

THE CANTERBURY TALES

AUGUST 2022



NOTES FROM MELESA +

As some of you are feeling August's nudge to prepare for the upcoming school year, here at St. Thomas, we too have been busy making preparations for the arrival of fall! Here's a glimpse of many of the behind-the-scenes projects happening in July and August:

- **A new parish directory** will be in your hands this month, and we can't wait to share it with you! We intentionally used three ring binders for this year's directory as we will be publishing additional inserts to the directory in future months. Thank you to Chris Mroz, parish administrator, for driving this project!
- Our two **parish databases (financial and membership) have been upgraded** to cloud-based platforms to better secure our data. You can read more about the updates to Breeze and Quickbooks Online in the Treasurer's report. Thank you to Ron Thorson for organizing this effort!
- Last week we received **approval to use current and future funds from the St. Thomas of Canterbury Restricted Endowment to purchase equipment that will allow us to livestream our Sunday worship**. Next steps will include working with an electrician to put an ethernet port in the loft and a sound technician to wire our current sound system to the live streaming equipment.
- The **Building and Grounds Committee has been busy** with many projects including: working to upgrade the lighting on the chancel to LEDs (thank you Fred Pedersen!), caring for our grounds and flowerbeds in these dry months (thank you Gina Kuemmel, Todd Domengett, Linda and John Cram!), and exploring solutions to better prevent water from getting into the parish hall.
- A **new parish website** is nearing completion and will allow us to better use that platform as a hub of information for St. Thomas members, friends and visitors. One exciting feature of the new website is a simple method for online giving.

There certainly is a lot happening at St. Thomas! As these behind-the-scenes changes impact our shared parish life, we will be sure to keep you in the loop.

Grace and peace,

Melesa+

ST. THOMAS SUPPORT NETWORK: A NEW MINISTRY

Would you be interested in providing a meal for a family with a new baby or someone returning from the hospital? Could you offer a ride to someone who needs help getting to church on Sundays? Are you willing to lend a helping hand to a member of our community who is in need?

If you answered yes or maybe to any of those questions, we would love to have you consider being a part of a new ministry, the St. Thomas Support Network! From time to time we have individuals in our parish that need help with a ride, meal or other support in a difficult time, and we are working to assemble a group of people who might be able to assist in such moments. Specifically, what this would look like is being a part of a group of people who receives an occasional email identifying a need in our parish. If you are able to help with the need, simply respond to the email indicating your availability. The frequency in which you offer help is up to you!

To join the St. Thomas Support Network and have your email added to the distribution list, please let Melesa+ know!





BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

(and briefcases, diaper bags, laptops, etc.)

Mark your calendar and plan to bring your backpack, diaper bag, briefcase or whatever vessel you carry to work or to school to church on **Sunday, September 11th**, for the Blessing of the Backpacks. We will also be offering prayers for all students and educators as they begin a new school year.



FUNDAMENTALS OF VOICE

Scott Eakins will be conducting two sessions on the Fundamentals of Voice. On **Thursday, August 18 at 6:30—7:30pm**, you are invited to attend the first of two sessions for “Singing in an Ensemble and our Voice”. Topics to be covered include:

- proper breathing techniques
- understanding the difference between treble and bass voices
- how to navigate a melody that is too high or too low
- diction/how to color the vowels of the alphabet
- and connecting all of the above when singing in an ensemble (choir)

The **second session is Thursday, August 25**. We meet in the church.



DEACON'S NEWS AND NOTES



Saying Hello. Saying I love you. Saying Good bye.

It was the fall of 2013; I said “hello” to STOC and Father Mark Moore. There was a side altar and specially made bread for the Eucharist and an amazing choir that sometimes took my breath away. Lee Monk (may she rest in peace) along with many other women prepared yummy soups and scones, selling them after the Sunday services to make money to update the kitchen. The Community Garden became a reality. Father Mark’s kind public last words to me as he retired – how much he appreciated that I always moved the altar book to the center of the altar and turned it to the final prayer -- began another journey for us.

With root beer bottles sporting the image of the new rector’s family, we entered transition and more loving memories indelibly marked on my brain

--Christmas “midnight” Mass -- at 10:00, mostly by candlelight

--the many Holy Week services profoundly quiet and moving

--Bible studies and reflecting on the psalms

--Morning prayer, Evening prayer, Noon prayer with faith-filled members

--“home” and hospital visits -- Laurie Larson, Jack and Nancy Bauman. May they rest peace

--growing up with some of the acolytes -- Maggie and Cat and Bridget and Evie and Violet!

--weekly Telecare calls during Covid hearing about family, and books, and dog training

--distributing communion in the blowing wind and falling snow along with collecting can goods and cards for nursing homes and offering ornaments and seasonal reflection books

--receiving hand warmers and your prayers for Fr. Scott and me as you huddled in your cozy cars

--journeying with me on my sister's medical ups and downs and her death

--and another transition!

--with Mother Melesa's gentle guidance, we said good bye to Mike Angeli, Jeanne Langenberg, Judy Kienzle, Nancy Bauman and Barb Pratt

--and, with you, Mother Melesa continues to watch over the grounds and the buildings, to plan new studies and activities – like celebrating my retirement

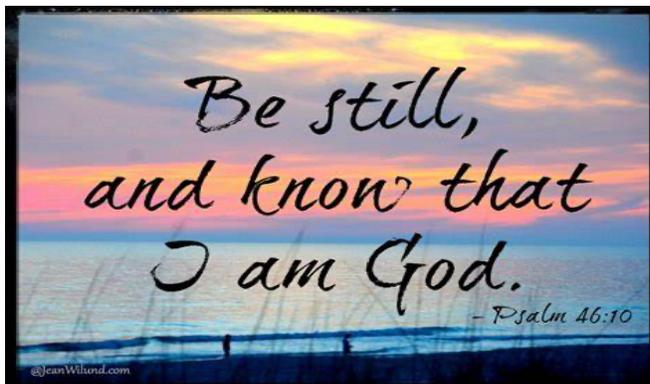
Know that serving at the altar, setting the table is an honor and a privilege, being part of and that close to the moment of consecration, but for me, my most sacred duties are proclaiming the gospel and the dismissal – sending you off into the world in peace, to love and serve the Lord. I will miss you. You are in my heart and in my prayers.

Now, on August 14, 2022, as I say “good bye.” My prayer for us is:

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: (I) humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. (BCP p. 100)

My August reflection:



Deacon Marge



August 2 – Executive Council

As I close out my Diocesan Beat column, I, like Mother Melesa, encourage you to link up with the Diocesan weekly news to stay current with what is happening in the diocese, especially regarding the **Triologue**.

I remind you:

Save The Dates

Diocesan Convention – In person

Westin, Milwaukee – Friday, October 7th (evening)

Italian Community Center, Milwaukee -- Saturday, October 8th

Keynote Speaker: Becca Stevens, Thistle Farms

A Single Candle Cuts Through the Darkest Night

The work of love is to keep lighting the way for millions of women still searching for a way out. For 25 years, Thistle Farms has lit a pathway of healing and hope for women survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction.

Our 2022 convention delegates:

1. Todd Domenget
2. Lisa Chmielewski
3. Erika Stoving
4. Sheryl Slocum

Margaret Done is the alternate.





SENIOR WARDEN NOTES

For my article this month, I have decided to say thank you to Deacon Marge.

Her last Sunday worshipping with us is August 14th. Then she will be retiring from parish ministry. She has been part of the St. Thomas of Canterbury family for the past 9 years.

One of the things that Deacon Marge did that first year was help guide some of the girls of the parish who were in Girl Scouts earn “My Faith, My Promise” pins. This was a way for the girls to put what they knew about their faith in the Episcopal church and how it lined up with part of the Girl Scout Law.

The girls involved were: Maggie Stoving (6th grade), Cat Celsor (5th grade), Angie Mecikalski (4th grade), Bridget Done (2nd grade), Audrey Klumb (kindergarten).

Think about that for a moment.

This year, Maggie will be starting her 2nd year at college at Michigan State, Cat will be starting her 1st year at UWM, Angie will be a senior in high school, Bridget will be a sophomore in high school and Audrey will be in 8th grade.

Maggie, Cat, and Bridget were also Deacon Marge’s go-to acolytes. This was the case for Fr Scott’s first Sunday. Deacon Marge had to be out of town, but she knew if she had these girls on the altar things would be ok, which they were.

When St. Thomas started recording the services during COVID-19, Marge was there to help and even rate Fr. Scott’s sermons! Marge also stood out in the cold for drive up communion. She was also part of the kid’s formation via zoom during this time.

Recently Marge has served as clerk for the vestry, reads the gospel lesson and says the prayers of the people, including the book of intersessions. Marge is also the secretary for executive council for the diocese.

This is just a glimpse of what Deacon Marge has done for the St. Thomas of Canterbury family.

Thank you, Deacon Marge. Goodbye and Good luck. We will miss you.

Erika



AUGUST 2022 NEWS FROM OUTREACH *Generous Giving.*

Month		2022
January	Guest House	\$ 810
February	Milwaukee Rescue Mission	\$ 1,027
March	Repairers of the Breach	\$ 877
April	Community Projects for Seniors	\$ 972
May	The Gathering	\$1,362
June	Franciscan Peacemakers	\$1,052
July	Sojourner Family Peace House	\$1,060
August	Ukrainian family newly relocated from war zone to Oak Creek	
September	House of Peace	
October	Street Angels	
November	Penfield Children's Center	
December	Salvation Army	
January 2023	Guest House	



August Outreach Collection:

For a Ukrainian Family recently relocated to Oak Creek from the war zone.

The war separated them in the beginning but they were reunited in Estonia and then flew to Chicago. A friend was able to find them an apartment in Oak Creek. They are here on a 6-month visa so their future is uncertain but they are grateful for the support the Greendale community has given them.

Dymtro, Maryna, and 22-month-old Tymoti

***Generous Giving: July Outreach Collection: Sojourner Family Peace Center
\$1,060***

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Sojourner Family Peace Center is the largest nonprofit provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, serving over 11,800 clients each year. Sojourner provides an array of support aimed at helping families affected by domestic violence achieve safety, justice and well-being.

**VIOLENCE IS A FORCE THAT EXPANDS AND GROWS. BUT SO IS HEALING. -
SURVIVOR.**

Our ongoing parish supports for the Milwaukee Community:

Gently used paperback and hardcover books and magazines to be distributed at the prison and jail. There is a bookcase in the gathering area where you can drop them off. This collection will continue, watch for signs for an ongoing total of books delivered. **New location in the library next to the gathering space.**

1279 paperback books and
349 magazines
164 hardcover books

Gathering Request: Because food is given to guests at the door (take-away) **clean used plastic grocery bags are needed.** If you would like to reduce your stash please drop off at church on Sundays or during Office Hours 9:00 - 1:00 Monday - Thursday. There is a box in the cloakroom to leave your bag of bags.

Food Box: Some parish members have been bringing food to donate on a regular basis. We now have a box in the cloakroom where you can drop off these items. We

take the food to the House of Peace Food Pantry.



A hands-on opportunity for all members of STOC to serve your community:

The Gathering serves lunches to the homeless on Saturdays and includes a bagged lunch with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The outreach committee agreed that making these sandwiches on a regular basis would be a great way for everyone, including families, to do a service project. We are now committed to preparing **300 sandwiches each month.** June 13 sandwich makers gathered again and in quick time assembled and bagged over 300 sandwiches. The coordinators for both Running Rebels and Ascension Lutheran sites were so appreciative of the gift we gave and nothing was wasted. Whatever is unused on Saturday is refrigerated and offered to guests on Monday!

Monday, August 15 at 4:00 we will meet at church to start the Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich assembly line. We will stay until we are done but please if you can only help for a little while you are welcome and appreciated. Please join us, the more hands the quicker we will finish.

Canterbury Crafters: The knitting needles and crochet hooks continue to fly and create lap robes for hospice. Barb Miller would like me to remind everyone to please start creating winter mittens, scarves, and hats. Even in August, people who are homeless and sleeping near Lake Michigan start to feel the cold. Please place your creations in the collection box in the cloakroom and outreach will see they are blessed and delivered promptly.

Volunteer Opportunity:

The Gathering opportunities to serve:

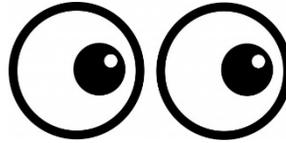
[Volunteer Sign-Up — Gathering of Southeast Wisconsin](#)

House of Peace and St. Ben's Meal Program and other needs, opportunities to serve:

[Volunteer | Capuchin Community Services](#)

The following are volunteer opportunities currently available in our Capuchin Community Services programs. Please review and click on the desired link to apply to volunteer.

- **St. Ben's Community Meal:**
 - Main basic tasks:
 - Staffing the meal prep stations
 - Staffing the Meal Hall floor – clearing, re-setting, beverage service
 - Special events and projects
 - Apply to volunteer at: <http://saintbenministry.thecapuchins.volunteerhub.com/>
 - Volunteer Coordinator:
 - Email: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org
- **St. Ben's Open-Door Ministry:**
 - Various specified tasks:
 - Shower Program – scheduling and tracking
 - Laundry Ministry – scheduling and tracking
 - Eyeglasses Ministry
 - Barbershop Ministry
 - Front Door office Duty – welcoming and connecting guests to services and resources
 - Apply to volunteer at: <http://saintbenministry.thecapuchins.volunteerhub.com/>
 - Volunteer Coordinator:
 - Email: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org
- **The House of Peace:**
- Main basic tasks:
 - Clothing Closet - sorting and organizing clothes
 - Emergency Food Pantry - stocking and organizing food items
 - Eyeglasses Ministry
 - Special events & projects
- Apply to volunteer at: <http://houseofpeace.thecapuchins.volunteerhub.com/>
- Volunteer Coordinator:
 - Email: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org



LOOKING FORWARD

Monday, September 12 at 4:00 we will meet at church to start the Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich assembly line. We will stay until we are done but please if you can only help for a little while you are welcome and appreciated. Please join us, the more hands the quicker we will finish.

Parish School Supply Collection for Next Door Foundation continues in August.

September Outreach Collection:

House of Peace:

Our Mission: Inspired by the gospel of Jesus and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Capuchin friars of the Province of Saint Joseph, together with our partners in ministry, prayerfully build sister-brotherhood in the world. We attend simply and directly to spiritual and other basic human needs, especially those of people experiencing poverty and disenfranchisement, promoting justice for all.

Our guests come from all walks of life. Each one of our guests has a story. Those who frequent the House of Peace are often employed, but unable to make ends meet, or are experiencing chronic poverty. When our guests arrive at the House of Peace, they find a place where someone cares and where they can get the little extra help they need.

At St. Ben's Community Meal, many of our guests are experiencing extreme poverty and homelessness. Some of our guests are affected by mental illness and/or a substance use disorder. Hundreds of guests gather each evening to share a meal and companionship with each other. The Meal staff coordinates the sponsor groups and volunteers to provide a nourishing dinner to be enjoyed by all in a friendly and peaceful setting.

New information for help:

988

A new 24-hour phone number that people in the United States can call to talk to a trained counselor about issues like: **DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, OR THE URGE TO HARM THEMSELVES.** It's like 911 but for mental health emergencies.

John & Linda Cram



TREASURER'S REPORT

Introduction

Your financial team has been busy during the first half of 2022. In addition to a financial update, this report details the significant financial projects that were complete so far in 2022. My thanks to all members of the financial team for their efforts. Every member of the team contributes to the goal of providing accurate, timely, understandable, and transparent financial data.

STOC Receives \$23,000 from ERTC

ERTC is the Employee Retention Tax Credit which is part of the CARES act that was passed in 2020. As a non-profit, we do not pay income taxes. We qualified for the ERTC because it is a credit against FICA taxes which we pay. A private accounting firm assisted us with preparing the documentation (including documentation for any potential audit) and the IRS forms. The \$23,000 is after we pay their \$3,900 fee. In 2020 we also applied for and received \$27,000 from the PPP program which is also part of the CARES act.

BREEZE Fully Implemented

Breeze replaces our out-of-date system for tracking contributions and membership data. Breeze is an easy-to-use on-line system which provides us better data security. It also replaces VANCO, our current system for recurring contributions via ACH. Individuals currently using VANCO will receive an email within the next couple of weeks on migrating to Breeze. The migration process will be simple.

QuickBooks On-Line Fully Implemented

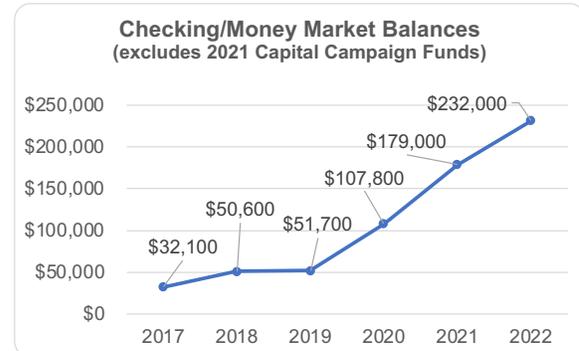
QuickBooks On-Line replaces the current out-of-date version of QuickBooks that we were using. QuickBooks On-Line contains excellent financial management tools. It also provides better data security than our old version of QuickBooks.

Annual Diocesan Audit Data Submitted

Each year the Diocese, performs a review of our financial policies and procedures. As the Treasurer, I appreciate this review because it helps ensure the integrity of our financial management. The final document was submitted to the Diocese on July 5th. It is 300 pages long and is mainly supporting documentation. We should receive a report on the results of the financial review by the end of September.

Bank Balances Hit an All-Time High

Our financial strength continues to be strong due to the generosity of our parishioners. Our checking/money market balances have increased by \$180,300 (350%) since 2019.



St Thomas of Canterbury Flexible Endowment Fund

The Flexible Endowment Fund was set-up last year. We now have a vehicle for members and friends of St. Thomas to include the parish in your will or estate plans. Planned giving is a way to support and strengthen the future ministry of our parish. If you would like to learn more about the Flexible Endowment or planned giving, please contact the parish office. Informational brochures can also be found in the Narthex.

Members of STOC's Financial Team

Counters (count weekly collections): John & Erica Amenda, Donna Celsor, John & Linda Cram, Matt & Margaret Done, Sheryl Slocum, Ross & Kat Worzalla, Tammy Wyman-Wroblewski

Finance Committee: Kevin Nitka (Chairperson), Margaret Done, Elizabeth Hipp, Mother Melesa, Kris Reed, Erika Stoving, Ron Thorson

Endowment Committee: Kevin Nitka (Chairperson), Eric DeGroot, Dennis McKnight, Mother Melesa, Bob Stewart, Ron Thorson (exofficio member)

Check Writer: Pete Leszcynski

Administrative Assistant: Chris Mroz

Treasurer: Ron Thorson

If I missed anyone, my apologies and please let me know.

GROUNDS UPDATE – THANK YOU!

Now that the new air conditioning has been installed, we are grateful to parish member Tom Beinlich who offered his expertise and time over the last few weeks to design and construct a new fence to “soften” the view from the street. Next, we will do some freshening up of the landscaping on the east side to complete the project.

If you have been maintaining gardens at home, you know that the month of July was a tough one on plants, with very little rainfall. Special thanks to all those who have been helping to maintain the property to keep things looking beautiful this summer! Next time you are on the grounds, be sure to take some time to stroll around. We are blessed with a beautiful parcel of land.

Gina Kuemmel



THE LIGHT TOUCH *by Diane Melang*

After the heavy-duty Sunday readings from Ecclesiastes a week ago, I couldn't help think of the Book of Proverbs, its next-door neighbor in the Old Testament. You see, my mother, (my inspiration for this column's title) loved words, reading them, writing them – and speaking them I might add – and I grew up hearing lots of Biblical quotes many it seemed from Proverbs, one of her favorite books. Now she would be the first to admit that Proverbs is hardly a “lighthearted” book, yet she always managed to find a way to fit these pithy little sayings to any point she was trying to make, all in good humor of course.

So here follows a sample of my most remembered ones and though I may not have been particularly impressed at the time, a seed was surely planted and my appreciation for this often-unexplored Biblical treasure only deepens:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Proverb 1:7

“Wisdom is better than rubies and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.” 8:11

“Heaviness in the heart of a man maketh it stoop, but a good word maketh it glad.”
12:25

“A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.” 15:1

“A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance.” 15:13

“Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.” 15:17

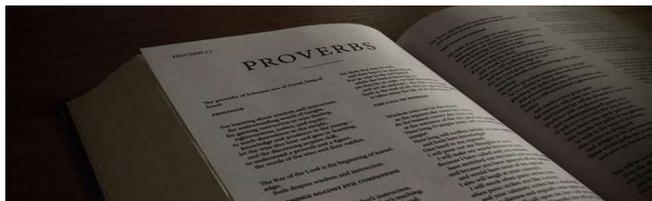
“A merry heart doeth good like medicine but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” 17:22

“He that hath knowledge spareth his words.....Even a fool when he holds his peace is counted wise, and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.” 27a, 28.
(Mom and I both got a laugh out of this last one as neither of us was ever shy about speaking our mind.)

And I want to close with verse 26 of Chapter 31 in tribute to Deacon Marge as she embarks on her new journey in retirement and wishing her all Godspeed:

“She openeth her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”

P.S. I urge you to check out Proverbs; it's probably the only book in the Bible you can pick up and lay down with one verse and not miss any continuity!



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

Andy Hanrahan	August 9
Mandy Klumb	August 15
Jacob Ivy	August 16
Irene Slyfield	August 18
Lynn Zeman	August 20
Gina Kuemmel	August 22
Audrey Klumb	August 29
Barbara Rick	August 31
Veronica Heaney	September 2
Donald Stormoen	September 3
John Heuer	September 9
Pete Leszcynski	September 9
Simon Mork	September 9
Bob Yoerin	September 11



ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & Margaret Done	August 9
Tom & Kathi Beinlich	August 12
Bill & Colleen Nelson	August 24
Brian & Tammy Knapton	September 13

