

# The Thomist

...without a doubt

## St. Thomas Traditional Anglican Church

Established December 12, 1992—in Sargentville, Maine.

373 Bangor Road, P.O. Box 365, Ellsworth, ME 04605-0365

### All Saints Tide November 2011

#### St. Thomas Blessed by Organ Donor

A collegial exchange between the dean of the pro-cathedral church in Rochester, New Hampshire and Father Henthorne has resulted in a “new” Yamaha 7000 Electone organ for St. Thomas Church.

Rochester area resident Roger Plante had approached Dean Owen Williams with the offer of the instrument, desiring that it be found a church home. In a conversation with Father Henthorne, the dean mentioned the organ somewhat jokingly, as compensation for the last minute preparatory Synod work our rector performed. The offer was readily accepted (later research revealed the value of the organ to be far greater than anything that had been assumed. See attached letter). With the understanding that it would be St. Thomas’ responsibility to move the 800 pound moose, plans were set in motion for the next step.

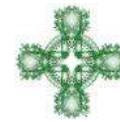
The move took place on the weekend of October 22-23. On Friday, a rental truck was picked up from our neighboring storage/moving business by Leroy Weed (thanks be to God for good arrangements from the dealer). On Saturday Leroy met up with Dave Simmons in Rochester (Dave and Ellen just happened to have plans to be in the Rochester area that weekend!). The organ was no match for the lobsterman and construction materials handler. As parishioners arrived for Sunday Service, most knew the contents of the orange box truck parked near the Tower, and that Coffee Hour would be “different.”



Ann Geary at the new organ.

Eight men under the direction of Organ Committee Chairman Ed Hart first relocated our aging fifty year-old Hammond organ to the tower room where it will serve as a practice organ for now. In similar pall-bearer fashion the men were able to forego the awkward hand carts and simply hand-

carry the Yamaha to its new residence. One of the most able-bodied men was a first-time visitor to St. Thomas from North Carolina. Canon Cox quipped to him that all our coffee hours are not this unusual. Thanks to everyone who risked their backs, knuckles and pride, to usher in what will be a great addition to the ministry of St. Thomas



.Following is the text of Father Henthorne’s thank you letter/receipt to Mr. Roger Plante:

Dear Mr. Plante:

First, let me express our deepest appreciation for your gift to St. Thomas of the Yamaha 7000 Electone Organ. As you know, we picked it up on Saturday October 22 at your home and by the end of Mass on Sunday, it was installed and functioning beautifully in its new place in the Sanctuary of St. Thomas Church.

The entire congregation joins me in expressing their thanks to you for this most generous addition to our Sunday music program.

As we discussed in our telephone conversation of last week, it is important to us that your gift also be recognized as a tax-deductible contribution to our Church. We have determined, with your help and others, that the value of this contribution should be established at twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000). Please regard this letter as a receipt for the same as well as a document for tax purposes.

I hope that you will be able to visit us at some time in the future to hear the organ in use. When we are ready to build our next building, which will be a larger Church Sanctuary, this new organ will certainly be most adequate to provide the volume and quality of sound for the new space as well.

Again, let me express our thanks, and God’s blessing to you for this gift.

Sincerely, in Christ

Rector

#### Did You Know That...

According to legend, after worshipping the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, **the Wise Men** returned to the East, to Persia, and in the year 40 A.D., **were baptized there by Saint Thomas** the Apostle when he was en route to India.

## Junior Warden Jim Geary Reports

We at St. Thomas Church have three fine buildings and a nice piece of property, in addition to the Logos House library. There are ongoing maintenance tasks that must be performed as well as the additional need for improvements. Without such effort, our facility would go into disrepair. So far this work has been done ad hoc by several people who have done a fine job. Their effort is greatly appreciated.

As junior warden, I have the task of seeing that our facility is properly cared for. A property committee has been formed to determine what needs to be done and to see that it is done in an efficient and timely manner. Currently the committee consists of Rev. Mr. Ian Dunn, Bill Landmesser, Joyce Barr, Mike McCadden, Leroy Weed and myself.

A list of tasks will be made and prioritized. The list will be maintained and updated periodically. As of now the list is as follows:

1. Install a new sign by road
2. Insulate the first floor tower
3. Electric wiring of tower
4. Install baseboard in church
5. Install air conditioning in the first floor of tower
6. Repaint church using brown stain and green trim
7. Adjust and anchor pews
8. Clearing an area for outdoor activities
9. Put up parking area safety barriers
10. Landscape the parking area by road
11. Heat for tower

Also, I ask each of you to bring to the property committee's attention any problem you see or any concern you may have regarding our facility. There will be a sheet on which to state the problem or concern or you may address it directly to one of the committee members. Finally, if asked to help, please do so. Thank you for participating in this ongoing endeavor.

---

### **A Brief Report on the World Consultation of Continuing Churches, Brockton, Massachusetts** by Deacon Ian Dunn

On November 3-4, nearly seventy-five men and women from around the world gathered in Brockton, Massachusetts to discuss what it means to be a part of the Anglican Continuum, a movement to which we belong and is defined in part by traditional liturgy and orthodox theology. The gathering was kicked off with much joy and brotherly love, many of the attendees having travelled through similar trials, and victories. We were able to greet one another in understanding.



Above: Deacon Ian with Bp. Reuben Rodriguez, Bishop of Central America, at the Brockton Conference.

The first presentation was given by our own Bishop Brian Marsh. He gave a good synopsis of the past thirty-five years since the gathering in St. Louis, where the Affirmation of St. Louis came into being. The Affirmation is the foundational document of the Continuum. Bishop Marsh also gave his account of the almost immediate heartbreak that challenged us. Four bishops, after being consecrated in those early days, almost immediately went in separate directions, setting the pattern of schisms and frustration that has daunted us the past thirty-five years. As we approach our fortieth birthday, we approach it with anticipation, excitement and caution. Bp. Marsh observed, as did others, that 2011 has been the first time in many years that we have been able to sit in one room and just talk. The future is hopeful.

Bishop Haverland, primate of the Anglican Catholic Church, gave the next presentation, focused on the process which the ACC hopes to see in order to discuss full communion between the ACC and other continuing bodies. His emphasis was on adherence to the Affirmation of St. Louis. He made the observation, and it is a good reminder, that bad theology, if allowed, drives out good theology. And if heresy is not fought, eventually orthodoxy will become a bunch of crazy old men. Of the five presenting bishops, he showed the most apprehension towards intercommunion. Nonetheless he affirmed there is nothing preventing us from having discussions.

For the evening keynote address, Michael Gill, bishop of South Africa and Praetoria, spoke of his diocese's strong and successful program of evangelism and acts of compassion. He told us encouraging stories of the work being done. His charge to us was to "Show me the works." "The enemy is at the gate; we must be ready to bring forth the gospel." His message was encouraging and transformational.

Bishop Paul Hewitt of the Diocese of the Holy Cross gave a presentation on the intercommunion movement. He noted our need to first get our act together, stop the infighting, and let our orthodox theology shine forth. From a stronger position we can be invaluable in discussions between the Eastern and Western Church. He challenged clergy to befriend local Greek Orthodox clergy and develop these

connections. The Anglican Church once held much deeper ties with these eastern church than we now do.

Bishop Grundorff of the Anglican Province in America Shared his vision for what the future might hold for the continuum. While he is hopeful, we must move forward with caution. It will be a hard uphill battle. He believes that this battle is worth fighting, that if unity is reached we will be blessed.

The conference ended with a panel of bishops discussion. Some major issues which still plague the churches were discussed (youth ministry and "parish poaching" are two such concerns). Overall, a feeling of reserved optimism was portrayed. It seems most everyone wants to move towards unity, but since we have seen failed attempts in the past we know we must proceed slowly, with prayerful and thoughtful discussions.

As we move forward, we pray for unity and humility.

---

### Did You Know That...

- ✓ **St. Thomas** is the patron of architects; blind people; construction workers; Ceylon; East Indies; geometricians; India; masons; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; stone masons; stonecutters; surveyors; theologians; and against doubt.



---

### My Synod Experience

by Ann Geary

Once again this past October, I had the wonderful opportunity to be a delegate at Synod for the Diocese of the Northeast. This had been my seventh or eighth opportunity to be either a delegate or alternate for our parish of St. Thomas. Our parish was well represented this year by David Blakeman and myself as delegates, and with the support of Father Henthorne, Deacon Dunn, and Joyce Barr. As usual, it was a wonderful time to reacquaint ourselves with old friends and to meet new ones. The entire mood of the synod was one of good fellowship and welcoming of new parishes and their representatives. The highlight of the festivities was as usual Bishop Langberg's entertainment of the gathering at the final banquet with his inimitable performance on the vocals and guitar. We always enjoy that part of the evening so much! Also the contributions of Bishop Marsh and some of the speakers were very informative and inspiring. This year there was not a lot of pressing business to be conducted but we more than made up for that with what I felt was an exceptional

feeling of love and comradery among all the delegates and clergy who were present.

---

### Coming Events

- The Christmas Eve service will begin at 5 P.M., with carols and organ music starting at 4:30 P.M.
- The regular 10:00 A.M. service will be held on Sunday, Christmas Day.
- A Lenten Bible Study group is planned, as well as other educational activities to be announced later.
- **ADVENT**, of course, is coming, and this word means "approach" or "arrival," referring to the season of the church year before Christmas. This word derives from the Latin words *ad* and *venire*. *Ad* (to / toward) + *venire* (to come) = *COMING TO* or *ARRIVAL*

---

### Ave atque Vale

- To all of you who came to Maine and St. Thomas Church this past summer, we wish a fond "Hail and Farewell" until we meet again. It was wonderful having you with us, and we look forward with anticipation to seeing you again.

---

### Results of the Lobster Feed and Teacup Quilt Raffle

The Great Lobstah Feed and Quilt Raffle this summer brought in almost \$500. for the St. Thomas' Building Fund, and as you can see from the photo below, everyone had fun doing it. Leroy Weed provided the lobstahs and strawberry shortcake. Ellen Simmons won the Teacups quilt raffle and is happy about that (see photo below).

BELOW: A visitor from St. Petersburg, Russia, Julia Firtich, enjoying the Lobstah Feed at St. Thomas.



ABOVE: Winner of the Quilt Raffle Ellen Simmons (left) and quilter Pat Taniashvili (right)