

# 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

Trinity 2014

## CHRISTMAS EVE Service:

Lessons and Carols 4 P.M.



## Bangor Woman Wins the Quilt Raffle



The drawing for the kaleidoscope quilt raffle was held on August 31, and brought in over \$150 to the church. The winner was Brenda Jones of Bangor. The quilt was delivered to the lucky winner by Kevin Kelly.



## St. Thomas Says Goodbye to Fr. Dunn



After serving as the rector of St. Thomas since his ordination in June 2014, and as deacon after the passing of Fr. Henthorne, Fr. Ian Dunn has taken a new position at the Jackson Laboratory in California. He had been employed at the Jackson Labs in Bar Harbor for several years before leaving the area at the end of July.

Since then, our services have been conducted by several priests and Deacons, including Fr. Gray, Fr. James Dumond, Fr. Amos Mihanda, Bishop Hiles, Fr. Ed Kalish, and Kevin Kelly.

The Vestry has been meeting frequently to deal with the ongoing needs of our church, as well as the search for a new rector. This process includes a self-study, plus a congregational questionnaire.

What follows is an excerpt from Fr. Dunn's farewell sermon to us, and these words speak volumes to us about both his life and ours:

Remember our hope is an eternal hope - no matter how dark and bleak, no matter how light and wonderful things may seem - our eternal promise is much greater than these

days. The greatest joy will be the day when all things are made right and we will finally rest in joy and sing that eternal song of praise to God our father, finally in a good and right relationship with him. Cling to this, rejoice in it, and all other pains will slip away.

So today I say good-bye. I tried to remember all the important things, all the things I hope we have learned in our time together. I know saying good-bye is hard, and I hope we meet again in this life time, but I know if we do not, we will meet again on that great and glorious day when heaven and earth is made new. So this good-bye is not forever, but perhaps more of an "I look forward to seeing you again." Do not fear that which is to come, but instead rejoice in Christ always.



The Rev. Ian Emile Dunn

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**Briefly—**

- Our diaconal student Kevin Kelly has submitted his written canonicals to the Committee of Examining Chaplains, and took his oral canonicals in September. We're happy to announce that he passed all exams in October!
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## Fr. Amos Mihanda Shares His Story



On Sunday, November 23, Fr. Amos Mihanda conducted our morning communion service. A native of Rwanda who was formerly a parish priest in the Diocese of Cyangugu, Anglican Church of Rwanda, he now serves as a priest in our Diocese of the Northeast. Fr. Mihanda is currently affiliated with St. Paul's in Portland. We at St. Thomas church appreciate very much his coming to help us as we search for a new rector.

After the service, Fr. Amos and his wife, Odia, invited those present to stay for a brief talk about their experiences in Africa and about those who continue to suffer because of different points of view, what they stand for, and what they believe in different countries of Africa. As Odia put it, her words (in the Kinyarwanda language translated by Fr. Amos) serve as her testimony to God's love, care, and protection of her family during an unimaginable time of murderous chaos back home in their countries. Praise God that they are safe now.

The Mihanda family—the parents and their seven children, ranging in ages from 13 to 22, lived in Kampla, the capital city of Uganda, after leaving their own country. There Fr. Amos and his wife were able to receive visas and come to the United States. However, their children were not included, and sadly they had to remain behind in Africa. It has been six years and two months since they have seen each other.. Mrs. Mihanda and her family thank God daily for the Northeast Diocese parishes, Saint Paul's Church, and Saint Thomas in particular for their support and prayers.

At this point, the Mihandas have made great progress in the process of bringing six of their children to the United States, and continue praying for the strength needed for the reunification of their family. Additionally, Odia prays for healing of the sorrow and pain of their broken hearts and the wounds of missing her children for many years. She believes that this will happen soon. The Mihandas also ask for your prayers that their adopted daughter may be eligible to come with others.

At the present time, "Father Amos Mihanda and Odia need help with raising enough money to get their own green cards in December. A total of **\$2,712.** is necessary to pay for application fees and the required physical exams. If you wish to make a contribution for this purpose, send your donation (payable to Amos Mihanda) to St. Thomas and it will be sent on to them.

Fr. Amos continued to emphasize throughout his talk that there is a glory within suffering as Christians. When you suffer, you will experience the hope and fullness of God's love, mercy, favor, grace and his protection. Through prayer, the arms of God will protect you and never forsake you. He admonished us to pray for Africa and the ministry of reconciliation, restoration, peace, and stability that must take place on the African continent.

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## Parish Picnic

Our Parish Picnic was held on July 20 after church, and the menu included traditional picnic fare—grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, chicken, chips, and sweets. Organized by Mike and Valerie McCadden, contributions of food, setup, and cleanup were done by everyone. David and Ellen Simmons did most of the cooking. And it was a great send-off for Fr. Dunn.



Everyone one enjoyed the church picnic.



\* Please send any corrections, additions, or address changes to: [patania@roadrunner.com](mailto:patania@roadrunner.com)