenager, the last thing I ever wanted was to be seen as what I called one of those Jesus t-shirt kind of kids. Well, I say "when I was a teenager" but I'm still worried about being a Jesus t-shirt kid. Which is ironic because 1) I organize my t-shirts into two piles: Jesus and not Jesus and 2) have you seen what I wear every day? Anyway, you gotta come. I know it might be hard to believe, but it's actually fun. We dig into these old stories and try to make sense of what they might've meant way back when they were written and what we might make of 'em now.

You know, there's this old stereotype of Episcopalians that says we don't read our Bibles. As much as it irks me, there's some truth to it. There were several books from scripture that I never read until I was in seminary. Um, y'all, that's not great. I was ready to make these promises for ordination before I even knew all the words. And maybe I was comfortable with it because that stereotype of Episcopalians has a grain of truth to it. I don't know all the reasons why we have that reputation, but I've got some ideas. Maybe we're trying to distance ourselves from extremist Bible thumpers? Maybe we're proud of our intellectual approach to faith and think the Bible isn't intellectual fodder? Maybe there's some painful memories woven into those old words? Maybe there's some worries woven in, too? Or maybe we're just confident that -- because we hear the readings on Sunday and grew up in Sunday School -- we already know the stories?

Whatever the reasons, it's striking that we say the Episcopal Church, really all of Anglicanism, is based on a sturdy three-legged stool of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. We put a lot of emphasis on Reason, Tradition gets its due, but Scripture we just assume is there, taking care of itself. I get it. Like I said, I didn't read any scripture on my own until high school when I

asked my priest where to start. She suggested the Gospel of Mark, which I read and kinda went "meh." I didn't really pick up a Bible again until, well, until my Old Testament class in seminary. And that was the game changer. It wasn't the reading itself that did it for me, it was reading in community. And it was reading in a community that made space to look at a verse, a chapter, even a whole book with disgust or longing or wonder. Now, I'm not saying our class is seminary-level stuff. I don't have those kinda chops. But what I am saying is that that class is as much about curiosity in community as it is about God. Anyway, y'all should come. It's a grand time, and as Christian folk, we probably should be taking a look at what our stories actually say.

That was admittedly a long way of introducing something we talked about in Bible Study a while back: Christian Ethics. I think ethical frameworks are fascinating. Most of the time we do ethical conundrum solving at a subconscious level. But once in a while, we actually have the opportunity to reflect on just such a conundrum with intention. So, there's basically four kinds of ethical frameworks that we lean on in the Christian tradition. God knows, there's more, but these are the biggies. For any of you hardcore ethicists out there, I am absolutely simplifying, so bear with me.

There's utilitarianism, which is the greatest good for the greatest number of people. It's a powerful and compelling argument, but it has its pitfalls. On the one hand, yes, lots of people benefit. On the other, there's a cold calculus that goes into it. As Christians, we really should pay attention to utilitarianism, because it's sorta what lands Jesus on the cross: immense suffering by one in exchange for all of humanity's release. That's as utilitarian as it gets. It's also what allowed our leaders the ethical wiggle room to drop the atomic bomb. Also, Ursula LeGuin has a great short story on utilitarianism and the suffering of queer kids called *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas*.

The second ethical framework is called deontology. Basically, this one says something is ethical because it's legal, and it's ethically wrong if it's illegal. That makes a lot of sense, and it's super straightforward. This works great, assuming the people making the laws are good and concerned with everyone's well-being. It's also the

Continued from Page 6

same framework that allowed Jim Crow laws to wreak havoc. On a similar note, it's the same framework today that says an undocumented Guatemalan fleeing persecution in his home country is "illegal" and shouldn't be here.

The third is the Kantian framework, which says something is ethical if it is just. Legality is less of a concern here. It's how the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. could say "an unjust law is no law." Now, all of these frameworks are great, but they each have a downside. And this one's downside relies on who decides what is just. "It may be illegal, but it's the right thing to do," is a mighty slippery slope.

The final framework is what's called "virtue ethics." We have Aristotle to thank for this one. Effectively, every group has its own stories that define its own virtues, and from there, ethical decisions are made by measuring what you're considering doing against your group's virtues. A few years ago, when the administration placed harsh bans on immigration, opponents quoted the plaque on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses." Beautiful, not legally binding, but absolutely "virtuous" in our American stories. The downfall of virtue ethics is similar to that of Kantian ethics: it all depends on who is telling the stories. That's it! That's the four: utilitarianism, deontology, Kantian, and virtue ethics.

What's really cool to me is, once you get familiar with these frameworks, then you start to see how people use them AND you get to see what happens when two people using different frameworks argue against each other. And that's exactly what's happening in Luke. The leader of the synagogue sees this woman come in looking for help, but there's rules in place. In his mind, he's not thinking evil thoughts. He's not sneering and plotting and trying to kick a lady while she's down. He's just embedded in the deontological worldview: something is right because it follows the rules, and the rules say you can't heal on the sabbath, so she'll just have to wait until tomorrow. No biggie; we'll do it then. To quote the first Book of Common Prayer, "of necessity, there must be some rules."

But Jesus comes at this differently. He's approaching this moment from at least three of these ethical frameworks. First, he comes at the argument from the same deontological place as the synagogue leader. "You say there must be some rules, but you break them yourself in other ways. How is this any different?" By pointing out the hypocrisy, he's also using the Kantian framework: if it's so easy to break this rule over there for a donkey, surely you can break the rule over here for a human being. That's what's actually just. And finally, he comes at it from a virtue ethic space, too! He leans on Abraham and his hospitality and the Hebrews' escape from bondage as a foundation for why this woman should be welcomed and freed.

See? Isn't this cool? I mean, I think it's cool. Maybe I'm just a book-learnin' nerd, but that's the real fun of Bible Study. It gets us into this stuff and makes us parse out our assumptions and the meat of what's actually on the page. Oh I dig it. Ok. Wonderful, but who cares? Other than a nifty intellectual exercise, why does any of this matter? Well, from the atomic bomb to the exclusion of queer kids to Jim Crow to the Civil Rights movement to immigration reform, I hope you're beginning to see why it matters. And I know we need to keep church and state separate, Lord do I know how much we need that separation, but I also know that we cannot encounter the world without our frameworks. And I hope that the faith we learn here and represent out there provides a mooring for the stories we tell and the lives we live.

And those stories, no they are not always smooth or easy or even all that palatable, but they are our scriptures. And yes, we can ignore them and hope they go away, but they won't. It's a whole lot better to know them and to deal with them. All that to say, you should come to Bible Study. It's deeply gratifying and challenging and life-giving. And it bathes us in our story. It challenges the faith - reason spectrum, it shakes the foundation of belief and assumption, and ultimately, it brings us closer to God and, by extension, to each other. After all, this isn't just any story. This is our story.

--The Rev. Brooks Cato

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes July 27, 2022

Present: Debbie Barker, Brooks Cato (presiding), Erin Loranty, Hannah McClennen, John Orr, Anne Perring (on Zoom), Heidi Riley, Dan Schult

Absent: Susan Beattie, Jana Laxa, Valerie Morkevicius, Heidi Riley, Deany Wood

Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m. in the parish hall. Brooks Cato led the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report

The minutes of the June 29th special meeting were approved with one request: John Orr asked that the paragraph presenting Martha Berry's suggested language for the memorandum be reinstated at the bottom of p. 3. This was done before the final copy was filed. (The language was addressed later on in the current meeting.)

Treasurer's Report

John Bowen provided the following report:

The overall financial state is stable. There have been no unusual or unexpected expenses. Pledge income is lagging at 82% of budget, which accounts for most of the current deficit of **\$13,661**. The deficit should improve with seasonal catch up in pledges and resumption of in-person church and passing the plate. Disability income of **\$19,499** has helped to keep the deficit from being worse.

The balance sheet shows a continuous healthy cash reserve in the checking account. Investment accounts are down, in line with current market declines.

The audit is progressing and is expected to finish work in early August for final report to the vestry at the August meeting.

Rector's Report

Brooks Cato stated that, thankfully, he is feeling well and is logging around 41½ hours of work per week. He said that it is good to be back and he thanked everyone for their generous assistance in helping him get back to his normal routine.

Wardens' Report

Hannah McClennen noted how struck she had been by the thoughtfulness of the statements written by the graduating seniors who had received Ramshaw Scholarship Awards. Debbie Barker concurred, adding that she was so pleased that St. Thomas' had been able to award them something as they took the next step in life. On a different note, Debbie wanted to express her thanks for the many persons who had stepped up during Brooks' absence to help out with things, especially helping with running the office and keeping the weekly notices happening, as well as the weekly liturgies. Hannah agreed, remembering especially the phone chains, as well as those in parish life who kept going with Friendship Inn and coffee hours, and the buildings commission who met and looked after the physical plant. Both stated that there were so many persons who were part of the effort that not all of them could be named individually.

Old Business

- *Strategic Plan:* John Orr reported that he had met with Brooks and brought him up to date as to what had occurred during his absence. Together, they had decided to "un-table" the strategic planning process, hoping to begin work again in September.
- *Commissions:* John Orr gave an update on the commissions, noting that, happily, most of the commissions now have chairs; however, there are still 1 or 2 that, at the time of the meeting, still required chairs. Despite this, much progress has been made. Any persons who are interested in joining commissions should feel free to speak with the rector.
- *Parish Life:* Brooks Cato reported that Parish Life was grateful for the attention paid to the lighting issues in the kitchen. Similarly, they were very pleased that the broken window has now been fixed. Also, there is now a window screen that can be used. They report that the coffee hours following Sunday services continue to be successful and are growing in numbers each week. Looking ahead, they have purchased chicken for the annual picnic on August 28th. Millie Franklin, chair of the Parish Life commission, attended a meeting at Madison Lane where it was requested that residents of Madison Lane might attend a family dinner with parishioners from St. Thomas' sometime in the Fall. This has not

passed beyond the “idea phase” yet, Millie reported; however, it would be a great outreach activity to next-door neighbors.

- *Buildings:* Susan Beattie had submitted a written report in advance of the meeting. The Buildings Commission was also pleased that the kitchen window is finally fixed. All bat entries have been closed. They have met with Brooks and updated a list of items that need to be repaired. They have also met with a contractor who is interested in working with St. Thomas’ on many projects. Apparently, there is a “large amount” of work that needs to be done. The commission members are in the process of researching the possibility of hiring a part-time qualified handyman to work with the Buildings Commission starting in 2023. They would also like the vestry to consider perhaps making this part-time position a line item in the annual budget. Finally, they are waiting for the final bid to come in for painting the church.
- *Signs:* Brooks Cato announced that he had repainted the signpost in front of the church and that new signs were “in the works.” They are being made, the hold-up due to supply issues.
- *Video-recording update:* Brooks explained that he had met with Luke Marshall on several occasions and the sound now seems to be back to “almost normal” levels. They are still working on the sound for the choir area. Brooks has sent a message to the electrician and has been told that supply issues continue to delay action.
- *Land Sale:* The Buildings Commission is shepherding this process. They are considering real estate agents at the moment.
- *Sabbatical Conversation:* Following the special meeting on June 29th, Brooks Cato had a conversation with Martha Berry regarding the wording of the memorandum. In agreement with Martha, Brooks proposed new wording, which reads as follows:

“The Vestry and Wardens of St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church recognize that on September 1, 2022, the Rev. Brooks Cato becomes eligible for sabbatical after service as Rector of St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church for six years, upon six

months’ notice to the Bishop. Under the circumstances, it is respectfully requested that the Rev. Cato not take sabbatical prior to May 2023, at the earliest.” The vestry reviewed this proposed language and voted unanimously to adopt it in place of the language that had been voted in on p. 3 of the June 29th minutes.

New Business

- *Election Slate:* Brooks Cato reviewed the list of positions that would need to be filled for outgoing vestry members, as well as the junior warden position.
- *Annual Audit:* The audit is being prepared and will be ready for the vestry to review in August.
- *Upcoming Family Trip (September 1st-15th):* Brooks Cato explained the circumstances necessitating a family trip for him and Becca in September. There will be supply clergy for two Sundays and these have already been arranged. The wardens and vestry members were fully supportive of Brooks’ plans and advised him to take advantage of spending time with his sister-in-law and her family.
- *Services Schedule:* Brooks Cato announced that the Worship Commission had met and they had decided to move the Sunday service to 10:00 a.m., starting on August 28th, for one year, to see how this time works out.
- *Vestry Meeting Time and Day:* The vestry members discussed their meeting schedule and voted unanimously that they would also try something new—to move the vestry meetings to the fourth Sunday of each month, following the coffee hour. It is to be hoped that this will allow more parishioners to attend the vestry meetings (which are open to anyone in the parish). And also, it will probably be easier when meeting during the winter when weather conditions can make travel difficult.

There being no further business, John Orr moved that the meeting be ended. Hannah McClennen seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cerasano, Clerk



When Fall Comes to New England

When fall comes to New England
 The sun slants in so fine
 And the air's so clear
 You can almost hear the grapes grow on the vine.

The nights are sharp with starlight
 And the days are cool and clean
 And in the blue sky overhead
 The northern geese fly south instead
 And leaves are Irish Setter red
 When fall comes to New England.

When fall comes to New England
 And the wind blows off the sea
 Swallows fly in a perfect sky
 And the world was meant to be.

...The frost is on the pumpkin
 The squash is off the vine
 And winter warnings race across the sky
 The squirrels are on to something
 And they're working overtime
 The foxes blink and stare and so do I.

'Cause when fall comes to New England
 Oh I can't turn away
 From fading light on flying wings
 And late good-byes a robin sings
 And then another thousand things
 When fall comes to New England.

--Cheryl Wheeler (born 1951),
 a Massachusetts-based singer-songwriter
 of contemporary folk music

The Church Property

The Church Property on Hill Road is available for you to enjoy as Summer bakes on! The property is across the street from 5638 Hill Road East of Lake Moraine. The small dirt and grass turn-in road splits in a Y almost immediately. Stay to the Right, and you are on the church property. There are roughly 20 acres up there for your entertainment, escape, spiritual renewal, grape-pickin', or just about whatever you need.

At its meeting on August 28th, the Vestry voted, in accord with the original intention of the gift, to list the property for sale. To quote the application to the Diocesan Standing Committee, "funds [from the sale] will be used for significant repairs to the church building and Parish Hall that need attention." The process of selling church-owned property is long and complicated, which means y'all still have time to enjoy the beautiful natural gifts the property has to offer for a while longer. More information to come as the process progresses!

Ponder This

There is no phenomenon in the universe that does not intimately concern us, from a pebble resting at the bottom of the ocean, to the movement of a galaxy millions of light years away.

--Thich Nhat Hanh, *The Sun My Heart* (1982)

A Prayer

Remind us that the whole earth is your creation,
 Lord. Show us how to seek radical hospitality.

--Sojourners

Madison Lane's Fall Dinner



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, October 13th, 4:00 p.m.
at Madison Lane.

The Madison Lane's Activity Committee and our Parish Life Commission are cooking and serving a fall dinner. If you are interested in attending (and as good neighbors you are encouraged to do so), sign up now! Limited spaces available. Call, email, or contact in-person to sign up.

Contacts:

Millie Franklin
22A@yahoo.com
315-750-9905

Linda Jenks
Jewels4grams@gmail.com
518-369-3384

Leah Schmitt, church office
stchurch@cnymail.com
315-824-1745

On the Lighter Side



Where dance is for everyone!

At Schmitt Sisters Dance, we believe that dance is a living art for everyone to experience and enjoy. We offer classes for all ages and skill levels. Our goal is to encourage self-confidence, creativity, and community-building through dance. We take pride in being available for our community and surrounding areas. We truly believe that dance is for *everyone*.

DANCE SEASON 9

Join us for the 2022-23 Season!

Registration for dance classes is OPEN. The registration form, schedule, class descriptions, and more details can be found on the website, <sites.google.com/view/schmittsistersdance> In-person registration scheduled by appointment.

Classes will begin the week of SEPT 6th. Registration is only \$25 if you register in SEPTEMBER.

OCTOBER REGISTRATION FEE: \$30

CONTACT US

SchmittSistersDance@gmail.com

315-750-6040

Facebook.com/SchmittSistersDance

122 North Main St.

Sherburne, NY



**Hamilton Creates
Fundraising Event**



YOU ARE INVITED
Autumn
At The
Palace

Join us for our premier
fundraising event.

OCT 8TH, 2022

At 7 o'clock in the evening
ESP Jazz & Kristen Taigmeier

Register Online
HamiltonCreates.com/Tickets

**Prayers of the People
As of August 31st:**

For those in need: Alistair Campbell, Melanie Chant, Pam Cristiano, Aster Dinku, Teddy Engle, Joan Fales, Jerry & Roseann Fitzgerald, Danny & Anne Foust, Francine Garrison, Lisa Gee and her children, Daniel Ghent, George, Shirley, Steven and Jen Harris, Donna Hayes, Marlene Houck, the Hubbard Family, Ana Hsu, Brian and Diane Jenks, Danielle Jones, Janna Keser, Michael McArn, Dianne McDowell, Rob McKinnon, Liam Meyer, Glee Moore, Anthony & Vincent Pacillo, Joni Resnick, Nancy Rivington, June Schaupp, Candace Schult, Colin Slafkosky, Mark Spearing, Keith Stage, Carol Stroyk, John Wheeler, Deb Willis, Ryan Wilson, Joan Winkler, Roberta Winsman, Ephraim Woods, Christina Wynn, Christopher, David, Hailey, Janice, John, Kayla, Kirsten, Lantz & Family, Lee Anne, Marshall, Nancy, Nick, Oliver, Rebecca, Sandy, Scot & Terry.

For the departed: Susan Leclair, Sheila Silver, Kathleen Douglass Dailey, Tom Harris, Lilly, Anne Fitts.

Thanksgivings

Birthdays: Rachel Knapp (9/02), Gwyneth Davies (9/03), Nancy Schult (9/05), Brooks Cato (9/07), Autum Rhoades (9/07), Jonas Morkevicius (9/8), Alec Strohmeyer (9/9), Michelle Landstrom (9/10), Elizabeth Gillett (9/11), Ian Moore (9/11), Eden Hubbard (9/11), Linden Muller (9/12), Mea Hubbard (9/13), Susannah Davies (9/13), Teddy Engle (9/15), Isaac Hubbard (9/18), Edward Scheinman (9/19), Jim Ford (9/20), Becky Hubbard (9/21), Lara Scott (9/23), Loxie Davie (9/24), Michael Clough (9/26), Matas Morkevicius (9/26), James Balakian (9/29).

Wedding Anniversaries: Sheila & Adrien Catania (9/03), Debbie & Steve Barker (9/04), Rose & John Novak (9/11), Nan & Tom Schmitt (9/25), Wynn & Everett Egginton (9/27).

Baptism Anniversaries: John Novak (9/15), Deborah Klenck (9/29).

Annual Picnic Pictures

August 28, 2022



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Scheduled to Serve
September 2022

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
 12 1/2 Madison St.
 Hamilton, NY 13346

Telephone/Fax: 315-824-1745
 E-Mail: stchurch@cnymail.com
 Website: stchurchonline.org

DATE	LECTOR	LEM	USHER	ALTAR GUILD	FLOWER GUILD
September 4	Martha Berry	Susan Cerasano	Ed Page	Wynn Egginton	Diane Rich Krause
September 11	Adger Williams	Deb Barker	Ed Page	Colleen McNerney	Diane Rich Krause
September 18	Ellie Weyter	Maureen Ghent	Rose & John Novak	Linda Jenks	Diane Rich Krause
September 25	Rose Novak	Wynn Egginton	Valerie & Matas Morkevicius	Jane Welsh	Diane Rich Krause



Qidings
September 2022

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
12 1/2 Madison St.
Hamilton, NY 13346
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Hamilton, NY 13346
Permit No. 80