

UNDERSTANDING OUR FINANCE REPORTS

The congregation showed **extraordinary generosity in 2024**. Pledges and gifts for operating expenses were just slightly under budget. The three-year Making Room for All Vision Campaign received over a third of pledges in 2024.

A **generous bequest from Judy Harding** at the start of the year allowed us to avoid a construction loan and costs of financing. The gift was temporarily invested in short-term instruments, with earnings added to vestry discretionary funds to support unexpected expenses. Once all pledges to the Vision Campaign are received, we will fund an endowment in Judy's memory to support St. Thomas in perpetuity.

The **congregation's faithfulness continued** into 2025, with pledges for 2025 increasing 36.5%, enabling us to increase outreach giving by 37% while also accomplishing key goals for the year ahead.

Here are other notes on our finance reports:

Other income includes reimbursements by groups using our campus, transfers from designated funds, and support from endowment funds.

Endowment draws for 2024 operating expenses were 4% of the average value of the funds over the past three years. At the recommendation of our endowment and finance committees, vestry established a policy of designating an additional 1% of average value for the capital reserve fund. Funds are managed by Truist in their non-profits division.

The **increase in Admin and Payroll** for 2025 reflects a cost of living raise for most staff, increased health care costs, two music staff positions instead of one, and funding for a full-time Associate Rector position later in the year.

Our **Diocesan pledge** is tallied by the Diocesan Office based on 10% of three prior years of operating income. This pledge supports the work of our bishop and staff, diocesan youth ministries, Camp Mikell, and community ministries like CVEM.

The **Outreach budget** is based on 10% of the total of budgeted pledges minus our diocesan pledge. As pledges increase, our Outreach budget increases! Outreach collections are additional gifts from St. Thomas members.

The **Designated Account** includes funds held in reserve, the capital reserve fund, special gifts for restricted use, and gifts given for use at the vestry's discretion.

Thank you for supporting the work of St. Thomas now and in the years to come!

ST. THOMAS FINANCES 2024-2025

OPERATING ACCOUNT	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
REVENUE			
Contribution Income	746,132.00	728,493.55	971,646.00
Other Income	266,586.00	310,600.96	214,523.00
TOTAL REVENUE	1,012,718.00	1,039,094.51	1,186,169.00

OPERATING ACCOUNT	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
EXPENSES			
Admin/Payroll/Benefits	665,248.00	678,064.16	785,785.00
Christian Education	14,000.00	16,152.07	15,000.00
Diocesan Pledge & Exps	71,840.00	70,974.19	82,305.00
Evangelism	4,500.00	3,488.70	4,500.00
Outreach	57,500.80	57,807.67	78,942.90
Parish Life	13,000.00	14,978.42	22,100.00
Cap.Imprvmnts Financing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Properties	117,726.00	141,548.43	141,612.10
Capital Reserve	21,427.00	21,427.00	21,048.00
Stewardship	2,000.00	1,608.35	2,000.00
Music	19,310.00	24,089.31	19,310.00
Worship	12,000.00	8,956.21	13,566.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	998,551.80	1,039,094.51	1,186,169.00

DESIGNATED ACCOUNT	2024 Actual
Beginning Balance	214,574.66
Revenue	3,519,159.78
Expenses (inc.transfrs to CDs)	(3,538,844.53)
12/31/24 Cash Balance	466,112.57

MONEY MARKET ACCT	
12/31/24 Balance	842,008.38

ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS	Jan.1 Balance	Dec.31 Balance
Unrestricted (Wilkins)	2,122,317.30	2,447,776.78
Restricted (Baird)	580,304.03	672,006.25
ESG	108,477.83	119,586.60

VISION CAMPAIGN	
Total cost of project	4,116,605.00
Total Gifts & Pledges	4,116,605.00
Total r'cvd as of 12/31/24	2,853,374.96

Outreach Collections	
African Mission	6,600.00
Brewer Buddy Packs	12,696.00
CVEM	4,722.00
Rector's Benevolence	4,026.00
WNN	5,620.50
Total	33,664.50

2024 Summary Report FROM THE RECTOR

St. Thomas crossed many thresholds in 2024.

Physical thresholds: Worship in All Saints Hall and Worship in our remodeled Nave.

Outreach thresholds: Continued partnerships with CVEM, East Carver Heights and the Wynnton Neighborhood Network. New opportunities with the newly organized Brewer Early Innovation Academy.

Membership thresholds: Sunday morning worship attendance increased in spite of many transitions during the year.

Thresholds of learning: Participation increased in formation opportunities for all ages – children, youth, and adult.

Staffing thresholds: We grieved the death of Rick McKnight. Debbie Anderson became our new Director of Music for this season. We welcomed Shayla Holloway as Director of Children's Ministries.

Financial thresholds: 162 pledges supported our 2024 operating budget. 141 pledges, gifts, and bequests funded our Making Room for All campaign. A generous bequest from Judy Harding enabled us to manage construction without debt, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest.

Highlights from this extraordinary year follow. We expect 2025 to offer similar opportunities to be amazed by God's work. We trust the Holy Spirit will be with us every step of the way, leading us into new territory with faith and hope.

Thank you for being part of St. Thomas as we cross these thresholds together, with the help of God.

Blessings,
Rev. Grace



CROSSING THE THRESHOLD IN WORSHIP



Average Sunday Attendance at St. Thomas grew from around 226 in 2023 to around 246 in 2024.



Worship teams added new members: Altar Guild, Lectors, LEMs, Ushers, Vergers and Acolytes. We are grateful for your service!



In February we celebrated 10 years of ministry together with Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards.



St. Thomas Choir welcomed many new members, Adley Scott, Michelle Folta, Nathan Smock, and Debbie Anderson provided leadership and stability in a time of transition.



We remodeled our worship space to make it more accessible. Many served on committees, assisted at workdays, moved and sorted boxes, adjusted the ways we've done things and the location of where things happen, to make this work happen in only eight months.



Rev. Roxane and faithful cantors continued our Contemplative Healing Eucharist once a month.



Students involved with Episcopal Campus Ministry at Columbus State requested Eucharist be included at each of their weekly meetings. Local clergy stepped in to offer this opportunity.



New Lay Eucharistic Visitors were trained and joined a team of those who offer an extension of our Eucharistic table to those who cannot physically join us at church.



Over the summer we began to incorporate approved updated more inclusive language in our Sunday worship which better reflects God's expansive love for us all.



We wrote words of hope and prayers for our new worship space on columns before they were covered.

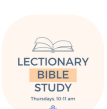
CROSSING THE THRESHOLD IN LEARNING



Ms. Shayla joined our staff and began taking children on Episcokid Adventures around town to further learning and friendship.



More than 60 children and youth learned about growing in God's love at ReNEW VBS in July.



Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard led a weekly women's lectionary Bible study, with 25 to 30 women from across the community.



Rev. Roxane led an inspiring youth confirmation class.



Excursions (Pasaquan, *Case for Love* movie, winter hike, Legacy Museum, Come from Away at RiverCenter, CSU Theater, and more) created ways to build relationships, have fun, and learn together.



St. Thomas Youth and young adults attended General Convention in Louisville.



A large group of middle schoolers attended New Beginnings sponsored by the Diocese of Atlanta at Camp Mikell in November.



At least 80 adults participated in Journey Groups in the spring and fall learning from Bishop Curry's sermons, *Screwtape Letters* by CS Lewis, or *Manna & Mercy*.



Advent lunches focused on a Healthy Community.



Around 60 adults attended a Peace of Mind Workshop focused on planning for the end of life.



We reflected on sermons by our new Presiding Bishop, the Most. Rev. Sean Rowe.

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD IN SERVICE



Wynnton Neighborhood Network Food Pantry served 20,512 in 2024 and offered \$57,479.66 in utility assistance.



Monthly work days helped care for our grounds and buildings and provided opportunities to serve together.



New parking spaces close to the Chapel and Nave along with a covered drop off and ramp make our building easier to enter.



The St. Thomas Yard Sale raised over \$7,800 for Wynnton Neighborhood Network.



We celebrated with East Carver Heights and Boxwood Soccer Club as their five teams of soccer players had outstanding seasons!



We continued our work of welcoming the Duarte Family to Columbus and helping them acclimate to work and life in our city.



In July, the Men's Group worked with House of Heroes to build ramps at the homes of veterans in our area.



We continued with our partner in education as they transitioned to Brewer Early Innovation Academy. We read with reading buddies and provided Buddy Packs for 80 students in partnership with Feeding the Valley Foodbank.



After collecting new bedding during VBS, we sponsored 10 beds and then built 26 sets of bunk beds for children in our community with Sleep in Heavenly Peace.



We packed over 75 Christmas gift bags for teens in foster care and Episcokids packed 60 gift bags for residents at the Stewart Community Home during Advent.