

On behalf of the Vestry, it gives us great pleasure to announce that St. Thomas has entered into an agreement with Head Start of Lane County to lease our preschool building. At a special meeting on March 21, the St. Thomas Vestry voted unanimously to accept the Preschool Building Committee's recommendation that Head Start be our new tenant.

Head Start is a long-established non-profit organization that provides early childhood education (ages 0-5) to children of low-income families. The Preschool Building Committee and the Vestry believe that, in addition to providing much-needed income to St. Thomas, Head Start's mission is an excellent fit with the mission of St. Thomas and the missions of the Grassroots Garden and the Center for Community Counseling. You can find out more about Head Start here: <https://www.hsolc.org/>.

Although the details of the lease agreement are still being negotiated and need to be approved by the Diocesan Chancellor's office, the anticipated commencement date for Head Start on the St. Thomas campus is June 1.

At the March 21st meeting, the Vestry gave special commendation to the Preschool Building Committee. The committee has met weekly since the beginning of January, and members of the committee have worked tirelessly--making phone calls and sending emails of inquiry, "staging" the classrooms for photographs, leading tours, reviewing proposals and potential contracts, etc. Nearly ten entities expressed interest in the building, and four came to tour the space. The members of the committee are: Janet Calvert (co-chair), Dave Fredmonsky, Ann Gaillard (co-chair), Cindy Jensen, Katrina Jensen, Dallis Rohde, Mike Watkins, and Judy Wilson.

In addition, parishioners Anne VanDerveer and Sally Ward have spent countless hours going through Preschool files and storage units determining what should be kept, recycled, or thrown out. Parishioner Tom Whitehead measured the square footage of the space so that we could determine the appropriate rent; parishioner Joshua Monge was invaluable in locating a professional photographer to take photos of the space and then posting the photos and other important information on our website. And Senior Warden Sue Colvin and members of the Vestry have provided immeasurable support every step of the way. As a parish, we owe all these people our profound gratitude.

We will keep you updated as things progress. But in the meantime, let us all give thanks to God for blessing us with our new partnership with Head Start.

Many blessings,

Sue Colvin, Senior Warden
Ann Gaillard, Rector