

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Newsletter

Winter-Spring 2026 Dubois WY



Notes from Bonnie. *By Rev. Bonnie*

As I write this, I am giving thanks for the wonderful moisture that we have received over the last few days. When we are lacking in something, the restoration of it is particularly meaningful. This Easter season reminds us of that as our faith in the resurrection is once again restored.

While maintaining our liturgical structure in our services, we are also adding pieces of new liturgy that will hopefully keep our hearts and minds engaged in worship. The worship committee continues their search for ways to enhance our worship celebrations throughout the summer season. Please feel free to share your thoughts and wishes with me or any member of the worship committee.

As we look forward to the summer season, we also look forward to seeing familiar faces that are returning to us. We rejoice in this restoration of the wholeness of our church family. We welcome new faces as well. The St. Thomas community embraces all those who are searching for a place to belong and serve. If you have been sitting in the pews, thinking that you might like to participate more fully in the service or you have been wanting to explore volunteering in St. Thomas' mission work; please join! It's as easy as letting us know. Twila relates that 'square dancing is a lot of fun! Hiking and Biking assistance, Farmer's Market, gardening, thrifting-Whatever your interest, we have a place for you! If quiet meditation is what you prefer, that's okay too.

'Whoever you are and wherever you are, we welcome you to our table.'

In peace, *Rev Bonnie*



An Update from the Sr. Warden *By Sr. Warden, Sue Bodar*

St. Thomas Building Integrity Report and Budget Planning

Building Integrity Report Overview

Last year, a representative from the Diocese visited St. Thomas to conduct an inspection. The representative thoroughly examined every building, including the Opp Shop, as well as the surrounding grounds. The findings from this inspection were compiled into a Building Integrity Report (BIR).

BIR Results and Prioritization

We received the Building Integrity Report this winter. The report detailed various items that require attention and categorized them into high, medium, and low priority levels.

Next Steps: Estimates and Grant Application

Our next step is to obtain cost estimates for each priority item. Once the estimates are gathered, we will write a grant application to cover these expenses. We have been advised to prepare a comprehensive grant to assist with these costs. Although this process will take some time, we anticipate receiving much-needed financial support. If you have any questions regarding the report, please feel free to ask.

Annual Timelines for Personnel and Budgets

We are developing yearly timelines to address personnel benefits and salary raises, along with scheduling the St. Thomas and Opp Shop budget planning. Establishing these timelines will help ensure that these tasks are completed efficiently each year.

Clean-Up / Work-Day
Date Coming Soon!!!



Pastoral Report: Winter and Spring. By Sandy Lahr, Pastoral Coordinator

The joy and rebirth of Springtime...!

Our 2026 New Year started with new life—the birth of **Samuel Lee Evans** on New Year’s Day. He joined his 4-yr-old sister, born on Valentine’s Day! The proud grandparents, **Steven and Colette Evans** share their joy with us as they return in the winter months to celebrate the birthdays.

The winter months also brought us rallying around some of our members with health challenges: **April Schultz** (undergoing medical treatment); **Jennet Ballinger** (2nd shoulder surgery); **Lillie Lichtenwalner** (medical condition); **Margie Cargill** (elective eye surgery); and **Randy Lahr** (2nd hip surgery). All are recuperating steadily as we hold them in our prayers and support.

Most recently, we learned that **Reverend Warren Murphy** was hospitalized for a stroke. May our prayers be with him and his family as he courageously and fervently recovers and begins his rehabilitation. **Rev. Murphy** has been a supply priest for St. Thomas’ over the years, regularly visiting Ring Lake Ranch, and enlightening us with his historical research and writings on the Episcopal Church in Wyoming.

Our hearts and prayers remain with **Ralph and Martha Mitchell** as they lost **Martha’s** baby sister, who had been seriously ill in California. **Ralph and Martha** are so happy that they were able to visit her a couple of weeks before her passing, when she was doing better. They will light many candles while they are in Italy!

A long-standing member, **Kay Jacoby** passed on Easter Sunday following a lengthy illness. A long-time resident of Dubois, she was involved in several civic groups in the community, as well as loyal service to St. Thomas’ as a Lay Minister and an acolyte for many years. With shared sorrow at her passing, she will remain in our hearts and minds—always.

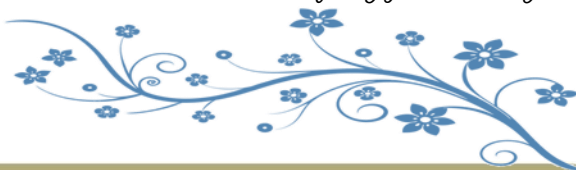
We have shared the deep sorrow of the passing of **Nancie Vion-Loisel’s** furry companion, “**Pipi**”, who passed in early Spring. “**Pipi**” has been **Nancy’s** dear companion for 11 years, with engaging stories of “**Pipi’s**” adventures and occasional church visits.

As a balance; this Spring the **Tarness** family welcomed the birth of their 2 puppies in their van during church service. Two of our favorites, the **Tarness** daughters, brought much delight as they shared their joyful anticipation of new births!

To highlight our Season of Renewal, with both **Margie Cargill** and **John Angst** rebounding after very long and arduous health challenges, both are now attending church regularly. **John** has regained his health to return to full function as a Lay Eucharistic minister as he emerges with renewed joy and purpose in his life.

May we all rediscover the blessings of life and faith as we encounter the “winter storms” of our lives and re-emerge with the promise of rebirth and renewal in the Spring!

Ephesians 2: 17-22: *We are all fully joined together in him—becoming a holy temple for the Lord.*



ST. THOMAS, DUBOIS

Through the Love Thy Neighbor Grant, St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church in Dubois in partnership with other Community Organizations and volunteers from another Church in the community provided a Cowboy Christmas “No Cost” Kids Shop Corral. Children aged 0-16 were able to purchase gifts for 5 loved ones and have them wrapped and ready to go under their Christmas Tree. 120+ children were served, in an empowering and memorable event for the children, parents, and all of the volunteers.

From The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming website: <https://fedw.org>



THE LOVE THY NEIGHBOR COFFEE HOUR was a huge success! Great food, desserts and drinks, lively conversations, fun games that brought so..... much laughter and prizes for all.

St. Thomas' Volunteer Opportunities: St. Thomas' has so many wonderful opportunities to Volunteer. Volunteering for church ministries offers numerous opportunities to serve, grow spiritually, and build community connections.

Benefits of Volunteering

- **SPIRITUAL GROWTH:** Engaging in volunteer work allows individuals to live out their faith actively, deepening their relationship with God and the church community.
- **COMMUNITY CONNECTION:** Volunteering helps foster relationships with other church members, creating a sense of belonging and support.
- **SKILL UTILIZATION:** Many volunteers can use their unique skills and talents to contribute meaningfully to the church's mission.

Seasonal Opportunities: **SPRING/SUMMER** - Growing Hope Garden/Green House, St. Francis' Flower Garden, Clean Up Day-Square Dance, Farmers Market, Hike 'n Bike. **FALL**-Farmers' Market, Gardens Clean-Up, RamsPack: Weekend Food for Preschool & K-12 School **WINTER**-Holiday Food Boxes, Christmosee Gift Tree, Cowboy Christmas:"No Cost" Kids Shop Corral, RamsPack: Weekend Food for Preschool & K-12 School

Year-Round Opportunities: [Saturday Food Bank-Truck unloading, sorting donations](#), [Sunday Worship-Acolyte](#), Lay Ministers, Lector/Reader, [Kitchen & Fellowship-Brunch and Carry-In planning & Hosting](#), Sunday Fellowship Hosting, [Office Help-Folding, Stuffing & Addressing mail, light office work](#). [Opportunity Shop-assist with daily operations of the shop](#), [Community Outreach-Posting flyers around town & Public Relations](#).

Other Volunteer Opportunity ideas are always welcome and encouraged.

A Volunteer Community Connection Fair is in the planning, and hopefully a date will be announced soon. This will be a time to learn from the seasoned volunteers from each Outreach Ministry about the wonderful opportunities available. **ALL Community Members** are welcome and encourage to attend. You DO NOT need to be a member of St. Thomas' to participate in the Ministries.

Stewardship: By *Mary Ellen Honsaker*

St. Thomas' 2026-27 Stewardship

It is the end of the 2026 1st Quarter, and the final number of pledges made for this year's Budget is complete. It is never sure until our bookkeeper gets all the filled-out cards, and three of us stated intent to pledge, and had started giving, and now, finally, are counted! We celebrate and give thanks to all of you that give so much of your time, talent and treasure. This year the Pledge Budget line was larger since at least 2021 (I didn't find the earlier numbers yet!) and very close to our always hopeful goal.

God blesses St. Thomas' Ministry through all your open hearts and hands.

With the use of TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) paid for by the Diocese, we will follow for the second time their schedule of living with all aspects of stewardship throughout the church year.

The theme for 2027 is "Plenty Good Room" in God's House for people, ideas, stories, ministry, and all that the world needs.

The Vestry seeks to have a new Stewardship chair each year that sees that the TENS schedule is kept, with help from the previous year's chair and the church office. There is no "wheel" to reinvent, just a path to stay on. The hope is for members to become familiar with the system that supports our beloved church and our ministries in the community of Dubois.

Interested? Please approach your Vestry members, Rev. Bonnie, Martha or myself.

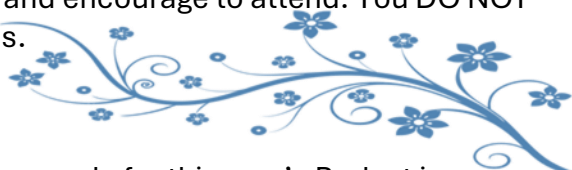
TENS materials become available in May!

I look forward to working with you! *Mary Ellen*

Bulletin Cover Pictures:

Please email or text me photos of our beautiful scenery, wildlife, pets, flowers or any thing that you feel would be a great picture for the Sunday Bulletin Covers.

Sometimes the picture will fit right in with the Readings for the Sunday Service and sometimes the picture is because we want to show off our beautiful community. Thank you, *Martha*



Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 am-4 pm

Church Office Phone: 307-455-2313

Priest: Bonnie Deyo: 307-349-2357, bondolander@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Martha Bridge St. Thomas' email: stthomas.wy@gmail.com

Food Bank email: stthomas.fb@gmail.com

Website: stthomasdubois.org

Vestry Members: Senior Warden: Sue Bodar, Junior Warden: Rick Bridge, Rev. Bonne Deyo, Sheryl Isaly,

Kirk Lindstrom, Harris Bonnell, Gordon Schultz, & Mary Ellen Honsaker,

Treasurer: Kate Falco Clerk: April Schultz

The Vestry is the elected governing body of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church parish and is responsible for leadership, administration, and stewardship of the church's mission and resources.

DEFINITION AND ROLE

In the Episcopal Church, the vestry serves as the legal and administrative representative of the parish, overseeing all matters related to its corporate property and organizational governance. Vestry members are elected at the annual parish meeting the last Sunday of January, and the body works closely with the Priest-In-Charge to guide the congregation's mission, manage finances, and ensure effective planning.

VESTRY MEMBERS:

Rev. Bonnie Deyo, Sr. Warden Sue Bodar, Jr. Warden Rick Bridge, Sheryl Isaly, Kirk Lindstrom, Gordon Schultz, Harris Bonnell & Mary Ellen Honsaker.

The Vestry Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the Month @ 1:00 pm in the Community Room.



The dedicated 2026 Vestry Members at the "Blessing of the Vestry" Sheryl was able to join by phone

STARTS JUNE 1ST!

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Bicyclist/Hiker Ministry
 P.O. Box 735, 9 S. 1st St.
 Dubois, Wyoming 82513
307-413-5009
 stthomas.bikehike@gmail.com
OPENS JUNE 1, 2026
June through September

LOCATED IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

Winter & Spring Dates:
 First & Third Thursdays
4:00-5:30 pm
FARMERS MARKET
 Three Spear Ranch Building
 In the Corner Entrance of the Three Spear Ranch Building
 (Ramshorn & 1st Street)
 202 E. Ramshorn, Dubois
 January-May
 Contribution from Vendors Support the Food Bank Sponsored By
 St. Thomas' Episcopal Church for Information Call: 307-455-2313
 June is the beginning of the Summer Schedule;
 Every Thursday of the Month.

COMING SOON:

SQUARE DANCE Join us at the **Tuesday Night Square Dances!**
 All ages and dance abilities are welcome!
Every Tuesday Night
June 9th thru August 18th, 2026
8:00 - 9:30 pm
Rustic Pine Tavern's
Frontier Room;
119 E. Ramshorn
Dubois
Adults: \$4
Kids 12 and under: \$2
 Sponsored by St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Women,
 The Rustic Pine, Never Sweet Recreation Board, and
 Wind River Visitor's Council

Peace & Prayer Vigil
 Every 3rd Thursday of the Month
ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 The Church Sanctuary will be
 Open from 12:00-6:00 pm
 ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Part-Time Bookkeeper Wanted
 St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is hiring a part-time person to handle books for two locations. Offers flexible hours and pays \$20-\$30/hr. based on experience. Email stthomas.wy@gmail.com or call 307-455-2313 for more information.



Coffee Room & Community Room Usage

Monthly Usage Calendars are on the bulletin boards in the Coffee Room & the Community Room. Please contact the Church Office; aka Martha to be placed on the Usage Calendars. During the Summer Months it takes a lot of communication to keep everyone in the loop during the Bike/Hiker Season.

Thank you, *Martha*

"ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DUBOIS, WYOMING, SEEKS TO LIVE OUT THE GREAT COMMANDMENT OF JESUS CHRIST TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE NEIGHBOR AS SELF. WE ENDEAVOR TO DO THIS FIRST BY OPENING OUR HEARTS TO GOD IN WORSHIP, AND THEN, INSPIRED BY GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT, TO FOLLOW THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN FEEDING THE HUNGREY, CLOTHING THE NEEDY, AND HELPING ALL OUR NEIGHBORS IN TIME OF WANT AND TROUBLE."