



## *The newsletter of St. Thomas Episcopal Church*

*diverse ... Christ-centered ... committed*

# Exciting, eventful times at St. Thomas



Dear Friends:

February promises to be an eventful month for St. Thomas Church. We will begin on Sunday, February 5, with the Annual Parish Meeting following our one Sunday liturgy at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will convene in the Great Hall.

The other important event in February will quite likely be the call of the next rector of St. Thomas. That long anticipated moment will put in place a whole series of separate events.

The Annual Meeting is our once a year opportunity to hear reports on the ministry and mission of St. Thomas, receive the mission budget for the year, and elect a new class of vestry members. As of this writing we have eight qualified nominees for vestry. We will be filling six vacancies. The reason we will replace six instead of the usual three has to do with a couple of resignations which led to people filling unexpired terms, and secondly because two vestry members including the senior warden extended their terms by a year as is permitted by our bylaws. We now need to get the usual rotation back on track, i.e. three classes of three people with three rotating off every year.

You will hear from the Search Committee both in Bold Living and in Church on their progress. If the Committee's schedule holds up, they hope to recommend a candidate in February. Once the Vestry has made the call, the call accepted, and the Bishop notified, there is a short time for further background checks. Then the parish will be notified. This process is moving quickly now. The Search Committee is excited about the wonderful candidates they have interviewed. I ask your prayers for the candidates, the Committee, and the Vestry.

When we know who the next rector will be, we will

begin to discuss how to welcome the rector. That's a process some of which will come naturally, and some things we'll need to highlight and address with more intentionality.

Once again I want to thank you, the good people of St. Thomas Church, for your faithful commitment to the work of God in and through this parish church. You have made possible a new beginning for St. Thomas. We are looking forward to calling a full time rector for the first time in a long time. I hope you will give thanks to God and celebrate this fresh start.

The community of the Church is most itself at worship gathered around the Table of the Lord. We need this nourishment more than ever. We are ourselves because of one another, united in Christ. Every week you will find newcomers seeking God and the fellowship of this Christian community. I hope we will be faithful in gathering and faithful in welcoming. In our current harsh national environment the grace of Christ will heal, guide, and bring peace to our troubled souls.

One final heads up: Wednesday, March 1, is Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent. Liturgies at 7:00 a.m., Noon, and 7:00 p.m.

Faithfully,

Bob Hart, Interim Rector.