

THE LAMPLIGHTER

JANUARY 2022



Member Spotlight — Veree Schultz



When Veree was asked how long she's been a member of Thomas Church, she replied that she was born into the church. Veree recently turned 98 years old in October. The church was known as Fairview Church at that time. You might not know, but Veree's first name is actually Ruby. She married Walter Schultz and has two daughters, Nancy and Sharon. Sharon was married at the current Thomas Church and had her reception in the Fellowship Hall. Veree recalled helping out at a church booth serving food at the Washington County Fair over several years. Her best friend is Thora Wessel, another long-standing Thomas Church member.

Veree has recently moved to Country Meadows, Building 1, apt 38. She loves cards and has a real sweet tooth. She enjoys getting the Lamplighter each month to see what's going on with Thomas Church.

2022

SUNDAY MORNINGS
at
THOMAS CHURCH

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:00 AM

COMMUNION
Sunday, January 2, 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24th 7pm

Pastor Debbie's Corner

Daily Prayer App (PCUSA)

This app created by the PC (USA) uses the daily lectionary and *Book of Common Prayer* to lead you through a service of scripture and prayer for morning, midday, and evening.

[https://
www.presbyterianmission.org/
ministries/worship/daily-
prayer/](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/daily-prayer/)

DEADLINE: Information to be included in the *Lamp-lighter* must be received by the 20th of the month. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for content and space.

THOMAS CHURCH
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JANUARY MONTHLY MISSION
FOOD HELPERS

The Washington County Food Bank has developed a new program known as **Food Helpers**. Thomas Church was contacted earlier in 2021 and was asked to consider being one of the sites for this program which was to be held quarterly beginning, September, 2021. Session approved the request and two distributions have been held, one in September and a second one in December. The truck to trunk program is held outside and uses the part of our parking lot near the storage barns. 23 individuals and families received food in September and 48 individuals and families received food and other products in December. All remaining food products leave with the truck the day of the distribution. Food Helpers has not requested the use of any storage space on our Church campus. Due to the growth of the program in our area, a request was made to hold Food Helpers in our parking lot monthly beginning January 2022. Session approved this request at their December meeting. Food Helpers will hold their distribution the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 9:00 – 11:00 am beginning January 11, 2022.

This program's focus is on outreach and healthy food options. They provide pre-packaged boxes of food items along with fresh produce and eggs from their 25 acre farm and from local farmers when available. They currently bring enough food to distribute to 100 families and individuals in need. This number can be increased if necessary.

Food Helpers is to serve as a short-term emergency food bank for people who have lost their jobs, have family issues, health issues, etc. This will serve those who do not qualify for the regular monthly Food Bank. In addition to the food being provided, they plan to follow up with the clients to offer help finding resources in the community to help with their particular needs.

Proxy forms are available for those unable to come to our Church. This would allow a designated person to pick up the food and deliver it to the client. We can make referrals to this program if we know of someone in need.

Volunteers are welcome to help with traffic control, greet clients, load boxes, etc. If interested, please contact Patti Korintus.

For more information about Food Helpers please visit their website at <https://www.foodhelpers.org>



YOUTH GROUP

Thomas Presbyterian will begin hosting Brent Furlong and Go Time Ministries in the CLC in January. The youth group, open to middle and high school students is a free program with food, fun and conversation. There is no sign up, just show up! The youth group will begin on Friday, January 21 and will be held every other Friday. Details on times will be forthcoming.



SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 13, 2021

At its December 13th Session meeting, Elders spent time in reflection of the past year - 2021. Session commented that since Covid, we have become more intentional about our one-on-one connection to others in the congregation which has been very positive and helps us get to know one more deeply. We noted that prayer for our congregation and our relationships is important and has shown results.

The mission focus of Thomas Church is becoming more community related, and Finance is looking to be more outward looking than internal. The increase in pickle ball teams using the CLC presents opportunities to consider. Active listening to each other and to the community is key for discerning where God is calling us.

Succession Planning is a challenge due to the size of the congregation. Pastor Debbie suggested that Elders look at where they are serving now and determine if they would prefer to stay on the same team or serve on a new team. Active listening to each other will help us pay attention to gifts and interests of members.

Session is grateful for Pastor Debbie's leadership. She is grateful to be here. The prayer of Session for tomorrow is to continue the forward movement we have noticed this past year and that the sense of joy that the church is experiencing continues to grow.

Session joined together in the "Prayer Seeking God's Guidance."

Clerks Report:

Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to elect Norma Itani as Clerk of Session. Peggy Flynn and Kathi Durkin committed to helping Norma with responsibilities such as record keeping.

Washington Presbytery:

• Stephanie Modar was elected commissioner to the January 15, 2022, Presbytery meeting to be held at Coal Center Presbyterian Church

Election/Selection of Corporate officers:

Motions were made, seconded and unani-

mously passed to elect/nominate the following as officers of the corporation: President – nominations made, announcement pending acceptance of nomination; Vice President – Alan Neil; Secretary – Norma Itani; Treasurer – Jeff Bowman The President and Secretary will be ratified at the January Corporation Meeting.

Ordination/Installation: January 9th will be the date of the ordination and installation of new Elders and Deacons

Congregational Meeting: January 16th has been set as the date for the next Congregational Meeting

Christian Education- (Report Submitted) Kathi Durkin

• Reported that a Team of 4 individuals has met to review and develop Christian Ed opportunities

Mission Outreach and Service- (Report submitted) Keith Korintus

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to move the distribution day of Food Helpers from the third Wednesday to the second Tuesday of every month beginning January.

Finance- (Reports submitted) Jim Hixon

Motion made, seconded, and passed to accept the Rev. 1 of the 2022 Operations budget at \$193,605

Motion made, seconded, and passed to increase the percent allocation of undesignated contributions for Mission from 3% to 4% in 2022. This will provide an additional \$900 (approximately) to Mission. Mission Team will evaluate how this investment will make a difference.

Motion made, seconded, and passed to increase the hourly cost for the use of the CLC from \$10 to \$12.50 per hour. The increase will address increased costs as well as the potential of adding a staff person to coordinate and support the increased CLC activities.

Discussion on forming a task force to explore the addition of a staff person to coordinate and support CLC activities for 8 hours a week and to write a position description for this position. The task force will include representatives from Hospitality, Staff, Finance, Mission and Building and Grounds.

Capital Campaign- A task force will be formed to explore how to proceed with the Spiritual Growth/Mission component of the Capital Campaign

Building and Grounds- (Report Submitted) Jim Hixon

It was reported that the furnace in the lobby of the CLC is not working and will need to be replaced. The current estimate for this is \$10,000.00

THOMAS STAFF

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AROUND THOMAS CHURCH

Christian Education: There will be no adult CE in January. We will resume for 4 weeks in February leading up to our Lenten education program.

Congregational Meeting: The next congregational meeting will be held on January 16, 2022 after Sunday service.

Ordination and installation of new Elders and Deacons will be on January 9th.

Thank You: I just wanted to send a big thank you your way to thank everyone that was involved in putting together the Murder Mystery Dinner on Nov. 6. My husband and I were in attendance and we had a blast!

~~Chris and Debbie Jobes

Community 3 for 1: Thomas Church has signed up for additional dates in our partnership with Community 3for1 to provide bagged meals to those in need. Community 3for1 provides a takeout meal and communion for residents of Brookline on Wednesday nights. If you would like to help or need additional information, please reach out to Kristen Heinze 724-986- 0681 or mtnlaurel3@hotmail.com We are signed up for **January 5**. Looking for Pulled Pork makers, Mac & cheese makers, coleslaw makers, sweet treat makers, fruit cup purchasers, drink purchasers, packing helpers. There will be no 3for1 in February.

2021 Monthly Mission Offerings

| MONTH | MISSION | AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------------|
| January | <i>Family Promise</i> | \$145 |
| February | <i>Health For Her</i> <small>(formerly Pittsburgh Women's Clinic)</small> | \$145 + diaper collection |
| March | <i>Pine Springs Camp</i> | \$405 |
| April | <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> | \$272+ food drive |
| May | <i>Pentecost</i> | \$315 (40% Go Time Ministry) |
| June | <i>Habitat for Humanity</i> | \$345.00 |
| July | <i>Deacons</i> | \$270.00 |
| August | <i>City Mission</i> | \$620.00 + food drive |
| September | <i>Peace & Global Witness</i> | \$190. 00 (25% to food helpers) |
| October | <i>Domestic Violence Services</i> | \$235 + \$265 (200 churches campaign) |
| November | <i>Adopt-a-Family</i> | |
| December | <i>Christmas Joy</i> | |

THOMAS CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT SPECIAL MISSION PROGRAMS CONTINUES

Each month Thomas Presbyterian Church designates a particular mission to be the recipient of the monthly mission offering. With the exception of the mission programs designated by the Presbyterian Church, the congregation chooses the mission programs that will receive these offerings. The chart to the right provides information on the 2020 mission programs and the church's response.