

# 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

Trinitytide 2016

## Installation of Fr. Kalish

At St. Thomas Church

Father Ed Kalish was installed at our parish on Saturday, June 4, 2016. It was a pretty spring day that allowed for easy travel for our many guests coming from near and far, but still, it was a long trip for some, like Bishop Marsh and Canon Webb. We appreciate the support that we had from clergy and friends that day as Fr. Ed was installed. Our 24-year-old parish has been putting down roots with the help of the priests the Lord sends our way. Here are Father Ed's own words about the day:



“I deeply appreciated the sense that the installation was accomplished in due time. It wasn't rushed, nor an end to be justified by any means to achieve it. It was the culmination of a deliberate process requested by the diocese, but also very much in our best interests. Some blooms can be "forced", but for some, it's best to wait until they reach their beauty in their season. Doing business this way, within the Church, leaves us with a clear conscience. *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength...* (Isaiah 40:31). Prayer and patience!”

## *Meditation -- from Father Kalish*



*For who hath despised the day of small things?*  
(Zechariah 4:10)

These words were uttered by the prophet to the regathered faithful remnant of Israel who had returned to the land in the 6th century B.C. from Babylonian exile.

Compared to its days under the great Davidic kings, the nation was a struggling, humbled vestige, shorn of its power and pride, deprived of a sense of identity. “Where are the promises of God to us?,” they would have asked. “Why has He turned against us?”

Sound familiar? Our own church has undergone its seasons of difficulty, and we ask the same questions. The Christian Church at large has been deemed irrelevant and placed on the same dusty shelf with all the other traditional goods that society has marked “expired”.

The task of building the Kingdom of God seems great. Where do we begin? Comparisons must be off! Then is then, and now is now. Faith tells us that whatever God is doing in this present moment is the best there is. If He is in the midst, little is great, but if He is absent, great, no matter *how* great, is nothing.

*And I will strengthen them in the Lord; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the Lord.*  
(Zechariah 10:12).

**O Lord, grant me Thy perspective. Amen.**

## Quilt Raffle Results

The drawing for the beautiful quilt, hand crafted by Valerie McCadden in shades of lavender and pale green, was held on September 11. The winner was Ginny Brown. The money raised by the raffle will go to the International Anglican Fellowship.

## Annual Parish Meeting Events

Father Ed commented on his installation as priest at St. Thomas, saying that this event was a “coming together of all in his life to this point,” and he was happy to be a part of the process of Anglicanism finding its place in this world. He asked parishioners to pray for Bishop Marsh as he chooses a co-adjutor (successor).

Fr. Ed also stated that he was pleased with the work of our Deacon Kevin Kelly and is thankful for his devotion. The progress of Sub-Deacon Leroy Weed is going slowly due to family health issues and our prayers are needed for the Weeds in that regard.

Dave Simmons, senior warden, announced that our treasurer is absent today for reasons unknown at the moment. He stated that we are in a good financial position but we need to watch our expenditures carefully. We do not have endowments that are making money for us. He encouraged people’s involvement in the work of the church even in small ways. There was clarification about the Building Fund really being a Building and Maintenance Fund that is used for needs at our current facility.

Changes were made in the members of the Vestry. Dave Simmons gave reasons for his resignation as Sr. Warden, and nominated Shirley Landmesser as the new Sr. Warden. Pao motioned and Anne seconded that Shirley be our Sr. Warden. The motion carried.

Fr. Frank Gray motioned that Pao remain our Jr. Warden, it was seconded and carried. Mike Pennell was nominated and voted into the vestry; Val McCadden was asked to move into the clerk position that Shirley is moving out of, and she accepted.

It was decided that Ann Geary be the parish representative at the 2016 Synod, with Linda Kalish as the alternative. Synod is being held October 20-22 this year.

Joyce Barr reported on the Logos House Library. Of the over 10,000 books in the library at least 3,000 have been catalogued and are now available for loan.

Joyce invited the parishioners to make use of the wide variety of books and would like to make the building and library available as an outreach to the community. She envisions the library enhancing people’s knowledge and love of God. She also challenged the parish to embrace a mission of education based on Fr. Henthorne’s creating Logos House Seminary and the educational interests of many in the parish.

Jennifer Mitchell, who set up the online site three years ago, made a presentation of how to use the LH Library website. She will be opening the library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in September (11 & 25) and October (9 & 23) from 9:30-Noon. Books can be searched and reserved online, and then picked up on these dates or by arrangement. Volunteers are needed to pull and ship books throughout the year.

The subject of newspaper advertising was briefly revisited when a parishioner suggested that we again have an ad in the Bangor Daily News. Pao stated that we have ads in the BDN on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month, and that the vestry has discussed this and decided that having a constant ad is too expensive and that most people use the internet anyway.

Toni suggested that those who provide the refreshments also clean the church after we are done.

Shirley encouraged parishioners to read or reread our parish history with a view to our future.

---

## Mihanda Family Visits Sings Beautifully for Us



On August 14<sup>th</sup>, one year after the joyful reunion of the Mihanda children with their parents, they came for a

visit. Fr. Amos celebrated the Eucharist with us and spoke about the miracles that God does. Four of his daughters and one friend, dressed in traditional African costume, sang hymns, danced, and thanked us for our financial and prayerful support. It was so good to talk with them and get acquainted. We were able to give them a gift toward helping the children get settled here in the U.S..

## Vestry News

By Shirley Landmesser

A few green thumbs have been working together to create a new garden around our church sign. (Sometimes it's good to be all thumbs.) It has been well-planned to deliver changing colors throughout the year. Dave Simmons dropped 10 yards of loam on our gravel, then he and Ellen planted perennials in front of and under the sign that will bloom brilliant blues and purples in late spring and remain green all year round; Valerie and Mike McCadden purchased a wide variety of beautiful plants and have planted them behind the sign. With skillful planning, Val arranged the flowers, grasses, and shrubs so that they yield continuing surprises of color from spring to fall and textures that offer interest all year long. Margie Sweet and I did a fair amount of weeding and the mulching. He gave us beauty for gravel, the joy of living plants for stones, that He may be glorified.

What rhymes with blooms? Tomes, of course. It has been great to have Joyce Barr, the Logos House librarian, back with us this summer. She continues to work at cataloguing and the many details of making books available to the students of Logos House, our parish, and the community. The link is <http://lht.ind.opalsinfo.net/bin/home>, in case you care to browse by subject, author or title. It's really very easy. To date, 3,000 of the 10,000 books have been catalogued. She envisions this treasure house of learning being used more and more.

Because we are located in an attractive summer vacation area, we happily receive visitors "from away" worshipping with us throughout the summer. Some choose to remain incognito, but some return every year and we get to know them during refreshments. It reminds us of the real connection we have to other parishes.

Our annual meeting was held on August 28<sup>th</sup> followed by a picnic at the marina in Ellsworth. How do you say thanks to someone who has put countless hours into the care and stewardship of parish operations over many years? We don't know, so we presented our

resigning senior warden, David Simmons, with a card of grateful sentiments and a pair of mugs featuring pictures of our church. Our new senior warden, yours truly, is excited as she anticipates a movement towards outreach and growth at St. Thomas.

As summer turns to autumn my attention is drawn to the changes we go through in life. Change is inevitable and we may loathe it, yearn for it, or say "it is what it is." It may bring a heavy loss of some sort, just as the followers of Jesus must have felt after Jesus was taken from them. Their hopes for a redeemer had been dashed upon the cross. It took time for them to realize that their Savior was still with them. It wasn't until he broke the bread that their eyes were opened and they recognized him. Then they returned to Jerusalem to tell the others, "It's true! The Lord has risen!"

---

## Our Annual Church Picnic



Our church picnic was held after the annual meeting at the Ellsworth Waterfront Park. Dave Simmons was presented with a pair of mugs with two different scenes (winter and spring) of the church. This gift is to say thanks for all that he has done over the years as Senior Warden.

We had wonderful picnic foods and sang some hymns together, accompanied by Father Ed on his guitar. He taught us an unforgettable funny song too, called "The Worm Rescuer."

---

## **Maine Seacoast Mission Christmas Is Coming!**

As part of our outreach to the community, we are once again planning to donate new, wrapped Christmas gifts to the Maine Seacoast Mission. Each year the Mission provides an opportunity for hundreds of people up and down the Maine coast, making Christmas a special time for children, families, and adults. A list of requested gift items can be picked up at the church or by emailing to [mnickson@seacoastmission.org](mailto:mnickson@seacoastmission.org)

## **The Logos House Library**

By Joyce Barr at the Annual Meeting

I asked Fr. Kalish the other day what he envisions as the Mission or Direction of St. Thomas. It's vital for any Church to have such a 'mission'. It was always felt that, because of Fr. Henthorne's association in creating Logos House Seminary and the Library with it, that we, as a parish are called...pointed towards a mission of Education...and Learning, spreading the Word of God through knowledge. With the resources here on site: i.e., the Library presence and the Administrative branch of the seminary, this makes sense. I also know that the tower is currently being used to tutor students by one of our parish members. I envision a small church school here if this congregation wanted to make it happen. It's all about learning I'd say. To that end, I would encourage us to think about and embrace this mission.

Onto a similar subject: The Logos House of Theological Studies' Library. I don't know how you folks feel about books...in this age of technology, books seem to be taking a backseat. Not so for me.

My Dad loved books. His collection is here now. He was a priest and New Testament scholar and professor at the General Seminary in NYC. I brought his library here after my mother died four years ago. He would want his books to be used. Jennifer Mitchell has been cataloging it. All the folks who have their collections here would want the same thing. That's why the books are here. Here in our backyard we have a what I believe to be God-given treasure trove of books.

And, because of technology and the internet, this treasure is now available to be utilized by all interested people near and far. St. Thomas Church hosts the library, which is an entity of Logos House of Theological Studies, an online based seminary for anyone interested in the courses, and especially for those

studying for various tracks towards deacons/deaconess, priesthood and higher degrees. This library, begun by the late Fr. Henthorne and the late Bishop Chamberlain, contains more than ten collections of priests' and bishops' and professors' and lay-people's own private libraries. There are thousands of books in that little building. It's really quite astonishing. Over the years, first in Fr. Henthorne's basement in Brooksville, and later here, volunteers have been quietly cataloging these books. They are not finished yet. We're probably about half done.

I envision, and have been laboring hard towards a functioning/circulating library. I envision use of the building/library to be an outreach into the surrounding community we have here beyond our church walls. I envision this library enhancing people's knowledge and love of God. Perhaps by having a monthly "Coffee House" invitation to people to come and browse for interesting books...or by having bible study groups invited...by inviting other pastors, and other religious schools to make use of these volumes.

As it was, this library could not, however, be used. An old fashioned card catalog won't work for someone on the west coast or in Haiti or even down the road who wants a book but the place is "never open."

But God does have His ways and in the middle of it all, about three years ago, the library was blessed to have Jennifer Mitchell create an online virtual library, and she and I began putting books onto this site. We have now put well over 3,000 (mainly) theological, books onto the site. It is ready to be used as a real lending/circulating library.

So this great technology makes anyone who goes online able to see all the cataloged books here, under title or author or collection or subject like Church History or Reformation or Dead Sea Scrolls or even how to run a parish and vestry, C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Kathleen Norris, Karl Barth, or even (if you'd like some heavy stuff) Bonhoeffer, maps, or era, i.e. Middle Ages or 1700's, children's books, old hymns, or whatever. The website can be used to browse books on subjects even before you come over to the library itself...using it to help find answers to your questions about your personal faith.

This is for the students and faculty of Logos House. It is for all members of this parish. We want it to be available to all parishes in all Dioceses of the A.C.A. and the A.P.A.

How it works: Very simply, you request a book; the book is mailed to you with a return mailing label, and you send it back here. If you live in the area, of course, all the mailing is eliminated. (Jen will explain and the handouts should help.) I'm going to be able to monitor this from wherever I am....when I'm in Arizona, I'll go onto the virtual library site, check for Requested/Reserved books, and then email the volunteer here the list of books and the addresses where they are to be sent. When the books are returned, the volunteer will let me know and I will record the returned books.

Our plans include a twice-a-month mailing. For September and October, Jennifer has made time to be here the second and fourth Sundays from 9:30 until noon to accommodate anyone at St. Thomas who wishes to explore the library in person, and to package up requested books to be mailed.

Eventually we hope some folks might volunteer to do this mailing work (so that it won't all fall on Val's shoulders), using the Sunday afternoon or any other day convenient. I'll continue to work in Arizona and when I get back here next summer.

I encourage us, as a parish, to see/browse/make use of this resource and embrace what it can be and mean to our mission in this community. Especially do so in the coming two months while Jen will be staffing the library twice a month on Sundays. We can get you registered on the Virtual Library site and you'll be good to go. Members of St. Thomas will not have to pay the membership fees that others like students, etc. will.

Nevertheless we'll take any and all monetary donations too!

Please consider this both individually and as a parish. And for us Snowbirds, next winter use the library here while you are away. Maybe the volunteer will put a sprig of balsam fir in your package of books to bring you the great smells of Maine while you are gone.

Thank you for hearing me out. Welcome to the now circulating Logos House Library. Enjoy!

**Virtual Library Website:**

<http://lht.ind.opalsinfo.net/bin/home>

Library email: [logoshouselibrary@gmail.com](mailto:logoshouselibrary@gmail.com)

Joyce's Email: [portwatsonpooduck@gmail.com](mailto:portwatsonpooduck@gmail.com)

Joyce's phone: 207-912-5430

